



**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION  
ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY SERVING AS THE  
MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CARTAGENA  
PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

Sixth meeting  
Hyderabad, India, 1-5 October 2012

**CAPACITY-BUILDING: COMPILATION OF SUBMISSIONS**

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

1. The Executive Secretary is pleased to circulate herewith, for the information of participants attending the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, a compilation of the submissions made by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, with respect to the following:

- (a) Reports on capacity-building activities undertaken to implement the capacity-building Action Plan;
- (b) Information and views to facilitate the comprehensive review of the Action Plan;
- (c) Capacity-building needs and priorities.

2. The information is being made available in the format and language in which it was received by the Executive Secretary.

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**COMPILATION OF SUBMISSIONS ON THE COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF  
THE ACTION PLAN**

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

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## SUBMISSIONS FROM PARTIES AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS

BOLIVIA

[11 July 2011]

[SUBMISSION: ENGLISH]



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### ***Views and Suggestions of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on the Action Plan for Building Capacities for the Effective Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety***

July, 2011

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The Plurinational State of Bolivia recognizes the relevance of the biosafety capacity building initiatives and processes carried out under the Cartagena Protocol. In order to contribute to them and as requested by the CBD Notification SCBD/BS/ET/jh/74936 of the 11th of February 2011, below are included: i) the Bolivian views and suggestions on the *Action Plan for Building Capacities for the Effective Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety* adopted by the COP-MOP3 through the decision BS-III/3; and ii) a brief description of an experience and lessons learned from ongoing capacity-building initiative in Bolivia.

#### **Views and suggestions on the Action Plan for Building Capacities for the Effective Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety**

##### **In relation to 1. Objective of the Action Plan:**

- The Plurinational State of Bolivia strongly agrees with the particular attention paid – in the objective of the current Action Plan – to the financial, technical and technological needs of developing countries recognizing as essential the ones from centres or origin and genetic diversity. From the Bolivian view, this goes in line with the capacities needed to ensure an adequate level of protection in the field of the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health in centres or origin and genetic diversity; where complex and intertwined relationships between ecological and socioeconomic systems take place.

##### **In relation to 3. Key elements requiring concrete action:**

The Plurinational State of Bolivia suggests:

- To add to 4(c) a reference to the *Guidance on risk assessment of LMOs and the risk assessment road map* in process of development under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. In this way, 4(c) will say: "Risk assessment and other scientific and technical expertise, including the [Guidance on Risk Assessment of LMOs and the Risk Assessment Road Map](#)".
- To include in the overall list of key elements the following:
  - o [Centres of origin and genetic diversification](#) in relation to Articles 15 and 16 and under Article 26.1. This in order to develop specific capacities on risk assessment, risk management and socioeconomic considerations, respectively, to properly address ecological and

## EUROPEAN UNION

[02 MAY 2011] [SUBMISSION:  
ENGLISH]

### **Response to notification 2011-029: European Union and its Members States submission of information on capacity building activities undertaken in support of the Action Plan.**

#### ***Decision BS-V/3 paragraph 2***

Notification SCBD/BS/ET/jh/74936, in the context of the decision BS-V/3, invited Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to submit reports on their capacity building activities undertaken in support of the Action Plan.

The European Union and its Member States had cooperated in the development and strengthening on human resources and institutional capacities in biosafety for the purpose of the effective implementation of the Cartagena Protocol in developing country Parties as well as in Parties with economies in transition.

In this regard the following activities were undertaken during the reporting period, which will be reported, as well to Biosafety Clearing House by the Member States:

## AUSTRIA

### Financial Support

- Malaysia: Laboratory training course (Record 101670)

In April 2010 Austria co-funded a workshop on GMO detection which was carried out in co-operation with the Department of Chemistry Malaysia (KIMIA) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This course was a follow-up activity of a training course held in 2009.

This advanced course, in which experts from the Environment Agency Austria acted as resource persons, focused on the topics quantitative PCR, measurement uncertainty and results interpretation.

### Initiatives

- Ukraine: Analysis of GMO legislation and risk assessment procedure

The Environment Agency Austria carries out a Twinning project (funded by the EU) on ecological audit. Part of this 18 month project, which started in September 2010, is an analysis of the current legislation and the development of guidance on risk assessment and the authorization procedure for GMOs.

The project is carried out in co-operation with the Ministry of Environment of the Ukraine.

## BULGARIA

### Initiatives

Bulgaria intends to implement capacity building activities in the following areas:

- increasing number of institutional experts, responsible for implementation of the Cartagena Protocol at national level
- enhancing the capacity and number of institutional experts with control functions for implementing legislation on biosafety
- capacity building in the area of identification and documentation of living modified organisms
- implementation of inter-institutional training and seminars in the field of biosafety
- participation in training seminars organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological diversity in relation to the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol.

Bulgaria has started the implementation of the above mentioned activities from the beginning of 2011 according to the frames of the annual plans and some of the above mentioned capacity building activities will be financed by Bulgarian competent authorities.

## **CZECH REPUBLIC**

On the basis of the updated version of the Action Plan for Building Capacities for the Effective Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety adopted during COP/MOP 3 (Decision BS-III/3) the Czech Republic contributes to its implementation through the following initiatives, workshops and training and financial support:

### Initiatives

- Integration of biosafety issues into national broader strategies and programmes, such as Strategy for Sustainable Development, State Environmental Policy, State Programme on Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection, Strategy on Biodiversity Conservation, Food Safety Strategy. (Ad 7+8 of Action Plan). (Record 101692)
- Instruction meeting with applicants on request procedure regarding the use of genetically modified organisms. (Organized once a year, on the basis of experience and problems met during the preceding year). (Ad 11b of Action Plan). (Records 101129 and 101693).
- Cooperation and experience sharing with CEE countries (e.g. Croatia as an EU candidate country) and new EU member states (especially Slovakia) in the National Biosafety Framework development.
- Participation of the Czech Republic in the Liaison Group on Capacity-Building for Biosafety and in Coordination Meetings for Government and Organizations Implementing or Funding Biosafety Capacity-Building Activities. (Ad 11d of Action Plan).
- Publicizing experience through website of the Ministry of the Environment, BCH and issue focused publications. (Ad 12 of Action Plan and 18 – Coordination Mechanism). (Record 101714).
- Support of bilateral and multilateral activities through regular contribution of the Czech Republic to the GEF Trust Fund (since 1994 as the first CEE country). (Related to 8 and 15 of Action Plan). (Record 101130).

### Financial support

- Mobilizing funding (mainly Government funding) and coordination between different sectors in line with completed UNEP/GEF Project on Biosafety Implementation (within Project co-financing of activities). (Ad 10a of Action Plan).
- Providing allocation for biosafety capacity-building activities through responsible national bodies and corresponding programmes. (Ad 10c of Action Plan).

### Workshops and training courses

- Training of inspection personnel on selected topical issues. (Organized once a year within the Czech Environmental Inspectorate). (Ad 11b of Action Plan). (Record 101713).
- Training of experts on topical biosafety issues (in line with international development). (Ad 11b of Action Plan). (Record 101715).

## ITALY

### Initiatives

- The Ministry of the Environment, within collaboration International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), further:
  - Publicising experience through website of the Ministry of the environment BCH;
  - Publicizing the collection of Biosafety Reviews.

Also available on line <http://bch.minambiente.it/EN/publications/>

### Workshop and training courses

- The Ministry of the Environment, as in last editions 2008, 2009 and 2010, provides a financial support of € 30,000.00 for the Marche Polytechnic University in 2011 for the activation of the fifth edition of the International Master E-Biosafety (academic year 2011-2012), contained in UNIDO program to create a consortium for distance learning on the issues of biosafety of GM plants  
The course is intended to provide specialized knowledge and skills with regard to environmental risk assessment and management of genetically modified (GM) crops as well as GM food and feed safety assessment. The training material and distance-learning platform have been developed by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The programme is supported through a technical cooperation agreement with UNIDO and is specifically focused on crops and aspects of priority for different cultivation areas (mainly Balkan, Mediterranean and Central Africa).
- Biosafety workshop ICGEB joint with the Ministry of the Environment:
  - September 2010. “An introduction to the Risk Analysis of Current genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and their products, and possible issues raised by novel GMOs in the future”. The goals of the workshop was the introduction to the theory of Risk Assessment, with a special focus on problem formulation, Risk Assessment and Risk management with a few case studies of different country-based approach discussed and traits and/or GMOs requiring change in current Risk analysis paradigms, such as last generation genetically modified (GM) organism.
  - September 2011, “Problem Formulation: A Strategic Approach to Risk Assessment of GMOs”. The broad objective of the workshop is to provide experience in the examination of scientific and technical data submitted in applications for deliberate release of GM plants. The workshop is specifically aimed at enhancing participants understanding of the key principles of problem formulation in biosafety risk assessment and subsequently provide practical training in the application of risk assessment strategies during dossier evaluation.

## LITHUANIA

### Initiatives

- Research of genetically modified tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum* Mill.), cydonia (*Cydonia oblonga* Mill.) and sweet-cherry rootstock Gisela-5 (*Prunus cerasus* x *P. canescens*) plants started in order to establish a methodology for the risk assessment of genetically modified organisms (plants) on environment and human health. It has been started the research studying the possibilities of genetic modified organisms spreading in the environment due to alteration of vitality, as well as the research on estimation of

genetically modified organisms' potential impact and on genetic diversity in recipient environment evaluation of phenotypic and genotypic stability of the genetically modified organisms. (Record 101140)

## **THE NETHERLANDS**

### Financial support

The Netherlands is convinced that capacity building in the field of biosafety is most effective when country-driven and with focus on regional co-operation. The Netherlands government contributes to biosafety-related capacity building via three main tracks:

- **Multilateral institutions.** As a major donor to GEF and its implementing agencies, support is provided also for Biosafety-related capacity building programmes;
- **Contributions to the CBD,** including voluntary contributions of finance and expertise to regional workshops, Ad hoc technical expert groups and other activities;
- **Development cooperation programmes** in the field of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), including Biotechnology and Biosafety for approximately US\$ 3,800,000 per year.

### Initiatives

- **Regional Agricultural and Environmental Initiatives Network-Africa (RAEIN-Africa).** RAEIN-Africa is a sub-regional network with partners in 15 countries in Southern Africa (Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe). The Netherlands provides funding for the programmes Biosafety and Environment and Innovation Systems for Poverty Reduction in Southern Africa which includes activities in the field of stakeholder awareness and participation in biosafety decision-making, capacity building for risk assessment and risk management, policy development support and generation of research data since 2001. Through the funding from the Netherlands government, RAEIN-Africa has managed to capacitate the Southern Africa Region on key identified gaps to address a number on national and regional concerns in relation to biodiversity, biosafety and sustainable management of the environment.

In 2010 The Netherlands co-funded the participation of RAEIN Africa in two side-events on Socio-Economic considerations at COPMOP5 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in Nagoya and in several workshops, such as the CEPA Fair on National Experiences with the Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and a the Joint Aarhus Convention/Cartagena Protocol Workshop on Public Awareness, Access to Information and Public Participation on Living Modified Organisms.

The following initiatives have been done in order to increase the information awareness and public participation relative to Living Modified Organisms:

- **Africa Technology Policies Studies Network (ATPS).** ATPS is a subregional network with partners in 16 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. ATPS supports STI-policy through mobilization and organization of stakeholders, research and linking of practitioners with policy-makers. ATPS receives funding for a biotechnology project in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) that supports the regional NEPAD-IFPRI African Policy Dialogues on Biotechnology and provides guidance to the participating governments on developing biotechnology and biosafety guidelines;
- **Agribiotech Foundation (ABF) India.** The Netherlands contributes financially to a programme aiming at tailor-made biotechnology for smallholder farmers in Andhra Pradesh, which addresses also enabling policies for biotech, such as with regard to intellectual property rights and biosafety. Participating

Netherlands institutions are the Wageningen University and the RIKILT Institute for Food Safety of the Netherlands;

- **Programme for smallholder biotechnology development in the Andean region (PBA-Colombia, PREDUZA).** Financial support is provided for a programme aiming at tailor-made biotechnology for smallholder farmers in Colombia, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador and Venezuela. The programme addresses also enabling policies for biotech, including intellectual property rights and biosafety.
- **International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).** IFPRI is one of 15 centers supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research ([CGIAR](#)). Its main objective is to seek sustainable solutions for ending hunger and poverty. In this context IFPRI is also engaged in various initiatives in developing countries regarding biosafety and biotechnology. The Netherlands is an unrestricted donor to IFPRI.

## SLOVAKIA

### Initiatives

- **Support for the implementation of the National Biosafety Framework for Slovak Republic (Record 100523)**

The overall goal of the project was that by 2010 the Slovak Republic has a workable and transparent National Biosafety Framework, in line with national development priorities and international obligations. The project helped the Slovak Republic to draft and adopt National Development Strategy based on biosafety and Sustainable Development principles; to review and update regulatory regime in line with the Cartagena Protocol and its national needs and priorities; to enhance the functional system for public awareness, education, participation and fully available access to information on Biosafety.

The objective of the initiative is to integrate and incorporate Biosafety into National Development Strategy in Slovakia. The Outcome of the initiative has been that Slovakia has a fully functional and responsive regime in line with the Cartagena Protocol, EU legislation and national needs. Also, Slovakia has a functional national system for handling requests and decision-making as well as performing risk assessment and management associated to LMOs sheltered by NCBS. The main lessons learned are that with a help of a good will and people open to collaboration, it is possible to put two competent resorts to a fruitful collaboration if the aim is clear. Training of SEI led to enforce and active control of all users, which in Slovakia means mostly the 'contained use' in laboratories. Public information has been improved mostly on the basis of a new BCH website, the electronic media such as DVDs and some leaflets.

## SLOVENIA

### Financial support

- In April 2011 Slovenia was the host country of the CEE Regional Training of Trainers' Workshop on the Identification and Documentation of Living Modified Organisms under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety that was organised by SCBD with founding from the European Union. Slovenian biosafety experts, competent authorities and customs authorities were cooperating with SCBD in the programme preparation and execution.

The workshop focused on the identification and documentation of living modified organisms and on the techniques and methodologies that may be used to ensure the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The primary target group was frontline customs officers, border control officials, sanitary and phytosanitary inspectors and other enforcement authorities, including policy makers and regulators.

## SWEDEN

### Financial support

- The Bio resources Innovations Network for Eastern Africa Development program ([www.bioinnovate-africa.org](http://www.bioinnovate-africa.org)) is a newly established multidisciplinary competitive funding mechanism for biosciences and product oriented innovation activities in Eastern Africa in Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. The Bio-Innovate niche is characterized by a focus on the applications of bio-resource innovations to support sustainable growth and transformation of the agricultural and environmental sub-sectors from primary production to value addition, while enhancing adaptability to climatic change and strengthening innovation policy. The BioInnovate Program is supported by a grant of SEK 90 m (USD 12.04 m) from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) over the 5 year period (2010-2014).

The Program builds on previous investments, achievements and experiences from the Sida-supported BIO-EARN Program (1999-2009) and other regional initiatives. The Program will focus on delivering new products through bioscience innovation systems involving a broad sector of actors, including scientists, private sector, NGOs and other practitioners. The Program will use modern bioscience in practice to improve crop productivity and resilience to climate change in small-scale farming systems, and improve the efficiency of the agro-processing industry to add value to local bio-resources in a sustainable manner. Bio-Innovate will be user-, market- and development-oriented in order to make a difference on the ground, in supporting poverty alleviation and sustainable economic growth.

The BioInnovate Program is managed by International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and co-located with the Biosciences for Eastern and Central Africa, BecA- Hub at ILRI in Nairobi, Kenya.

## MALAYSIA

[17 JUNE 2011] [SUBMISSION:  
ENGLISH]

### COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE ACTION PLAN

Malaysia ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB) on 3 September 2003 and has immediately taken steps to ensure that a regulatory framework for biosafety is in place to undertake all the other obligations under the Protocol. It was a significant landmark event when the Biosafety Act was passed by the Malaysian Parliament in 2007 and entered into force in 2009. Then in 2010, the Biosafety Regulations which spelt out most of the operational issues was enforced. Both the Act and Regulation aims to protect the health and safety of people, animals, plants, the environment and biological diversity from the possible adverse effects of the products of modern biotechnology.

To establish a regulatory system and institutional capacities would require considerable human resources and training, which involve the training of the Biosafety Department staff, members of the Genetic Modification Advisory Committee (GMAC) and development of infrastructure for information sharing and detection of GMOs. In this regard, the Ministry obtained funding from UNDP-GEF under the NRE-UNDP-GEF Biosafety Project entitled “Support to Capacity Building Activities on Implementing the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Malaysian Biosafety Act” in 2002 to assist in the operationalization of the institutional bodies.

### Lessons Learned and Best Practices

Developing an effective coordination mechanism among the different government agencies and clearly identifying their roles and responsibilities in dealing with biosafety issues have been the biggest challenges. It also took some time for the Biosafety Act and Biosafety Regulations to be fully accepted by the stakeholders. Getting all the stakeholders on board was very challenging as it took several consultations to resolve some of the issues.

Some other challenges include: limited experience in risk assessment and evaluation, inexperience in drafting biosafety regulations and guidelines and the low level of awareness of biosafety issues among the stakeholders and the general public. To overcome those challenges, a series of seminars, training workshops and consultations were organized among the various stakeholders. Based on these experiences, Malaysia realized that awareness and education are prerequisites for effective public participation. In this context, the Department of Biosafety is engaging a consultant to conduct a study on public awareness and attitude towards GMOs. Among others, the objectives of the study are to assess the Malaysian public awareness and knowledge on modern biotechnology/GMOs, and to develop an inventory of the public attitude and acceptance/rejection of various GMOs and its products. In addition, the Department is also preparing a User Guide on Biosafety Act and Biosafety Regulation with the intention to help organizations and individuals undertaking activities involving LMOs to understand how the national regulatory scheme works.

The Department of Biosafety organized 1-day training on the “Introduction to Biosafety Clearing House (BCH)” which was attended by officers stationed at the point of entry. There comprise officers from the Royal Custom and the Malaysian Quarantine and Inspection Services (MAQIS). Overall, participants were satisfied with the BCH as it is user friendly. Several training session will be conducted to include stakeholders such as the media, research institutions, universities and the private sector.

### SUBMISSIONS ON CAPACITY-BUILDING NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

The following Parties and other Governments submitted information on their capacity-building needs and priorities to the Biosafety Clearing-House:

| <b>Government</b>                      | <b>Date of Submission</b> | <b>Record</b> | <b>Link</b>   |
|--|---------------------------|---------------|---|
| 1. Bolivia                             | 6/1/2011                  | 101891        | <a href="http://bch.cbd.int/database/record.shtml?documentid=101891">http://bch.cbd.int/database/record.shtml?documentid=101891</a> |
| 2. Fiji                                | 11/28/2011                | 102858        | <a href="http://bch.cbd.int/database/record.shtml?documentid=102858">http://bch.cbd.int/database/record.shtml?documentid=102858</a> |
| 3. Iran (Islamic Republic of)          | 12/25/2011                | 102934        | <a href="http://bch.cbd.int/database/record.shtml?documentid=102934">http://bch.cbd.int/database/record.shtml?documentid=102934</a> |
| 4. Kenya                               | 1/9/2012                  | 102986        | <a href="http://bch.cbd.int/database/record.shtml?documentid=102986">http://bch.cbd.int/database/record.shtml?documentid=102986</a> |
| 5. Kiribati                            | 11/28/2011                | 102854        | <a href="http://bch.cbd.int/database/record.shtml?documentid=102854">http://bch.cbd.int/database/record.shtml?documentid=102854</a> |
| 6. Malaysia                            | 4/29/2011                 | 101816        | <a href="http://bch.cbd.int/database/record.shtml?documentid=101816">http://bch.cbd.int/database/record.shtml?documentid=101816</a> |
| 7. Marshall Islands                    | 11/28/2011                | 102856        | <a href="http://bch.cbd.int/database/record.shtml?documentid=102856">http://bch.cbd.int/database/record.shtml?documentid=102856</a> |
| 8. Micronesia (Federated States of)    | 11/28/2011                | 102847        | <a href="http://bch.cbd.int/database/record.shtml?documentid=102847">http://bch.cbd.int/database/record.shtml?documentid=102847</a> |
| 9. Nauru                               | 11/28/2011                | 102849        | <a href="http://bch.cbd.int/database/record.shtml?documentid=102849">http://bch.cbd.int/database/record.shtml?documentid=102849</a> |
| 10. Niue                               | 11/25/2011                | 102841        | <a href="http://bch.cbd.int/database/record.shtml?documentid=102841">http://bch.cbd.int/database/record.shtml?documentid=102841</a> |
| 11. Palau                              | 11/30/2011                | 102862        | <a href="http://bch.cbd.int/database/record.shtml?documentid=102862">http://bch.cbd.int/database/record.shtml?documentid=102862</a> |
| 12. Papua New Guinea                   | 11/29/2011                | 102860        | <a href="http://bch.cbd.int/database/record.shtml?documentid=102860">http://bch.cbd.int/database/record.shtml?documentid=102860</a> |
| 13. Philippines                        | 6/8/2012                  | 103571        | <a href="http://bch.cbd.int/database/record.shtml?documentid=103571">http://bch.cbd.int/database/record.shtml?documentid=103571</a> |
| 14. Tonga                              | 11/25/2011                | 102829        | <a href="http://bch.cbd.int/database/record.shtml?documentid=102829">http://bch.cbd.int/database/record.shtml?documentid=102829</a> |
| 15. Vanuatu                            | 11/28/2011                | 102851        | <a href="http://bch.cbd.int/database/record.shtml?documentid=102851">http://bch.cbd.int/database/record.shtml?documentid=102851</a> |
| 16. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) | 4/26/2012                 | 101225        | <a href="http://bch.cbd.int/database/record.shtml?documentid=101225">http://bch.cbd.int/database/record.shtml?documentid=101225</a> |

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