Ref.: SCBD/SPS/AL/MPM/MW/87278 9 April 2018

**N O T I F I C A T I O N**

**Submission of information requested in decision BS-VI/3 on  
Capacity Building (Article 22)**

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am pleased to invite Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and indigenous peoples and local communities to submit information on the status of implementation of the [Framework and Action Plan for Capacity-Building for the Effective Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety](http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/decisions/?decisionID=13236), including a summary of the results of the activities undertaken, good practices and lessons learned.

This invitation is pursuant to paragraph 6 of decision BS-VI/3 requesting the Executive Secretary to prepare, for consideration by the regular meetings of the Parties, reports on the status of implementation of the Framework and Action Plan, on the basis of the submissions made by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations.

The information contained in the submissions will be synthesized and presented to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties, with a view to reporting on the status of implementation of the Framework and Action Plan.

Submissions may be sent online through the Biosafety Clearing-House at <http://bch.cbd.int/managementcentre/edit/submission.shtml> or via e-mail to [secretariat@cbd.int](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int) using the template accessible in the annex to this notification, no later than **30 June 2018**.

I would like to express my sincere thanks for your continued support towards the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Cristiana Paşca Palmer, PhD

Executive Secretary

Enclosure

**NOTE: Please enter text in column C, including a summary of the results of the activities undertaken, good practices and/or lessons learned, next to the relevant activity in column B, as appropriate. Please only write where relevant, leaving cells blank where no relevant activities were undertaken.**

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| ***Focal area 1: National biosafety frameworks***  **Operational objective 1**  To further support the development and implementation of national regulatory and administrative systems. | | |
| **Outcomes**   * National biosafety frameworks developed and implemented; * Functional national biosafety systems. | | |
| **A. Results/Outputs** | **B. Planned Activities** | **C. Summary of results of activities undertaken, good practices and lessons learned**  [Enter text in column C, next to the relevant activity in column B, as appropriate] |
| (a) National biosafety policies, laws and regulations in place and being implemented  (b) National institutions and administrative systems for handling LMO applications in place  (c) Standard operating procedures for handling LMO applications in place  (d) Provisions made in the national annual budgets for operationalizing the national biosafety system  (e) Trained staff in place to administer the national biosafety system  (f) Biosafety is mainstreamed into broader development plans and sectoral policies and programmes, including the national biodiversity strategies and action plans | 1.1 Development and implementation/ enforcement of national biosafety policies and laws and the implementing regulations or guidelines | LMOs activities are regulated by Law 9/2003 of 25 April, which establishes the legal regime of the confined use, voluntary release and commercialization of genetically modified organisms. It is also developed by Royal Decree 178/2004, of 30 January, approving the General Regulations for the Development and Implementation of the Law.  The legislation is regularly been updated to include any changes in international regulation. |
| 1.2 Development of a best practice guide on:  (i) Implementation of national biosafety frameworks; |  |
| (ii) Enforcement of national biosafety laws and regulations; | At national level, all the information about LMOs activities is published on the website of Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Environment.  This information include a document with Frequently Asked Questions for LGMO. The document provide an explanation on national and international regulation, authorization procedure, controls, etc.  In addition, practical guidance on specific measures for contained use and deliberated release of LMOs is also published on the website.  In order to facilitate the work of notifiers, the CNB has published practical Guidance's to unify access to documentation, and facilitate the procedure of submitting applications for facilities to carry out contained use and deliberated release activities with LMOs. They are based on practical experience and tips and they are regularly updated:    The requirement of biosafety are taken in to account on other policies such food and feed safety, biodiversity or research, development and innovation. |
| (iii) Establishment and management of administrative systems; and |
| (iv) Mainstreaming of biosafety into relevant policies/plans |
| 1.3 Development of training modules based on elements of the above guide |  |
| 1.4 Organization of training of trainers workshops on the elements of the best practice guide responsible for administering the biosafety regulatory systems |  |
| 1.5 Development and/or implementation of an electronic system for:  (i) handling of notifications and | The applications to both contained used notifications and deliberated release activities must be accessed at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment (MAPAMA)´s website: **https://sede.mapama.gob.es/portal/site/se/procedimientos-intermedio?theme\_id=1&cross\_search=theme\_type&type\_id=1**  Users must own a digital certificate to do the online application, according to article 16.4 of the Law 39/2015, of 1 October, on the Public Administration and the Common Administrative Procedure. |
| (ii) registration of applications and approvals/decisions taken | - Registration of application of activities with LMOs in Spain are published in the MAPAMA´s website:  **http://www.mapama.gob.es/es/calidad-y-evaluacion-ambiental/temas/biotecnologia/organismos-modificados-geneticamente-omg-/notificaciones-y-autorizaciones/**  -Approvals and decisions are published in the MAPAMA´s website. The Central register of LMOs is created by Royal Decree 178/2004, of 30 January, approving the General regulations for the development and implementation of Law 9/2003. It includes updated information on approved facilities and specific information about activities providing an overview of the facilities and activities with living modified organism:  **http://www.mapama.gob.es/es/calidad-y-evaluacion-ambiental/temas/biotecnologia/organismos-modificados-geneticamente-omg-/registro-publico-OMG/**  Some Regional Government also has their own registers. All the information from those registers is included in the Central Register of LMOs. |
| 1.6 Organization of training courses and on-the-job training programmes for personnel |  |
| ***Focal area 2: Risk assessment and risk management***  **Operational objective 2**  To enable Parties to evaluate, apply, share and carry out risk assessments and establish local science-based capacities to regulate, manage, monitor and control risks of living modified organisms (LMOs). | | |
| **Outcomes**   * Resources, including human resources, and the administrative mechanisms required to assess risks of LMOs are available; * Training materials and technical guidance on risk assessment and risk management developed and used by Parties; * Infrastructure and administrative mechanisms established for the management of risks of LMOs at national, subregional or regional levels. | | |
| **A. Results/Outputs** | **B. Planned Activities** | **C. Summary of results of activities undertaken, good practices and lessons learned**  [Enter text in column C, next to the relevant activity in column B, as appropriate] |
| 1. Parties have trained experts in fields relevant for risk assessment and risk management 2. Guidance on risk assessment and risk management of LMOs readily available and being used by Parties 3. Local experts conducting risk assessments and/or risk assessment audits as part of decision-making regarding LMOs 4. Parties submitting risk assessment summaries to the BCH 5. Baseline data on biodiversity relevant for risk assessment and risk management available 6. Parties have the necessary infrastructure for risk assessment and risk management 7. Parties using science-based risk assessment methods 8. Parties have LMO monitoring programmes based on defined protection goals, risk hypotheses and relevant assessment endpoints | 1. Establishment of institutional arrangements (e.g., technical and advisory committees or other arrangements) for conducting or reviewing risk assessments | The second additional provision of the Law contemplates the responsible collegiate bodies at the national level, in the exercise of regulated activities. The **National Biosafety Committee (CNB).**  The CNB is a collegiate consultative body whose role is to report to both the General State Administration and the Autonomous Communities on applications for authorization contained use, deliberate release and marketing of GMOs presented to, and to carry out risks assessments. |
| 1. Organization of training‑of‑trainers workshops on risk assessment and risk management |  |
| 1. Development of guidance documents on risk assessment and risk management |  |
| 1. Development or strengthening of technical infrastructure for risk assessment and risk management |  |
| 1. Conducting scientific biosafety research relating to LMOs | Biosafety research relating to LMOs is included in research projects carried out under national legislation on research and innovation. |
| 1. Review of existing data and/or conducting new research to acquire data on biodiversity for specific ecological areas (e.g., botanical files, consensus documents, national inventories, etc.) relevant to risk assessment and risk management |  |
| 1. Establishment and maintenance of user‑friendly databases to facilitate easy access to data on biodiversity relevant for risk assessment and risk management |  |
| 1. Development of LMO monitoring frameworks and programmes, including post-release monitoring of LMOs | Ministry of Agriculture is currently developing a plan to control the deliberate release of LMOs. |
| 1. Training of scientists, phytosanitary officers, inspectors and other relevant officials on LMO monitoring, enforcement and emergency response |  |
| ***Focal area 3: Handling, transport, packaging and identification***  **Operational objective 3**  To develop capacity for handling, transport, packaging and identification of living modified organisms. | | |
| **Outcomes**   * Customs/border control officials and other officials are able to enforce the Protocol’s requirements related to handling, transport, packaging and identification of LMOs; * Personnel are trained and equipped for sampling, detection and identification of LMOs. | | |
| **A. Results/Outputs** | **B. Planned Activities** | **C. Summary of results of activities undertaken, good practices and lessons learned**  [Enter text in column C, next to the relevant activity in column B, as appropriate] |
| 1. National systems for implementing the Protocol’s requirements on the handling, transport, packaging and identification of LMOs in place and are operational 2. National systems, including standard operating procedures, for detection and identification of LMOs in place 3. Local experts able to detect and identify LMOs in shipments 4. Capacity for verification and certification of documentation accompanying LMO shipments at the points of entry in place 5. Certified LMO testing facilities established at national and (sub)regional levels 6. Systems for traceability and labelling of LMOs in place 7. Regional and subregional networks of laboratories for LMO detection and identification established | 3.1 Establishment of national systems for implementing the Protocol’s requirements on the handling, transport, packaging and identification of LMOs |  |
| 3.2 Development of national systems to implement international rules and standards for sampling and detection of LMOs to facilitate mutual recognition of LMO identification results within and between countries | Analysis carried out at L**aboratorio Central de Veterinaria** in Algete are those recommended by EURL for GMOs, both for screening or event identification and quantification. Analysis accredited under rule UNE-EN ISO/IEC 17025 are certified by the Spanish National Accreditation Body (ENAC) and included in technical annex nº 692/LE1530 rev.10. LCV is also involved in GMOs control in feed grain for the MAPAMA. |
| 3.3 Establishment of mechanisms for auditing the efficacy of the national systems for handling, transport, packaging and identification of LMOs |  |
| 3.4 Organization of national and (sub)regional training workshops on LMO documentation and identification requirements for customs and border control officials and other relevant stakeholders |  |
| 3.5 Development of standardized forms and checklists on identification requirements for use in verification of the documentation accompanying LMO shipments |  |
| 3.6 Development of methodologies and protocols for sampling and detection of LMOs and/or adapting existing ones | **Laboratorio Arbitral Agroalimentario** works under the supervision of the MAPAMA and is a member of the European Network of GMO Laboratories (ENGL). It has been accredited for GMO analyses by the Spanish National Accreditation Body. Samples analyzed for official control purposes include samples of food, feed and its vegetable raw materials, in addition to the analysis of seed for the OEVV. For routine analysis of detection and quantification of vegetable GMOs, the laboratory applies validated ISO standards Methods of Analysis for the Detection of Genetically Derived Products and validated EURL-GMFF methods. |
| 3.7 Organization of trainings for local scientists and laboratory technicians in LMO detection and analysis | **Laboratorio Arbitral Agroalimentario** together with **Centro National de Alimentación** jointly co-ordinate the activities of official GMO laboratories in Spain and provide training. They also organize comparative tests and transfer information from the EURL-GMFF to the Spanish official GMO laboratories. |
| 3.8 Establishment of infrastructure for detection and identification of LMOs, including accredited laboratories | In Spain, 21 laboratories were stated to be involved in official control activities regarding GM presence in food, feed and seeds.  **Laboratorio Arbitral Agroalimentario** together with **Centro National de Alimentación** are the two national reference laboratories (NRL) appointed under article 33 of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 in Spain.  **Laboratorio Central de Veterinaria** in Algete (Madrid), which is appointed to carry out analysis of GMOs in seed for cultivation is part of the GMO working group together with the previous two, which co-ordinates GMO analysis at national level. |
| 3.9 Establishment of (sub)regional networks of laboratories for LMO detection |  |
| ***Focal area 4: Liability and redress***  **Operational objective 4**  To assist Parties to the Protocol to establish and apply rules and procedures on liability and redress for damage resulting from the transboundary movements of living modified organisms, in accordance with the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress. | | |
| **Outcomes**   * Institutional mechanisms or processes identified or established to facilitate the implementation of the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress. | | |
| **A. Results/Outputs** | **B. Planned Activities** | **C. Summary of results of activities undertaken, good practices and lessons learned**  [Enter text in column C, next to the relevant activity in column B, as appropriate] |
| 1. Existing national policies, laws and administrative systems identified and used, and/or amended, to implement the Supplementary Protocol requirements 2. Guidance available and being used by competent authorities in the discharge of their responsibilities under the Supplementary Protocol 3. National capacity for determining appropriate response measures in the event of damage developed 4. User-friendly databases/ knowledge management systems in place and being used to establish baselines and to monitor the status of biodiversity 5. Financial and other support being provided by the GEF, bilateral and multilateral donors and relevant organizations for the ratification and implementation of the Supplementary Protocol 6. Best practices and lessons learned in the implementation of the Supplementary Protocol available through the BCH | 4.1 Analysis of existing national policies, laws and institutional mechanisms to determine how they address or could address the requirements of the Supplementary Protocol |  |
| 4.2 Establishment of new, or amendment of existing, domestic legal and administrative frameworks to implement the requirements of the Supplementary Protocol |  |
| 4.3 Development of guidance to assist competent authorities in discharging their responsibilities under the Supplementary Protocol |  |
| 4.4 Organization of training activities to strengthen the scientific and technical capacity of the competent authorities to be able to evaluate damage, establish causal links and determine appropriate response measures |  |
| 4.5 Establishment of databases and knowledge management systems to facilitate the establishment of baselines and monitoring of the status of biodiversity at genetic, species and ecosystem levels |  |
| 4.6 Strengthening national capacity to provide for administrative or judicial review of decisions on response measures to be taken by the operator in accordance with Article 5.6 of the Supplementary Protocol |  |
| 4.7 Compilation and exchange of information on experiences and lessons learned in the implementation of the Supplementary Protocol through the BCH |  |
| 4.8 Mobilization of financial and other support for ratification and implementation of the Supplementary Protocol |  |
| ***Focal area 5: Public awareness, education and participation***  **Operational objective 5**  To enhance capacity at the national, regional and international levels that would facilitate efforts to raise public awareness, and promote education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms. | | |
| **Outcomes**   * Parties have access to guidance and training materials on public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of LMOs; * Parties are enabled to promote and facilitate public awareness, education and participation in biosafety. | | |
| **A. Results/Outputs** | **B. Planned Activities** | **C. Summary of results of activities undertaken, good practices and lessons learned**  [Enter text in column C, next to the relevant activity in column B, as appropriate] |
| 1. Programmes for promoting public awareness are being implemented 2. Guidance materials and toolkits including methodologies and best practices for promoting public awareness, and promote education and participation in place and being used by Parties 3. Improved mechanisms for public awareness, and promote education and participation 4. Effective implementation of public awareness, and promote education and participation at national, regional and international level | 5.1 Collection of information on legal frameworks and mechanisms put in place and actual experiences on public awareness, education and participation |  |
| 5.2 Development and dissemination of training packages/online modules, guidance materials and other tools for different target groups |  |
| 5.3 Organization of regional and national workshops on the implementation of the above guidance/toolkit in order to strengthen or establish national mechanisms for public awareness, education and participation, interlinking with complementary international agreements |  |
| 5.4 Organization of training-of-trainers workshops for biosafety educators, communicators and other government and non-government personnel at national and (sub)regional levels |  |
| 5.5 Establishment of mechanisms to inform the public about existing opportunities and modalities for participation |  |
| 5.6 Establishment of national biosafety websites, searchable databases and national resource centres |  |
| 5.7 Development and implementation of biosafety public-awareness programmes |  |
| ***Focal area 6: Information-sharing***  **Operational objective 6**  To ensure that the BCH is easily accessed by all established stakeholders, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. | | |
| **Outcomes**   * Increased access to information in the BCH and sharing of information through the BCH by users in developing countries and countries with economies in transition; * Tools to facilitate implementation of the Protocol are easily accessible through the BCH; * Information on the BCH is easily accessible to stakeholders, including the general public. | | |
| **A. Results/Outputs** | **B. Planned Activities** | **C. Summary of results of activities undertaken, good practices and lessons learned**  [Enter text in column C, next to the relevant activity in column B, as appropriate] |
| 1. Parties able to register mandatory information in the BCH 2. Parties, non-Parties and other stakeholders are able to post non-mandatory information to the BCH 3. Improved coordination and sharing of experiences on the BCH at national, (sub)regional, and global levels 4. Increased awareness and capacity of relevant stakeholders and general public to access information through BCH 5. National systems set up to gather, manage and upload onto the BCH all the information required under the Protocol | 6.1 Establishment/maintenance of national and regional infrastructure for accessing the BCH | National website provides information on legislation, Domestic law and EU regulation on LMOs. We can also find Information about environmental risk assessment reports and procedure of public information about deliberate release and contained use of activities risk class 3 and 4.  We have all the information we need to update the BCH, so it is important to keep this information up to date. In the case of Spain there are different types of documents in BCH. We have loaded 181 documents either country´s decision or any other communication and we have loaded 184 risk assessment as well. |
| 6.2 Development of national and (sub)regional systems for gathering/managing information for submission to the BCH |  |
| 6.3 Creation of national websites using, as appropriate, AJAX and Hermes tools |  |
| 6.4 Organization of BCH training for specific target groups, using the BCH Regional Advisors’ network |  |
| 6.5 Enhancement of cooperation between relevant international organizations on the further development and population of the BCH to maximize use of existing resources, experiences and expertise and to minimize duplication of activities |  |
| 6.6 Organization of training for information management experts on the BCH and putting in place mechanisms to facilitate use of the BCH by various stakeholders |  |
| 6.7 Establishment of mechanisms to enable countries to monitor the use of the BCH at the national level and to address gaps |  |
| 6.8 Continuation of the BCH capacity-building projects at national and (sub)regional levels |  |
| 6.9 Enhancement of the BCH coordination mechanism at the national level, including interministerial and interagency collaboration with relevant stakeholders |  |
| ***Focal area 7: Biosafety education and training***  **Operational objective 7**  To promote education and training of biosafety professionals through greater coordination and collaboration among academic institutions and relevant organizations. | | |
| **Outcomes**   * A sustainable pool of biosafety professionals with various competencies available at national/ international levels; * Improved biosafety education and training programmes; * Increased exchange of information, training materials and staff and students among academic institutions and relevant organizations. | | |
| **A. Results/Outputs** | **B. Planned Activities** | **C. Summary of results of activities undertaken, good practices and lessons learned**  [Enter text in column C, next to the appropriate activity in column B, if applicable] |
| 1. Improved identification of training needs and target audiences 2. Information on the current situation with regard to existing biosafety-related education and training initiatives available 3. Relevant documentation (including real-life dossiers and full risk assessment reports) made available for biosafety education and education purposes 4. Compilations of existing biosafety training and education initiatives and trainers are made available 5. E-learning courses and other distance education and training programs on biosafety are available 6. Scientific and professional conferences and workshops support exchange of information and experiences 7. Biosafety regulators continuously trained through on-the-job and off-the-job training programmes | 7.1 Undertaking of periodic training needs assessments to ascertain the demand for biosafety education and training programme, and to identify target audiences |  |
| 7.2 Development and/or strengthening of biosafety education and training programs at national and (sub)regional levels, including online and continuing education programs |  |
| 7.3 Exchange of information on existing biosafety education and training courses and programmes through the BCH |  |
| 7.4 Integration of biosafety into the curricula of existing relevant academic programs and courses |  |
| 7.5 Establishment of national and (sub)regional coordination mechanisms or networks for institutions involved in biosafety education and training to facilitate the sharing experiences and best practices |  |
| 7.6 Exchange of biosafety training and research materials among academic institutions |  |
| 7.7 Development of academic exchange and fellowship programs to facilitate the sharing of expertise, including through North-South and South-South cooperation |  |
| 7.8 Expansion and maintenance of the database in the BCH on existing biosafety training and education programmes/courses, academic staff/experts on relevant subjects and training materials. |  |
| 7.9 Strengthening the capacity of existing universities, research institutes and centres of excellence to deliver biosafety education and training |  |