



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/BS/WS-SEC/1/1/Add.1
6 October 2011

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

WORKSHOP ON CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR
RESEARCH AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE ON
SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF LIVING
MODIFIED ORGANISMS
New Delhi, 14-16 November 2011

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

1. In their decision BS-V/3, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety requested the Executive Secretary to convene, prior to the sixth meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, subject to the necessary financial resources being made available, a regionally-balanced workshop on capacity-building for research and information exchange on socio-economic impacts of living modified organisms (LMOs). The decision also requested the Executive Secretary to convene regional online conferences to: (i) facilitate the exchange of views, information and experiences on socio-economic considerations on a regional basis; and (ii) identify possible issues for further consideration.
2. To implement the above requests, the Secretariat initiated a three-step process. The first step was a series of online discussion groups on socio-economic considerations which ran from 21 March to 8 May 2011 through the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH).¹ The online discussion groups assisted in gathering information on key issues, developing a clearer understanding of the different perspectives and identifying topics for further discussion. The second step in the process was a series of five regional online real-time conferences on socio-economic considerations in decision-making concerning living modified organisms held in June and July 2011 also through the BCH.²
3. The third step is the workshop on capacity-building for research and information exchange on socio-economic impacts of living modified organisms. According to decision BS-V/3, the objectives of the workshop are:
 - (a) Analysis of the capacity-building activities, needs and priorities regarding socio-economic considerations and identification of options for cooperation in addressing those needs; and
 - (b) Exchange and analysis of information on the use of socio-economic considerations in the context of Article 26 of the Protocol.

¹ http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_art26/discussiongroups_se.shtml.

² http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_art26/realtime_se.shtml.

/...

4. Furthermore, paragraph 27 of decision BS-V/3 requested the Liaison Group on Capacity-Building for Biosafety to give advice to the Executive Secretary on the organization of the workshop. The Liaison Group considered the matter at its eighth meeting, held in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova in April 2011.³

5. Following generous financial support from the Government of Norway and the kind offer to host by the Government of India, the Workshop on Capacity-building for Research and Information Exchange on Socio-Economic Impacts of Living Modified Organisms in New Delhi from 14 to 16 November 2011.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP

6. The workshop will be co-chaired by representatives of the Governments of India and Norway. The co-chair from the Government of India will open the workshop at 9 a.m. on Monday, 14 November 2011. The co-chair from the Government of Norway and a representative of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity will also make opening remarks.

ITEM 2. OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAMME FOR THE WORKSHOP

7. A representative of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will give an overview of the objectives, programme and expected outcomes of the workshop. The workshop will include presentations by resource persons, plenary sessions for sharing experiences and small group discussions. The proposed programme of work for the workshop is provided in annex I below.

8. A list of documents for the workshop is contained in annex II below. Additional documents may be made available prior to or during the workshop. Information is also available via the online portal on socio-economic considerations in the Biosafety Clearing House.⁴

9. The workshop will be conducted in English.

ITEM 3. EXCHANGE AND ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

10. Paragraph 23 of decision BS-V/3 urged Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to submit relevant information on socio-economic considerations, including guidance material and case studies on, *inter alia*, institutional arrangements and best practices. One of the suggestions on the organization of the workshop made by the Liaison Group was the presentation of case studies on the use of socio-economic assessments in areas other than biosafety, including the use of socio-economic assessments in agriculture in general, as well as case studies specifically addressing the use of socio-economic assessments in decision-making on LMOs. Furthermore, the online discussion groups and the real-time conferences explored the topic of experiences with socio-economic considerations both in decision-making on LMOs and in other sectors, and generated valuable information.

11. Accordingly, under this agenda item, participants will examine the available information and case-studies on the application of socio-economic assessments in a range of fields. Resource persons will make presentations on the application of socio-economic assessments in fields other than biosafety, including the application of socio-economic assessments in agriculture. There will also be presentations of case studies on the inclusion of socio-economic considerations in decision-making on LMOs. Participants will be invited to discuss the different presentations and their relationship to socio-economic

³ The suggestions of the Liaison Group regarding the organization of the workshop can be found in the report of its eighth meeting (UNEP/CBD/BS/LG-CB/8/2), available online at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=BSLGCB-08>.

⁴ http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_art26/portal.shtml.

considerations under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and to identify possible good practices and lessons learnt.

12. Participants will have before them two synthesis documents to facilitate the discussions: one on experiences with socio-economic considerations in decision-making in areas other than biosafety as described during the real-time conferences (UNEP/CBD/BS/WS-SEC/1/2); and the other on national experiences with socio-economic considerations in decision-making on LMOs as provided through submissions, the online discussion groups and the regional online real-time conferences (UNEP/CBD/BS/WS-SEC/1/3). In addition, a summary of the submissions received in response to paragraph 23 of decision BS-V/3, which was prepared for the online real-time conferences, is being made available as an information document for this workshop (UNEP/CBD/BS/REGCONF-SEC/1/INF/1). The full text of the submissions is available through the portal on socio-economic considerations in the BCH.⁵

ITEM 4. CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES, NEEDS AND PRIORITIES REGARDING SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

13. In paragraph 22 of decision BS-V/3, Parties and other Governments were invited to submit to the BCH their capacity-building needs and priorities regarding socio-economic considerations. Capacity-building regarding socio-economic considerations was also a key theme in the online discussion groups and the regional online real-time conferences. Under this agenda item, participants will have a document synthesizing relevant information on this topic (UNEP/CBD/BS/WS-SEC/1/4).

14. During the workshop, participants will hear a presentation from the Chair of the Coordination Meeting for Governments and Organizations Implementing and/or Funding Biosafety Capacity-building Activities. They will also hear experiences from different capacity-building activities concerning socio-economic considerations in decision-making on LMOs. Participants will be invited to discuss how to prioritize capacity-building needs in this area and will identify options for cooperation on capacity-building for socio-economic considerations in the different regions. They will also be invited to consider how to develop understanding of the meaning, scope and purpose of socio-economic considerations in order to clearly define capacity-building needs and effectively undertake capacity-building in this area.

ITEM 5. CONSIDERATION OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE WORKSHOP

15. According to decision BS-V/3, one of the objectives for the regional online real-time conferences was the identification of issues for further consideration. Paragraph 28 of decision BS-V/3 also requests the Executive Secretary to submit a report synthesizing the outcomes of the online conferences and the workshop to the sixth meeting of the Parties for consideration of further steps.

16. The online discussion groups and the regional online real-time conferences addressed some issues for further consideration and how to implement operational objective 1.7 of the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the Period 2011-2020. Operational objective 1.7 is “to, on the basis of research and information exchange, provide relevant guidance on socio-economic considerations that may be taken into account in reaching decisions on the import of living modified organisms”.⁶ To facilitate discussions under this agenda item, participants will have a document (UNEP/CBD/BS/WS-SEC/1/5) synthesizing views from the online discussion groups and the regional online real-time conferences regarding next steps to be taken on socio-economic considerations.

⁵ http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_art26/resources.shtml.

⁶ Annex I to decision BS-V/16, <http://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/mop-05/mop-05-dec-16-annex-1-table-en.pdf>.

17. During the workshop, participants will discuss activities that could be undertaken on this issue at the national, regional and international levels and explore further how to implement operational objective 1.7 of the Strategic Plan.

ITEM 6. CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP

18. The workshop is expected to end at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, 16 November 2011.

Annex I

PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Monday <i>14 November 2011</i> 9 a.m. – 10 a.m.	<i>Agenda item:</i> 1. Opening of the workshop.
10 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	<i>Agenda item:</i> 2. Objectives and programme for the workshop.
10.30 a.m.– 10.45 a.m.	Coffee/Tea Break
10.45 a.m. – 1 p.m.	<i>Agenda item:</i> 3. Exchange and analysis of information on socio-economic considerations: - Presentation on socio-economic assessments in fields other than biosafety; - Presentation on socio-economic assessments in agriculture; - Breakout group discussions.
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	Lunch Break
2 p.m. – 3.15 p.m.	<i>Agenda item 3(continued):</i> - Reports from breakout groups; - Presentation on socio-economic considerations in decision-making on LMOs: experiences from France.
3.15 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	Coffee/Tea Break
3.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	<i>Agenda item 3(continued):</i> - Presentation on socio-economic considerations in decision-making on LMOs: experiences from Bolivia; - Breakout group discussions; - Reports from breakout groups.
Tuesday <i>15 November 2011</i> 9 a.m. – 10.45 a.m.	<i>Agenda item:</i> 4. Capacity-building activities, needs and priorities regarding socio-economic considerations: - Perspective from the Chair of the Coordination Meeting for Governments or Organizations Implementing and/or Funding Biosafety Capacity-Building Activities; - Plenary discussion.
10.45 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Coffee/Tea Break
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	<i>Agenda item 4 (continued):</i> - Presentation on experiences with capacity-building activities on socio-economic considerations; - Regional breakout groups; - Reports from breakout groups.

1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	Lunch
2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	Agenda item 4 (<i>continued</i>): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation on experiences with capacity-building activities on socio-economic considerations; - Breakout groups.
3.30 p.m. – 3.45 p.m.	Coffee/Tea Break
3.45 p.m. – 5 p.m.	Agenda item 4 (<i>continued</i>): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reports from breakout groups; - Plenary discussion.
Wednesday <i>16 November 2011</i>	Agenda item:
9 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	5. Consideration of the conclusions of the workshop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction; - Brainstorming on next steps.
10.30 a.m. – 10.45 a.m.	Coffee/Tea Break
10.45 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.	Agenda item 5 (<i>continued</i>): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Breakout groups; - Reports from breakout groups.
12.30 p.m. – 2.00 p.m.	Lunch
2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	Agenda item 5 (<i>continued</i>): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summary of workshop discussions; - Consideration of workshop conclusions.
3.30 p.m. – 4 p.m.	Agenda item: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Closure of the workshop.

*Annex II***PROVISIONAL LIST OF DOCUMENTS*****DOCUMENTS:**

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
UNEP/CBD/BS/WS-SEC/1/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/BS/WS-SEC/1/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/BS/WS-SEC/1/2	Synthesis of information on experiences with socio-economic considerations in decision-making in areas other than biosafety
UNEP/CBD/BS/WS-SEC/1/3	Synthesis of information on national experiences with socio-economic considerations in decision-making on living modified organisms
UNEP/CBD/BS/WS-SEC/1/4	Synthesis of information on capacity-building and socio-economic considerations
UNEP/CBD/BS/WS-SEC/1/5	Synthesis of views on next steps regarding socio-economic considerations
UNEP/CBD/BS/REGCONF-SEC/1/INF/1	Socio-economic considerations: summary of submissions from Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations
UNEP/CBD/COP-MOP/5/INF/10	Summary report on the survey on the application of and experience in the use of socio-economic considerations in decision-making on living modified organisms

* More documents may be made available as provided by resource persons during or prior to the workshop.