



Convention on Biological Diversity

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AFRICAN REGIONAL TRAINING-OF-TRAINERS WORKSHOP ON THE IDENTIFICATION AND DOCUMENTATION OF LIVING MODIFIED ORGANISMS

Bamako, 14-18 September 2009

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

1. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety has made a number of decisions calling for capacity-building in developing countries to assist them to implement the requirements for documentation and identification of living modified organisms under the Protocol (for example, paragraphs 9 and 12 of decision BS-III/10 and paragraph 3 of decision BS-IV/9).

2. Following the generous financial contribution from the European Commission and the offer by the Government of Mali to host the workshop through the University of Bamako, the Africa Regional Training of Trainers' Workshop on the Identification and Documentation of Living Modified Organisms under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety will be held in Bamako, Mali, from 14 to 18 September 2009. The workshop will bring together more than 30 participants including customs officials and regulators nominated by their biosafety national focal points as well as resource persons familiar with existing documentation systems and scientific methods of sampling for and detecting living modified organisms (LMOs).

3. The main objective of the workshop is to introduce customs officers to the requirements of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety regarding the identification and documentation of LMOs and to techniques and methodologies that may be used for the implementation of these requirements.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP

4. The workshop will be opened by a representative of the Government of Mali at 9.30 a.m. on Monday, 14 September 2009. 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

5. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will give an overview of the objectives, the programme and the expected outcomes of the workshop. The main objective of the workshop is to enhance the technical knowledge and skills of the participants (including customs officers and border control officers) and to facilitate the exchange of national experiences on the implementation of the identification and documentation requirements under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The workshop format features presentations by resource persons and local experts, sessions for sharing of national

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experiences, interactive hands-on training sessions to introduce relevant tools and small group discussions.

6. The provisional agenda of the workshop prepared by the Executive Secretary is available as UNEP/CBD/BS/WS-TTID-Afr/1/1. The proposed organization is provided in annex I below.

7. A list of documents for the workshop is contained in annex II below. Additional documents, including presentations by resource persons and country case-studies, may be made available prior to, or during, the workshop.

8. The workshop will be conducted in English and French.

ITEM 3. INTRODUCTION TO THE PROTOCOL AND ITS ELEMENTS RELATING TO THE IDENTIFICATION AND DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SHIPMENTS OF LIVING MODIFIED ORGANISMS

9. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety aims to contribute to ensuring the safe transfer, handling and use of LMOs 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. It includes a number of provisions to achieve this objective. Article 18 of the Protocol, for example, requires Parties to take necessary measures to ensure that LMOs that are subject to intentional transboundary movement are handled, packaged and transported under conditions of safety. In this regard, it establishes requirements for documentation accompanying shipments of different categories of LMOs. These requirements have been further elaborated upon in a number of decisions of the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. In this session, a representative of the Secretariat will make a presentation which will introduce the Protocol and outline its elements related to identification and documentation requirements and describe how to find more information about national documentation requirements through the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH).

ITEM 4. THE ROLE OF CUSTOMS OFFICIALS IN IMPLEMENTING THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

10. In this session of the workshop, a representative of the Secretariat will provide an overview of the different categories of LMOs and the different types of transboundary movements of LMOs that are covered by the Protocol and describe how LMOs might arrive at a country's borders, in what forms, by what methods of transportation and for what purposes. The session will highlight the role that customs officers can play in implementing the Protocol, for example in enforcing implementation of the obligations related to the documentation requirements for different categories of LMOs and in detecting and preventing illegal and unintentional transboundary movements of LMOs.

ITEM 5. DOCUMENTATION ACCOMPANYING SHIPMENTS OF LIVING MODIFIED ORGANISMS

5.1. Case-studies on existing documentation systems

11. There are different types of commercial documentation or other documentation required by domestic regulatory and/or administrative frameworks currently in existence that are being used or could be used as documentation accompanying living modified organisms to fulfil the identification requirements of Article 18 of the Protocol. These include commercial invoices, waybills, bills of lading, phytosanitary certificates and others. This session will include presentations and case-studies on experience gained with the use of those existing types of documentation and how information on LMOs might be incorporated into them.

5.2. National experiences in implementing documentation requirements

12. The Protocol allows Parties to set, within their domestic regulatory and/or administrative frameworks, country-specific requirements for the documentation that should accompany shipments of

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LMOs. In this session, selected participants from different subregions, will give presentations on the documentation requirements of different countries, the experience with the implementation of the requirements, and how the information about documentation requirements can be found in the BCH.

ITEM 6. SAMPLING AND DETECTION OF LIVING MODIFIED ORGANISMS

6.1. Introduction and overview

13. The process of sampling and detection of LMOs is important in verifying the completeness and accuracy of the documentation accompanying a shipment. Results from sampling and detection may show that the documentation accompanying a shipment accurately describes the content of the shipment, misrepresents the LMOs contained in a shipment or does not indicate that the shipment contains any LMOs when these have, in fact, been detected. As part of their inspection work, customs and border control officers need to be familiar with basic sampling and detection techniques in order to be able, to take samples from shipments and/or be involved in testing and analyzing samples to detect whether they contain LMOs and if so, what types. In this session, resource persons will provide an introduction to the different sampling and detection methods, including: DNA-based methods (e.g. polymerase chain reaction (PCR) methods, DNA microarray) and protein-based methods (e.g. ELISA and Quick test strip), and describe their relative strengths and limitations.

6.2. Laboratory exercises

14. There are a number of different tests that can be used to determine the genetic contents of a shipment of seed or grain, some of which may be directly applied by customs officers. This session of the workshop will take place in the *Laboratoire de Biologie Moléculaire Appliquée* of the University of Bamako. Resource persons will lead the participants through practical, hands-on exercises with different detection and testing techniques, including sample preparation, DNA isolation and extraction and qualitative analysis of LMOs. The purpose will be to provide the participants with an appreciation of the application of these techniques, to highlight the different considerations behind the various tests and, to demonstrate the importance of good sampling practices to ensuring the validity of the test results. The resource persons will also show participants how to interpret PCR results.

6.3. Dealing with results from sampling and detection: national experiences

15. This session will examine the actions that customs and border control officers may take if the testing and detection process demonstrates that the content of a shipment is not what is identified on the accompanying documentation or if the testing demonstrates that the content is as identified. There will also be presentations of national experiences with testing and detection of LMOs from different countries and the lessons learned.

ITEM 7. FIELD STUDY VISIT

16. This session will include a field trip to a customs control point and/or a warehouse handling bulk agricultural commodities. The purpose of the trip will be to enable participants to learn and share experiences, in practical setting, with the local staff at the customs point and the warehouse.

ITEM 8. EXPERIENCES OF THE GREEN CUSTOMS INITIATIVE PARTNERS

17. The Green Customs Initiative (GCI) is a partnership of international organizations cooperating to detect and prevent the illegal trade in environmentally-sensitive commodities covered by the relevant conventions and multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). These include ozone depleting substances (ODS), toxic chemical products, hazardous wastes, endangered species and living-modified organisms. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is a partner in the initiative. In this session, GCI partners will present their activities and share their experiences, highlighting and linking the important role of customs in the implementation of numerous multilateral agreements, not just the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

**ITEM 9. THE WAY FORWARD: NEXT STEPS FOR CONTINUED
COLLABORATION AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION**

18. This session will explore how the participants in the workshop can continue to collaborate and share their experiences with the identification and documentation of LMOs once they return to their countries and how they can apply what they have learned during the workshop to their national situations. Participants will work in small groups to analyse their current national situations and capacities and to brainstorm on the follow-up national action plans.

ITEM 10. CONSIDERATION OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE WORKSHOP

19. Under this item, participants will consider the conclusions of the workshop and complete an evaluation of the workshop.

ITEM 11. CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP

20. The workshop is expected to end at 5 p.m. on Friday, 18 September 2009.

*Annex I***PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

	Plenary
Monday 14 September 2009 9.30 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. Overview of the 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. Introduction to the Protocol and its elements relating to the identification and documentation requirements for shipments of living modified organisms.
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	Lunch Break
2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	<i>Agenda item:</i> 4. Role of customs officials in implementing the Protocol.
3.30 p.m. – 4 p.m.	Coffee/Tea Break
4 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	<i>Agenda item:</i> 5. Documentation accompanying shipments of living modified organisms: 5.1 Case-studies on existing documentation systems;
Tuesday 15 September 2009 9 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	<i>Agenda item:</i> 5. Documentation accompanying shipments of living modified organisms: 5.2 National experiences in implementing documentation requirements.
10.30 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Coffee/Tea Break
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Agenda item 5 (<i>continued</i>)
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	Lunch
2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	<i>Agenda item:</i> 6. Sampling and detection of living modified organisms: 6.1. Introduction and overview; 6.2. Laboratory exercises.
3.30 p.m. – 4 p.m.	Coffee/Tea Break
4 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	Agenda item 6 (<i>continued</i>)

	Plenary
Wednesday 16 September 2009 9 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	Agenda item 6 (<i>continued</i>)
10.30 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.	Coffee Break/Tea
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Agenda item 6 (<i>continued</i>)
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	Lunch
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.	Agenda item 6 (<i>continued</i>) 6.3 Dealing with results from sampling and detection: national experiences;
Thursday 17 September 2009 9 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	Agenda items: 7. Field study visit.
10.30 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.	Coffee Break/Tea
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Agenda item 7 (<i>continued</i>)
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	Lunch
2 p.m. – 5 p.m.	Agenda item 7 (<i>continued</i>)
Friday 18 September 2009 9 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	8. Experiences of the Green Customs Initiative (GCI) partners
10.30 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.	Coffee Break/Tea
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Agenda item 9. The way forward: next steps for continued collaboration and exchange of information
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	Lunch
2 p.m. – 3 p.m.	Agenda item 9 (<i>continued</i>)
3 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	Coffee/Tea Break
3.30 p.m. – 4.45 p.m.	10. Consideration of the conclusions of the workshop.
4.45 p.m. – 5 p.m.	11. Closure of the workshop.

Annex II

PROVISIONAL LIST OF DOCUMENTS*

DOCUMENTS:

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
UNEP/CBD/BS/WS-TTID-Afr/1/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/BS/WS-TTID-Afr/1/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda

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