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CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROEPAN REGIONAL TRAINING OF TRAINERS WORKSHOP ON THE IDENTIFICATION AND DOCUMENTATION OF LIVING MODIFIED ORGANISMS
Ljubljana, 11-15 April 2011

REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP

INTRODUCTION

1. The Central and Eastern European Regional Training of Trainers Workshop on the Identification and Documentation of Living Modified Organisms was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia from 11 to 15 April 2011. The workshop was hosted by the Government of Slovenia at the Agricultural Institute of Slovenia (AIS) and the National Institute of Biology (NIB). Funding for the workshop was provided by the European Commission.

2. The workshop was attended by 25 participants from 14 countries, one regional economic integration organization and three organizations.

3. The following countries and regional economic integration organization were represented: Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, European Union, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Slovenia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine.

4. Five resource people from the following organizations facilitated the workshop: the European Commission, the International Grain Trade Coalition, and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

5. The objective of the workshop was to introduce customs officers and related border-control officials to:

(a) The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and its requirements regarding the identification and documentation of LMOs and their role in enforcing those requirements;

(b) Techniques and methodologies that may be used for the implementation of the above requirements, in particular the sampling of shipments and the detection of living modified organisms; and

(c) Activities and experiences of the Green Customs Initiative.

ITEM I. OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP

6. The workshop was opened by Mr. Charles Gbedemah, Senior Environmental Affairs Officer, on behalf of Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaf, the Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Mr. Gbedemah noted that this was the third in a series of workshops being organized by the Secretariat in response to decisions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the

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Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety that called for capacity-building for the implementation of Article 18 of the Protocol. He noted that the workshops were also being conducted as part of the Secretariat's involvement in the Green Customs Initiative. Mr. Gbedemah urged the participants to freely share and learn from each others' experiences. He thanked the European Union for its generous financial contribution to the workshop and the Government of Slovenia for hosting it. He also thanked the European Commission and the International Grain Trade Coalition for providing resource persons for the workshop and the local workshop organizing committee for the excellent preparations.

7. Mr. Andrej Simončič, Director of the Agricultural Institute of Slovenia (AIS), welcomed the participants to Slovenia. He introduced the AIS and described its national and regional research on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and co-existence. He noted that the Institute is a member of the International Seed Testing Association and that its laboratory is the only one in Slovenia accredited to do GMO testing. He further noted that the issue of GMOs is an important one for Slovenia and said that the Institute was happy to have the opportunity to share information through the workshop.

8. Mr. Franc Potocnik, Deputy Directory of the National Institute of Biology (NIB), described the Institute's long-standing work in the field of biotechnology. He noted that the NIB had been collaborating with the CBD Secretariat since 2002 through the Slovenian Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning. He stated that the NIB is Slovenia's national reference laboratory for GMOs and it is actively involved in the control and detection of LMOs. He looked forward to welcoming the participants to laboratories at the NIB in the course of the week.

9. Mr. Martin Batic, Secretary of the Biotechnology Section, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning of the Government of Slovenia welcomed the participants to Slovenia. He highlighted the functions of Article 18 of the Biosafety Protocol and the role of border control officials in the implementation of this Article. He wished the participants fruitful discussions.

10. Mr. Gbedemah invited the participants to introduce themselves.

ITEM 2. OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAMME FOR THE WORKSHOP

11. Ms. Kathryn Garforth of the CBD Secretariat introduced the objectives for the workshop and provided an overview of the programme for the workshop. She invited participants to make brief statements about their expectations for the workshop.

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

12. Two presentations were made under this item. The first one, entitled "Introduction to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety" was made by Mr. Erie Tamale of the CBD Secretariat. Mr. Tamale provided a brief background to the Protocol and its relationship with the Convention on Biological Diversity and other international instruments that deal with living modified organisms. He described the objective of the Protocol and its scope, the different categories of living modified organisms under the Protocol, the different procedures for the transboundary movement of different categories of living modified organisms and other provisions of the Protocol intended to foster the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms.

13. The second presentation, on the "Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety: Identification and Documentation of Shipments of Living Modified Organisms", was delivered by Ms. Garforth. She explained that provisions on the handling, transport, packaging and identification of living modified organisms were set out in Article 18 of the Protocol and she provided an introduction and context to the Article. She described the main types of transboundary movements – intentional, unintentional and illegal – of living modified organisms under the Protocol. In the context of intentional transboundary movements, she stated that the Protocol contains different requirements for the information to be provided

in documentation accompanying shipments of: (i) living modified organisms intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing; (ii) living modified organisms for contained use; and (iii) living modified organisms for intentional introduction into the environment. She outlined the specific information requirements contained in the Protocol and related decisions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (COP-MOP) and described where to find information on living modified organisms in shipping documentation. She also provided an overview of unique identifiers for transgenic plants and demonstrated how they could be used to search the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) for further information. Finally, Ms. Garforth mentioned possible situations that could constitute unintentional transboundary movements of living modified organisms and also described what constitutes an illegal transboundary movement.

ITEM 4. ROLE OF CUSTOMS AND BORDER CONTROL OFFICIALS IN IMPLEMENTING THE PROTOCOL

14. Under this item, Mr. Tamale made a presentation on the role of customs officials in implementing the Protocol. He noted that to play an effective role, customs officials needed to know: what information to look for, why such information was important, where to find the information and who to contact for specialized assistance. He described the following as some of the key roles and responsibilities of customs officers in the implementation of the Protocol: (i) ensuring that imports and exports of living modified organisms had proper approvals before they were cleared; (ii) ensuring that shipments of living modified organisms were accompanied by appropriate identification documentation; (iii) inspecting incoming shipments of living modified organisms to verify the actual content and cross-check them against the accompanying documentation; (iv) detecting illegal or unintentional transboundary movements; and (v) reporting to relevant authorities information concerning shipments of living modified organisms arriving at the ports of entry.

15. Ms. Garforth gave a presentation on the "Role of the Biosafety Clearing-House in Facilitating the Implementation of the Identification and Documentation Requirements". She explained that the BCH is an online information exchange mechanism that is freely accessible to everyone. Parties to the Protocol are required to share certain types of information and decisions via the BCH. She stated that customs officers would most likely need to use the BCH to find contact information for the competent national authorities and the decisions taken by their governments on whether or not the import of specific LMOs is allowed. She demonstrated how to search the BCH for different types of information and illustrated the types of results and information users of the BCH may encounter. She concluded by presenting the Collaborative Portal for Customs Officials in the BCH, where more information on the handling, transport, packaging and identification of LMOs is available. [1]

ITEM 5. NATIONAL EXPERIENCES WITH TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENTS OF LIVING MODIFIED ORGANISMS

16. Under this item, participants gave short presentations on "The current status and experiences gained with the identification and documentation of living modified organisms" in their respective countries, which they had been invited to prepare prior to the workshop. The presentations highlighted:

(a) The current status of identification and documentation requirements in their respective countries, including existing provisions in national regulatory and/or administrative frameworks on the documentation that must accompany imports of living modified organisms, examples of the existing documentation systems, existing initiatives and facilities for identification of living modified organisms, etc;

(b) Experience gained, if any, with the identification of living modified organisms and the use of existing documentation systems to fulfil requirements for the identification of shipments of living modified organisms for import;

[1] http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/customs_art18.shtml.

(c) The difficulties/challenges encountered;

(d) The specific capacity-building needs and priorities; and

(e) Recommendations for improving the national implementation of the requirements for the identification and documentation of living modified organisms.

17. The participants from the following countries gave presentations: Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Slovenia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine. It was agreed that the presentations would be posted in the Collaborative Portal for Customs Officials in the BCH.

ITEM 6. DOCUMENTATION ACCOMPANYING SHIPMENTS OF LIVING MODIFIED ORGANISMS: CASE-STUDIES ON EXISTING DOCUMENTATION SYSTEMS

18. Under this item, Ms. Teresa Babuscio from the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) made a presentation entitled "Documentation accompanying Food/Feed/Processing Shipments of Living Modified Organisms". Ms. Babuscio provided a brief background to the IGTC. She stated that IGTC's goal is to minimize disruptions in the international trade of grain, oilseeds, pulses and derived products. She noted that IGTC has more than 8,000 members in 80 countries and she outlined the regions of the world that were net importers of grain and those that are net exporters. She described the size and scope of the international grain industry and the world bulk grain handling systems, from farmer to processor. She noted that it was impossible to keep varieties of grain totally separate in a bulk handling system. Ms. Babuscio described the role of identity preservation systems in providing tighter tolerance levels than could be provided in normal bulk grain shipments but noted that they could not provide zero tolerance. She stated that identity preservation had to start at the farm level and should be maintained as the commodity moved through the handling and transportation system to market.

19. Ms. Babuscio also described international commercial grain transactions. She stated that negotiations between the exporter and importer normally begin three to six months before the shipment and involve agreement on the commodity to be shipped, its quality and quantity, the price and payment terms and the shipping terms. She noted that the commercial invoice was the only document that currently accompanies all transboundary shipments. In this regard, she said the IGTC supported the position that any identification information that was to accompany shipments of living modified organisms, as required in Article 18.2 of the Protocol, should be incorporated into the commercial invoice. She further noted that there were a number of other rules, at both the national and international level, that shippers had to comply with for the transboundary movements of goods.

20. Ms. Babuscio outlined the handling, transport, packaging and identification requirements of Article 18 of the Protocol and associated COP-MOP decisions and highlighted the *IGTC Notice to Trade # 7*, which was issued after the decision on paragraph 2(a) of Article 18 was taken at the third meeting of the COP-MOP in 2006. She provided examples of how the information requirements of the Protocol had been integrated into commercial invoices. In her conclusion, Ms. Babuscio stated that additional documentation requirements would result in significantly higher costs in the bulk commodity handling system which would endanger food security primarily in food importing developing countries.

ITEM 7. SAMPLING AND DETECTION OF LIVING MODIFIED ORGANISMS

7.1. Introduction and overview: European Network of GMO Laboratories

21. Under this agenda item, Mr. Damien Plan of the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission gave a presentation on the European Network of GMO Laboratories (ENGL) and its experience in GMO detection. He introduced the Joint Research Centre and provided a brief history on the formation of ENGL. He explained that ENGL consists of 96 laboratories hosted by the 27 Member States of the European Union (EU) plus three laboratories from non-EU countries. He also referred to the European Union Reference Laboratory for GM Food and Feed (EURL-FF), which is a central laboratory

hosted by the Joint Research Centre. Mr. Plan described the EU regulatory framework for GMOs and noted that the EURL-FF and ENGL activities on GMO detection are based on the EU GMO legislation.

22. Mr. Plan stated that the core activity of the EURL-FF is the validation of GMO detection methods as part of the GMO approval process for the EU. Other aspects of its mandate include the provision of control samples and guidance documents, providing national reference laboratories with reference analytical methods, organising comparative testing of detection methods, conducting training courses, providing technical assistance to the European Commission and collaborating with laboratories in non-EU countries. It also has a role in dispute settlement and emergency situations.

23. Mr. Plan outlined the objectives and structure of ENGL. It main objectives are to: (i) support the EURL-FF; (ii) improve the harmonization and standardization of methods for the identification and quantification of GMOs at the European level; (iii) act as a network of scientific excellence for the detection of GMOs and related scientific issues; and (iv) provide information to worldwide stakeholders. He noted that ENGL members are designated by national competent authorities and observer status in the Network is available for laboratories from countries that are not eligible for full membership. He described some of ENGL's achievements to date including the validation of more than 60 GMO detection methods, which are publicly available through an online database.

24. Mr. Plan concluded by providing an outlook for ENGL's future, which includes the development of new methods and new approaches for GMO detection and the development of detection methods for new types of genetically modified organisms (such as fish and animals). He also highlighted efforts work to develop regional networks on GMO detection outside the EU including global capacity-building on GMO analysis.

7.2. Sampling methodology

25. Dr. Jelka Sustar-Vozlic from the Agricultural Institute of Slovenia gave a presentation on the sampling and detection of living modified organisms. She provided an introduction to the concept and complexity of sampling and highlighted how sampling is the crucial first step in any analytical process. She noted that sampling is often the major source of error in the analysis of GMOs and the objective of a good sampling plan is to provide a representative sample for analysis to minimize error. Dr. Sustar-Vozlic gave an overview of the legislative basis for sampling procedures in the EU, focusing in particular on Recommendation 2004/787/CE. She then discussed approaches to sampling different types of lots, namely sampling along the food and feed supply chain, sampling seeds and sampling in the field.

7.3. Identification of living modified organisms

26. Under this agenda item, Dr. Jana Žel from the National Institute of Biology gave a presentation on the detection and identification of LMOs. She began by explaining what an LMO is and describing their adoption in global agriculture. She noted three different approaches to the detection of GMOs: DNA-based detection, RNA-based detection and protein-based detection. Dr. Žel discussed the different steps in DNA-based detection including determining whether or not a GMO is present in a sample, which GMO is present and the quantity of the GMO that is present. She described the steps of sampling from a lot, the preparation of a laboratory sample, milling or homogenisation of the sample, DNA extraction, preparation of the reaction mix for analysis by polymerase chain reaction (PCR), and running the quantitative real-time PCR test. She noted that factors such as sampling, the availability of accurate and reliable detection methods and skills for interpreting the results of detection tests can all influence the results.

27. Dr. Žel provided information on how the Slovenian detection laboratories are organized and noted that they are accredited to the ISO/IEC 17025:2005 standard in accordance with regulation EC 882/2004. She then discussed immunological detection methods, specifically protein-based detection methods. She noted that protein-based testing can be done using strip tests or the enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) method. She also remarked on some of the advantages and disadvantages of immunological tests.

28. Dr. Žel concluded by summarizing some of the emerging challenges in the field of the detection and identification of LMOs. She noted that a lot of new GMOs are entering the world market which creates the need for the development of efficient, high throughput and inexpensive detection methods. Other challenges are the introduction of new GMOs containing more introduced genes and traits; the possible introduction of GM fishes, mammals and birds; new genetic modification techniques such as cisgenics and new detection methods such as micro-arrays.

7.4. Laboratory exercises

29. Under this agenda item, the participants visited the laboratories at the Agricultural Institute of Slovenia and the National Institute of Biology. Scientists at the laboratories gave presentations on quantitative real-time PCR for the detection of GMOs. They also demonstrated how the laboratories conduct tests to detect and identify LMOs. The participants observed how a sample is received at the laboratory, a sub-sample or laboratory sample is extracted, the sample is prepared for PCR analysis, the PCR test is conducted and the records are kept for each sample received and the results of the testing.

7.5. Interpreting the results from sampling and detection

30. Dr. Mojca Milavec from the National Institute of Biology gave a presentation on the reporting of results from detection and identification tests. She explained that these reports should be prepared in accordance with a number of different ISO standards and that the standards mandate certain minimum information requirements in test reports. She outlined the challenge posed by measurement uncertainty in the interpretation of results. The participants then broke into small groups to undertake some exercises. Dr. Milavec gave each group an example of an analysis report and asked them to verify that all the necessary information requirements were contained in the report.

ITEM 8. FIELD STUDY VISIT

31. Under this item, the participants visited the Port of Koper. Mr. Vojko Otovič from the Customs Administration of the Ministry of Finance gave an overview of the Slovenian Customs Administration and noted the main points of entry to the country and the responsibilities of the Customs Administration. He outlined the role of customs in the field of prohibitions and restrictions where the goals are the protection of: public policy and international security, health and human life, fauna and flora, industrial and commercial property, environment, and national treasures possessing artistic, historic or archaeological value.

32. Mr. Otovič described the role of customs in GMO control. He noted the existence of a memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Environment and Customs as well as the decrees on the implementation of the EU Regulation on transboundary movements of GMOs and the Management of Genetically Modified Organisms Act, which provide the legal basis for action in this area by the Slovenian Customs Administration. He explained that this legal basis allows customs to conduct documentation and identity checks and to detain shipments of GMOs or products in cases of suspected violations. Mr. Otovič further noted the Customs Administration's work in the area of food and feed from animal and non-animal origin. Mr. Otovič described two procedures followed by the Customs Administration in control of GMOs. The normal procedure includes random checks and use of the EU's online customs tariff database (TARIC). The risk analysis procedure uses different information sources to create risk profiles which facilitate targeted monitoring of shipments.

33. Mr. Zdenko Polman also from the Slovenian Customs Administration of the Ministry of Finance gave a presentation on customs risk profiles management. He described how different risk profiles (Community, national and local) are used in customs control. He also outlined how the Shared Intermodal Container Information System is used in the development of risk profiles and the identification of containers for inspection.

34. After the presentations, participants were taken on a guided tour of the port and provided an overview of the operations of the various sections of the port.

ITEM 9. EXPERIENCES OF THE GREEN CUSTOMS INITIATIVE

35. Under this item, Ms. Garforth gave a presentation on the Green Customs Initiative (GCI), a partnership of international organizations cooperating to enhance the capacity of customs and other relevant enforcement personnel to monitor and facilitate the legal trade and to detect and prevent illegal trade in environmentally-sensitive commodities. She began by playing a short video that introduced the Initiative. She then described the scope and scale of environmental crime and its negative consequences for human health and the environment, government revenues and international environmental agreements. She underlined the key role of customs and border protection officers as the frontline in every country's defence against transboundary illegal trade and as the first link in the compliance and enforcement chain. She also noted that customs and border protection officers played an important role in facilitating legal trade and so building the capacity of these officers was vital. She commented that an effective solution was coordinated training, which was one of the activities of the GCI.

36. Ms. Garforth noted the different multilateral environmental agreements that are partners in the GCI, namely the secretariats of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Basel Convention), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Stockholm Convention), the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (Rotterdam Convention), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, and the Biosafety Protocol. Other international organizations that were also partners in the Initiative were: the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the United Nations Environment Programme's Division of Environmental Law and Conventions and Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, the World Customs Organization, Interpol and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. She stated that the objective of the Initiative is to enhance the capacity of customs and other relevant enforcement personnel to monitor and facilitate the legal trade and to detect and prevent illegal trade in environmentally-sensitive commodities covered by the relevant conventions and multilateral environmental agreements.

37. Ms. Garforth outlined the benefits of the GCI for customs officers, countries, the treaty secretariats and the global environment. She referred to a number of Green Customs workshops that had been organized in different countries. She described a number of tools developed by the Initiative including the Green Customs Guide to Multilateral Environmental Agreements and the Green Customs website. She referred to some of the achievements of the Initiative, including being awarded the Partners Ozone Protection Award in 2007 and demonstrating that coordinated, cost-effective delivery of training and awareness-raising of customs officers and enforcement personnel could be delivered through an umbrella partnership involving multiple organizations with diverse mandates. Finally, Ms. Garforth pointed to some next steps and challenges for the Initiative including exploring how the Initiative could do more to assist the work of customs, integrating Green Customs into national training curricula for customs officers and resource mobilisation for the Initiative.

38. Ms. Garforth also delivered a presentation on Environet, a global communication tool for environmental border protection hosted by the World Customs Organization. She described the genesis of the development of Environet and the need for information sharing among customs officers to assist them in implementing multilateral environmental agreements. She noted that Environet is one of the Customs Enforcement Network Communication applications. It is an internet-based system and is accessible only to a closed user group. Ms. Garforth outlined the objectives of Environet which include sharing best practices, providing downloadable materials and information, the exchange of information on seizures, and facilitating cooperation among customs administrations, competent agencies and international organizations.

39. Ms. Garforth presented the Environet interface and some of its features. She also outlined the scope of information included on Environet, which is primarily related to the partners in the GCI. She described the different categories of users of Environet, which include officers or experts involved in the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements from customs, competent national authorities

and other law enforcement agencies, international organizations and selected non-governmental organizations. She noted that the Environet access form was available to any of the participants who were interested in accessing the system and were not currently subscribed. Finally, she noted that Environet was launched on 5 June 2009 and as of March 2011, the system had nearly 1,200 users from 131 countries and 20 international or regional organizations.

ITEM 10. THE WAY FORWARD: NEXT STEPS FOR CONTINUED COLLABORATION AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

40. Under this agenda item, participants were invited to work in groups to brainstorm the actions they would undertake after returning to their respective countries, in light of the workshop. They discussed specific actions to be undertaken at national, subregional and regional levels, including collaboration and the sharing of experiences, information and expertise.

ITEM 11. CONSIDERATION OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE WORKSHOP

41. During the last plenary session of the workshop, the participants discussed reports from the small discussion groups. The recommended activities at the national level were as follows:

(a) Prepare a report on the workshop to share with authorities concerned;

(b) Identify specialists from ministries, inspection agencies, laboratories, etc., who work on LMOs;

(c) Give presentations to relevant stakeholders (e.g. ministries, customs authorities and other border control personnel, laboratories, business community, NGOs, etc.);

(d) Prepare an information booklet with the materials from the training of trainers workshop to share at the national, regional and inter-regional levels;

(e) Make suggestions for improvements to the national regulation of LMOs (e.g. define an approach to LMO detection and control, create a sampling procedure);

(f) Improve coordination among responsible bodies (different ministries, customs authority, etc.) through the establishment of networks and the development of agreements;

(g) Organize training and capacity-building for government authorities, laboratory personnel and the customs administration on relevant topics such as the obligations of the Biosafety Protocol, relevant legislation, identification and documentation of LMOs, sampling methodology, etc.; and

(h) Undertake public awareness and consultation activities on LMO issues through, for example, newspaper articles and popular scientific papers.

42. The recommended activities at the regional level were as follows:

(a) Organize workshops and meetings at the regional level to share regional experiences;

(b) Establish a network of Central and Eastern European countries to facilitate the exchange of information;

(c) Link the websites of different national institutions and stakeholders in the region;

(d) Initiate a regional project for biosafety capacity-building, including the detection of LMOs; and

(e) Reach agreement regarding common validated detection methods.

43. The participants also agreed to form an online discussion group to be organized through the Collaborative Portal for Customs Officials in the BCH. Mrs. Amra Kazic from Bosnia-Herzegovina agreed to serve as the moderator for the discussions. The participants agreed to focus on three topics for the online discussions:

(a) standardization/harmonization of detection methods;

(b) harmonization of sampling procedures; and

(c) harmonization of identification documents.

44. Participants also undertook an evaluation of the workshop. The results of the evaluation are summarized in annex I.

ITEM 12. CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP

45. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the workshop was closed at 1 p.m. on Friday, 15 April 2011.

Annex I

WORKSHOP EVALUATION

1. At the end of the workshop, participants were asked to complete a workshop evaluation form. They were asked to rate, on a scale of 1 to 6, the extent to which the workshop had improved their understanding of: (a) the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; (b) the role of customs officers in implementing the Protocol; (c) documentation and identification requirements under the Protocol; (d) existing practices in shipments of bulk grains; (e) the process of sampling and detection (identification) of genetically modified organisms and how to report the results of identification. The participants were also invited to provide an overall assessment of the workshop in terms of how well it was organized and conducted and the extent to which it had met their expectations. The results of the evaluation are summarized in the table below.

Item	Average rating (1-6)	Rating	Level of satisfaction
A. Introduction to identification and documentation on living modified organisms under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety			
How useful has the workshop been in:			
(i) Improving your understanding of the Protocol?	6	Very Useful	**92%**
(ii) Improving your understanding of the role of customs officers under the Protocol?	5	Very Useful	**87%**
(iii) Improving your understanding of what the documentation requirements are under the Protocol?	6	Very Useful	**93%**
(iv) Improving your understanding of the identification requirements under the Protocol Biosafety?	5	Very Useful	**91%**
(v) Improving your understanding of the existing practices in shipments of bulk grains?	5	Very Useful	**88%**
(vi) Improving your understanding of the process of sampling genetically modified organisms (GMOs)?	5	Very Useful	**88%**
(vii) Improving your understanding of detection of GMOs?	5	Very Useful	**88%**
(viii) Improving your understanding of how to report the results of identification of GMOs?	6	Very Useful	**92%**
(ix) Improving your understanding of the Green Customs Initiative?	5	Very Useful	**89%**
(x) Improving your knowledge of existing practices in other countries?	6	Very Useful	**92%**
B. Overall workshop assessment:			
(i) Has the workshop met your expectations?	5	Fully	**91%**
(ii) Has the workshop improved your understanding of how to enforce the identification and documentation requirements of LMOs under the Protocol?	6	Yes	**94%**
(iii) How useful has the workshop been in improving your understanding of how your country could handle a shipment of LMOs?	5	Very Useful	**84%**

Item	Average rating (1-6)	Rating	Level of satisfaction
(iv) How useful was the workshop for you as an individual?	6	Very Useful	**96%**
(v) How well organized was the workshop?	6	Very well organized	**96%**
(vi) How did you find the balance between presentations and the discussions?	6	Very well balanced	**93%**
(vii) Overall, how would you rate the workshop?	6	Excellent	**96%**
Overall appreciation	5	Very Useful	**91%**

2. In the written comments, a number of participants considered the following to have been the most helpful parts of the workshop:

(a) The presentations on the Protocol and documentation accompanying shipments of LMOs;

(b) The country presentations on experiences and challenges with the identification and documentation of living modified organisms;

(c) The laboratory sessions;

(d) The field study visit to the Port of Koper and the presentations from the Slovenian Customs Administration.

A number of participants indicated that they found all the sessions in the workshop to be very useful and they appreciated the diversity of activities during the workshop (presentations, small working groups, practical sessions and field study visit.)

3. A few participants considered the following to be the least helpful aspects of the workshop:

(a) The laboratory work;

(b) The details on definitions of LMOs/GMOs.

4. The participants made the following suggestions for improving future workshops:

(a) Splitting the group into two smaller groups for more sessions;

(b) Shortening some of the coffee breaks;

(c) Providing more information on: practical implementation of the Protocol by customs, LMOs currently traded and how to detect and identify an LMO; and

(d) Making the slides from the presentations available in a larger format.

A number of participants commented that they found the workshop to have been very well organized and that they hoped there would be more such workshops and practical training in the future at both the national and sub-regional level.

Annex II

WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

	Plenary
Monday ***11 April 2011*** 9 a.m. – 10 a.m.	*Agenda item*: 1. Opening of the workshop.
10 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	*Agenda item*: 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.	*Agenda item*: 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.	*Agenda item:* 4. The 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.	*Agenda item*: 5. National experiences with transboundary movements of living modified organisms
Tuesday ***12 April 2011*** 9 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	*Agenda item*: 6. Documentation accompanying shipments of living modified organisms: Case studies on existing documentation systems.
10.30 a.m. – 10.45 a.m.	**Coffee/Tea Break**
10.45 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Agenda item 6 (*continued*)
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	**Lunch**
2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	*Agenda item*: 7. Sampling and detection of living modified organisms: 7.1. Introduction and overview: European Network of GMO Laboratories; 7.2. Sampling methodology; 7.3. Detection and identification of living modified organisms.
3.45 p.m. – 4 p.m.	**Coffee/Tea Break**
4 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	Agenda item 7 (*continued*)

	Plenary
Wednesday ***13 April 2011*** 9 a.m. – 10.45 a.m.	Agenda item 7 (*continued*): 7.4. Laboratory exercises.
10.45 a.m. – 11 a.m.	**Coffee/Tea Break**
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Agenda item 7 (*continued*)
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	**Lunch**
2 p.m. – 3.45 p.m.	Agenda item 7 (*continued*)
3.45 p.m. – 4 p.m.	**Coffee/Tea Break**
4 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	Agenda item 7 (*continued*)
Thursday ***14 April 2011*** 9 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	Agenda item 7 (*continued*): 7.5 Interpreting the results from sampling, detection and identification.
10.30 a.m. – 6 p.m.	*Agenda item:* 8. Field study visit.
Friday ***15 April 2011*** 9 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	*Agenda item*: 9. Experiences from the Green Customs Initiative.
10.30 a.m. – 10.45 a.m.	**Coffee/Tea Break**
10.45 a.m. – 1 p.m.	*Agenda item:* 10. The way forward: next steps for continued collaboration and exchange of information. 11. Consideration of the conclusions of the workshop. 12. Closure of the workshop.

Annex III

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