



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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

Sixth meeting

Hyderabad, India, 1-5 October 2012

Item 10.2 of the provisional agenda\*

### **REPORT OF THE ELECTRONIC NETWORK OF DETECTION AND IDENTIFICATION LABORATORIES IN THE BIOSAFETY CLEARING-HOUSE**

#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. Paragraph 5 of decision BS-V/10 invited Parties to nominate national and international reference laboratories with the view to establishing, through the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH), an electronic network of laboratories to facilitate the identification of living modified organisms (LMOs) as well as the sharing of experiences.
2. Furthermore, paragraph 1(c) of the same decision requested the Executive Secretary to organize regional workshops for heads of laboratories involved in the detection of LMOs to exchange information and experience on the implementation of relevant standards and methods.
3. Section II of this document summarizes activities regarding the electronic network of laboratories while section III discusses progress towards a workshop.

#### **II. ELECTRONIC NETWORK OF LABORATORIES ON LMO DETECTION AND IDENTIFICATION**

4. A notification inviting nominations to the electronic network of laboratories for LMO detection and identification was issued in August 2011 (notification 2011-146). Nominations were to be made using the common format for organizations, which was modified to include fields to enter information on laboratories involved in the detection and identification of LMOs. Nominations were and are accepted on

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an ongoing basis. To date, a total of 30 nominations have been received.<sup>1</sup>

4. The Network of Laboratories for LMO Detection and Identification was established through the creation of a new section of the Portal on the Handling, Transport, Packaging and Identification of LMOs on the BCH.<sup>2</sup>

5. The first activity for the Network was a series of discussion groups held from 19 March to 7 June 2012. The purpose of the online discussion groups was to: (i) share information and experiences; (ii) identify challenges in the identification of LMOs; and (iii) prepare for a workshop bringing together representatives of LMO detection and identification laboratories.

6. Submissions of topics to be considered during the online discussion groups had been invited and four topics were identified as follows:

- Interpretation of detection and identification results in light of different thresholds for labelling and adventitious presence;
- Development of techniques to respond to new, unauthorized transformation events;
- Development of techniques to respond to stacked transformation events;
- Experiences detecting transgenes in wild relatives.

There was also a space for participants to post suggestions for future discussion topics.

7. Participation in the discussion groups was modest. Thirteen messages were posted in the discussion groups.

8. A second round of discussion groups is foreseen following the sixth meeting of the Parties. More work will be undertaken to engage participants in the discussions. The second round of discussions will also lead into the convening of a workshop.

### **III. INTER-REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR LMO DETECTION AND IDENTIFICATION LABORATORIES**

9. The Secretariat has secured funds through the Japan Biodiversity Fund to organize an inter-regional workshop for heads of laboratories involved in the detection and identification of LMOs. The workshop has two objectives: (i) to enable participants to exchange information and experiences on the implementation of relevant standards and methods for LMO detection and identification; and (ii) to build an active network of laboratories discussing key issues and problems concerning LMO detection and identification.

10. The workshop will be held in early 2013 at a venue to be determined. More information will be made available through the BCH as details are confirmed.

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<sup>1</sup> The full list may be found by choosing to search for 'Laboratory for detection and identification of LMOs' under the 'type of organization' field when searching for organizations on the BCH, <http://bch.cbd.int/database/results/?searchid=551447>.

<sup>2</sup> [http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/portal\\_art18/httpi\\_laboratories.shtml](http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/portal_art18/httpi_laboratories.shtml).