



Ref.: SCBD/BCH/KGM/43415

9 July 2004

**NOTIFICATION**

**Subject: Automatic News and Summaries for the Biosafety Clearing-House – direct by email**

As you may be aware, Article 20 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity establishes a Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH), as part of the Clearing-House Mechanism of the Convention, in order to facilitate the exchange of scientific, technical, environmental and legal information on, and experience with, living modified organisms; and to assist Parties to implement the Protocol.

I am delighted to inform you that it is now possible to subscribe to the BCH Current Awareness Service in order to receive regular updates summarizing new information that has been added to the BCH, sent directly to users by email (or to a specified fax number). The categories of information to be included in the summaries, and the frequency of their delivery are individually customizable for each user.

In addition, countries may now submit their own national (or regional) news to the BCH to ensure that it is circulated widely to all users of the BCH, including through the BCH Current Awareness Service mentioned above.

I also take this opportunity to note that the BCH News Service (and summary of latest additions to the databases) is freely available for syndication, so websites may take advantage of this service to include dynamically updated biosafety information on their sites if they wish.

I encourage you to send any feedback and suggestions for improvement of the Biosafety Clearing-House to the Secretariat. The BCH is accessible on-line at <http://bch.biodiv.org>.

Further information about these services is available on the BCH Central Portal at <http://bch.biodiv.org/member/subscriptions.shtml>.

Yours sincerely,

Hamdallah Zedan  
Executive Secretary

cc: Cartagena Protocol National Focal Points  
BCH National Focal Points  
CBD National Focal Points (where biosafety focal points have not yet been designated)

