

## **Why is detection and identification of LMOs on the agenda at SBSTTA-26?**

SBSTTA 26 will consider a note by the Secretariat containing a compilation of the information submitted by Parties and a summary of the online discussions of the Network of Laboratories for the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms.

The Subsidiary Body will then prepare recommendations for consideration by the Conference of Parties serving as a meeting of Parties to the Cartagena Protocol at its eleventh meeting regarding the need to update the Biosafety Technical Series 05: Training Manual on the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms in the Context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

## **What is the detection and identification of LMOs?**

The detection and identification of living modified organisms (LMOs) is a broad reaching activity that provides science-based tools, which can facilitate the implementation of several articles of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and application of countries' biosafety regulatory frameworks. Examples can include the analytical, laboratory-based analysis of the contents of a shipment or monitoring for the presence of LMOs that have been released and may lead to an unintentional transboundary movement.

## **Background**

Following decision BS-VII/10, the Network of Laboratories for the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms developed an action plan for capacity building activities related to the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the period 2011-2020. One of these activities included a training manual for the detection and identification of LMOs. In April 2022, the Secretariat published the training manual as [Biosafety Technical Series 05](#) in all six languages of the United Nations.

At their tenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as a meeting of the Parties to the Protocol welcomed the publication of Biosafety Technical Series 05. Parties and relevant organizations were also invited to submit information on their experience with new detection techniques, detecting newly developed and unauthorized LMOs and developing reference materials, as well as ongoing collaborations involving national and regional laboratories. In addition, the Secretariat was requested to continue the work requested in decision CP-9/11, such as convening online discussions of the Network of Laboratories for the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms.

Further, discussions on detection and identification of LMOs will contribute directly to Goals A.8 ("Parties are able to detect and identify LMOs") of the Implementation Plan and the Capacity-Building Action Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. They may also support goals A.6 ("Parties prevent and address illegal and unintentional transboundary movements of LMOs") and A.7 ("Parties have measures in place to fulfil the handling, transport, packaging and identification requirements of LMOs under Article 18 of the Protocol") as well.

For additional information, please contact:  
David Ainsworth at +1 514 5612720 or [david.ainsworth@un.org](mailto:david.ainsworth@un.org)

Important links:  
<https://bch.cbd.int/protocol>