

# BIO SAFETY



जहाँ है हरियाली।  
वहाँ है खुशहाली।

A Quarterly  
Newsletter

## Newsletter

### From the Desk of Editor



I am pleased to inform that the Phase II capacity building project on biosafety has been initiated with the organization of the Inception Workshop on June 18-19, 2012. The initial set of activities of the project shall primarily focus on stocktaking assessment related to the key components of the project. This project is not a standalone project and has been conceptualized in a manner so as to supplement the ongoing capacity building initiatives in the country. I invite all stakeholders to actively participate in the project and share ideas for achieving the underline objectives of the project i.e. to strengthen the biosafety management in the country.

The forthcoming COP11-MOP6, one of the largest international conferences to be held in India, will bring together more than 15,000 people from more than 193 countries for participation in a series of meetings, fairs, exhibitions and side events. It is a unique opportunity to associate with such an event. The fairs and exhibitions to be held in conjunction with COP11-MOP6 present a great opportunity for national and local governments, academic institutions, private enterprises, NGOs, many other organizations and citizens from around the world to learn about issues on biodiversity and biosafety. I invite all to suitably take benefit of this great event.

**Hem Pande**  
Joint Secretary

Ministry of Environment and Forests

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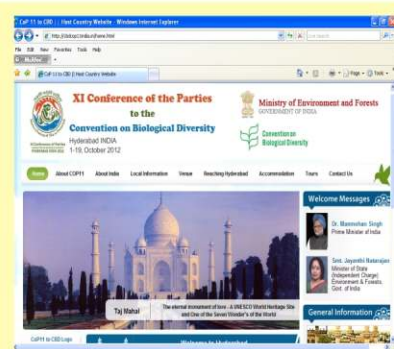
### COP11-MOP 6 and Interactive Fair for Biodiversity

Event	Venue	Oct. 1, 2012	Oct. 5	Oct. 8	Oct. 19
COP 11	Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC)	COP-MOP 6 Oct. 1-5		COP 11   Oct. 8-19	
				High level Segment (Oct. 17-19)	
Interactive Fair for Biodiversity	Hall – 2, HITEX (adjacent to the COP11 venue)				

COP-MOP: The Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety  
COP: The decision-making body of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which discusses the adoption of policies through resolutions

### Official Website of COP11-MOP6

MoEF has set up a website at <http://cbdcorp11india.in> to provide information regarding the COP11-MOP6.



XI Conference of Parties  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
HYDERABAD INDIA 2012

India to host the eleventh Conference of the Parties (COP11) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the sixth Conference of the Parties serving as Meeting of the Parties (COP-MOP6) to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

1-19 October 2012, Hyderabad



Convention on  
Biological Diversity

# Consultative Meeting for preparation of MOP6 and Stocktaking Assessment for Phase-II Capacity Building Project on Biosafety

The "Consultative Meeting for the Preparation of MOP-6 and Stocktaking Assessment for Phase-II Capacity Building Project on Biosafety" was held on May 29, 2012 at NASC Complex, New Delhi. The consultative meeting was organized by Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India (GoI) and coordinated by Biotech Consortium India limited (BCIL), New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Shri M. F. Farooqui, Special Secretary, MoEF and attended by 60 participants representing various stakeholders including concerned ministries, enforcement agencies. After a brief introduction to the CBD and the CPB, role of COP - MOP and meetings, Shri Hem Pande, Joint Secretary, MoEF informed the participants about COP11 - MOP6 to be held at Hyderabad from October 1-19, 2012. He provided details of locations/facilities at Hyderabad for the event and informed the participants about opportunities of organizing side events, participating in the exhibition etc. He invited stakeholders to participate actively in side events and exhibition

Dr Ranjini Warriar, Director, MoEF presented the key features of the agenda of COP 11 - MOP6. She informed that the agenda of the meeting has been prepared based on the decisions taken on various articles of the Protocol in the last five meetings of COP-MOP and keeping in view the five year work plan (2012-2016). In the open discussions, participants deliberated on the agenda items and provided suggestions. Dr. Ranjini Warriar also made a presentation on the proposed activities under UNEP/GEF supported phase-II capacity building project on biosafety for implementation of the Cartagena Protocol. She informed that this project is being initiated to strengthen the biosafety management system in India. She requested the



participants to provide inputs with respect to ongoing capacity building initiatives in various institutions so that the same could be leveraged for the benefit of large number of stakeholders and also provides suggestions for project implementation.





## Inception Workshop - Phase-II Capacity Building Project on Biosafety for Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol

The “Inception workshop on phase-II capacity building project on biosafety” was held on June 18–19, 2012 at NASC complex, New Delhi, to mark the beginning of the project and to fine tune the project design/work plan to be executed. The workshop was attended by 50 participants including officials from UNEP, various ministries/departments, potential project partners, academia and research institutions. The workshop was chaired by Shri M.F. Farooqui, Special Secretary, MoEF.

The Phase-II biosafety capacity building project has been formulated by MoEF through a consultative process with the objective to strengthen the biosafety management system in India with special emphasis on risk assessment and management, handling, transport, packaging and identification of LMOs, socio economic considerations and public awareness, to ensure adequate level of protection in the field of safe transfer, handling and use of

LMOs which may have adverse effect on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity including risk to human health. The scope of the project is limited to LMOs in agriculture. This phase II project has been formulated in a manner so as to integrate with ongoing biosafety capacity building initiatives.

The workshop was divided into four sessions i.e., an opening session, technical session, breakout group session followed by plenary session to deliberate on the outcomes and finalize the recommendations. Dr. Ranjini Warriar, Director, MoEF welcomed the participants and gave a brief background of the project formulation and objective of the inception workshop. She indicated that the need for fine tuning of the project document has been necessitated due to the time gap of approximately 3 years since the project design was conceptualized and has been finally approved. Mr. Alex Owusu-Biney, Portfolio Manager (Biosafety), GEF Coordination, DEPI, UNEP informed the participants about the role of UNEP/GEF in capacity building in the area of biosafety. He informed that UNEP has assisted till date 123 countries to establish national biosafety regulatory systems to meet the obligations under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB). He offered full support of UNEP for successful completion of the project.



In the opening address, Shri M. F. Farooqui, Special Secretary, MoEF, stressed the need for continuous review of safety assessment methodologies in line with scientific developments in modern biotechnology. He invited various stakeholders to share their views so that the project design can be fine tuned to address capacity building needs in the country. In the first technical session, representatives of organizations who had actively participated in the Phase-I project shared information about their involvement and proposed ways of participation in the Phase-II project. These included Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGRI); International Centre for Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology (ICGEB), Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) and Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL). Dr. S. R. Rao, Advisor, Department of Biotechnology (DBT) spoke on "Current status of biotechnology developments in India and the capacity building needs".

Dr. Warriar informed the participants about the proposed activities under UNEP/GEF supported

phase-II capacity building project on biosafety for implementation of the CPB. She informed that this project is being initiated with the objective to strengthen the biosafety management system in India with special emphasis on Risk Assessment and Management, Handling, Transport, Packaging and Identification of LMOs, Institutional strengthening, Socio economic considerations and Public awareness. She apprised the participants of the proposed institutional arrangements for the project implementation and supervision at the national level. The participants were divided into four breakout groups namely, (i) risk assessment and management; (ii) socio-economic considerations; (iii) handling, transport, packaging and identification of LMOs and (iv) information dissemination for enhancing public awareness. Moderators of each breakout group gave a series of suggestions on their respective topics in the plenary. The workshop ended with two presentations from UNEP officials i.e. Mr. Alex Owusu-Biney and Ms. Jenifer Kamande regarding project financial management, technical supervision, mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation etc.

# Release of Second National Report



The printed version of the "Second National Report" for implementation of the Cartagena Protocol was released by Shri M. F. Farooqui, special secretary, MoEF at the Inception workshop of phase-II biosafety project, on June 18, 2012 at NASC complex, New Delhi.

The electronic copy of second national report is available at Biosafety Clearing House (BCH) website (<http://bch.cbd.int/>).

## **ANUBIS TRAINING** A New UNEP Biosafety Information System

ANUBIS is a web-based project management and information system, accessible to countries supported by the GEF/UNEP funded biosafety projects. It serves as project monitoring and reporting (Project progress and funding) tool.

A two day training program was conducted by the UNEP officials for the project team. The participants were acquainted with UNEP reporting formats for the project reporting and financial reporting, to ensure timely submission of reports.

This central database is accessible to users via username and password provided by UNEP to the national project coordinator (NPC) of biosafety projects

## Interactive Fair for Biodiversity



The Interactive Fair for Biodiversity will take place alongside the COP-MOP6, to provide a platform for international and national organizations, non-governmental organizations, non-profit organizations, academic institutions, private enterprises and many other exhibitors from around the world to present their projects initiatives, ideas and issues related to biodiversity. This international exhibition will provide opportunities for presentations and interaction under the theme of biodiversity. At the interactive fair for biodiversity, there will be display booths from various exhibitors, networking lounge and biodiversity bazaar, all intended to encourage visitors to enjoy exploring, indulge into and learning about biodiversity and commit themselves to a future of conservation. The networking lounge will provide opportunities for interaction among participants and also other attractions such as biodiversity programs for children.

## **CEPA Fair on National Experiences with Implementation of CPB**

To encourage countries that are Party to CPB, to share their experiences with respect to the implementation of the obligations to CPB, a fair for the same is scheduled to be held alongside the COP-MOP6 from 1-5 October, 2012 in Hyderabad. This fair is jointly organized by the Government of India and the CBD Secretariat, to provide opportunities to Parties for sharing experiences, good practices and lessons learned at national levels on various topics, including:

- National implementation of the strategic plan for CPB (2011-2020)
- Development and implementation of national biosafety frameworks (NBFs)
- Design and implementation of biosafety capacity building activities
- Use of biosafety clearing house (BCH)
- Implementation of the program of work on public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of LMOs (2011-2015)

The participants can present their outputs and activities for the above mentioned in the form of posters, printed materials, CD-ROMs, videos and presentations.

# Science Express – Biodiversity Special Train

As part of initiatives with respect to hosting the COP11 - MOP6 and MoEF in collaboration with the Department of Science and Technology (DST) has launched a special 16 - coach train named "Science Express-Biodiversity Special Train". This train was flagged off from New Delhi on World Environment day (June 5, 2012) and is scheduled to cover over 100 stations in the next 2 years. It is scheduled to be stationed at Hyderabad in October during the COP11-MOP6 and will serve as a unique exhibition on biodiversity on wheels. The exhibition aims to showcase wide array of biodiversity in the country and the conservation measures adopted thereof. The train also houses a hands on laboratory and teachers training facility.



The Science express was originally launched in 2007 by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh and German Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel, and has till now covered over 68,000 km across the country during its four phases. After the successful run over four phases, this iconic train has now being launched as 'Science Express - Biodiversity Special' in its fifth phase.



## Biosafety Clearing House Training Workshop

A training workshop for the national focal points of the biosafety clearing house (BCH-NFPs) shall be held on 28-29 September, 2012 immediately before the COP11-MOP6.

The United Nations Environment Program-Global Environment Facility (UNEP-GEF) biosafety unit works especially in area of capacity building and assists countries that are Party to the CPB to establish there national regulatory framework and biosafety clearing house (BCH). This workshop is in line with ongoing initiative for building capacity as also agreed for in the decision BS III/2 of COP - MOP3 and also in accordance with the BCH multi-year program of work and the strategic plan outlined by CPB for 2011 - 2020.

## Side Events in Parallel to COP11-MOP6

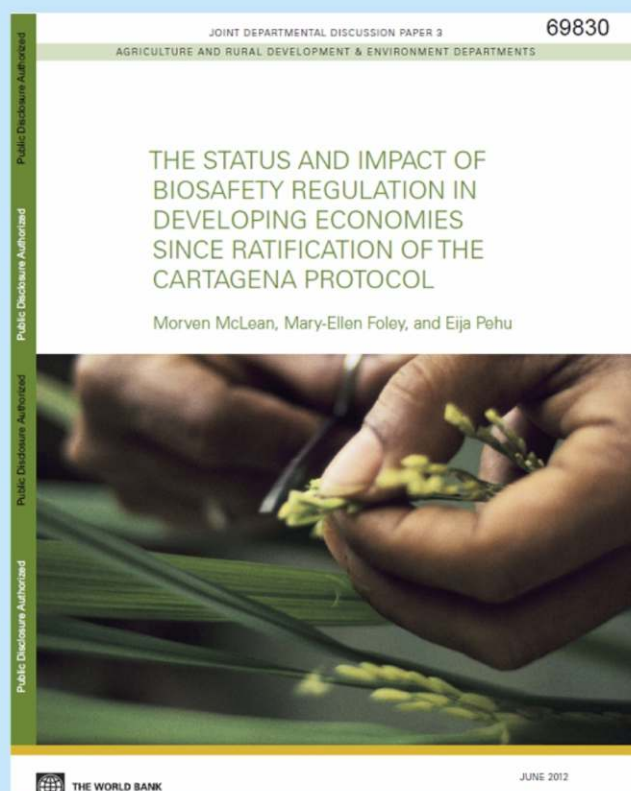
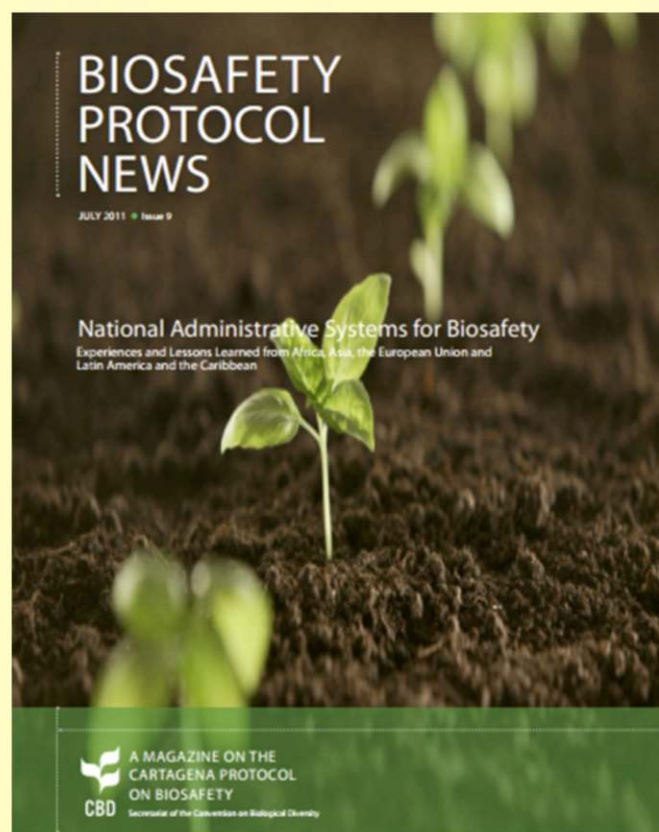
Side-events are scheduled to be hosted in parallel to the COP11-MOP6 at HICC from 1-19 October 2012. The side-events are planned to be conducted in two sessions i.e. an afternoon session at 1: 15 p.m. and other in the evening session at 6.15 p.m. for a duration of 90 minutes each. The themes for side - events are to be related to the issues of relevance to COP - MOP agenda. This initiative is taken by CBD secretariat aimed to encourage active participation by stakeholders from various organizations worldwide. This will provide a platform for showcasing technologies, sharing knowledge and experiences gained.

## New Releases

The recently released issue of "Biosafety Protocol News" focuses on experiences and lessons learned in establishing and implementing national administrative systems for biosafety. The nature and scope of the biosafety administrative systems vary from country to country. The articles in this issue highlight the experiences and lessons learned in the establishment and implementation of national administrative systems in Cuba, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico and the European Union. Some countries, such as Cuba, Kenya and Malaysia have established centralised systems. Others, such as Mexico, have placed administrative responsibilities for biosafety in various government departments depending on the type or intended use of the LMOs in question.

It has been indicated that while progress has been made in establishing biosafety administrative systems in most countries, major challenges still remain in fully operationalising those systems. As noted in the articles from Cuba, Kenya and Malaysia, there is a need to strengthen the institutional and human resources capacities, improve coordination among relevant government agencies and ensure harmonization of the biosafety regulatory frameworks with other related legislation. There is also a need to build public awareness, support and

confidence in the biosafety regulatory systems as noted in the articles from Mexico and Malaysia. A copy of the above can be downloaded from <https://www.cbd.int/doc/newsletters/bpn/>



The Agriculture and Rural Development & Environment Departments of the World Bank has published a Joint Departmental Discussion Paper 3 on "The status and impact of Biosafety regulation in Developing economies Since ratification of the Cartagena Protocol". The paper has been prepared by the Center for Environmental Risk Assessment (CERA) at the International Life Sciences Research Institute (ILSI) Research Foundation on behalf of the World Bank. This paper explores how the Cartagena Protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as other important drivers, have affected the regulation of GE crops in developing countries. It examines the impact of biosafety regulation on research and development of GE crops and on product approvals. Finally, it identifies opportunities to advance biosafety regulation in those developing countries that wish to access the potential benefits of agricultural biotechnology. A copy of the paper can be downloaded from [http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSPContentServer/WDSP/IB/2012/06/12/000356161\\_20120612021559/Rendered/PDF/698300WP0P11210egulations0final0web.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSPContentServer/WDSP/IB/2012/06/12/000356161_20120612021559/Rendered/PDF/698300WP0P11210egulations0final0web.pdf)

# Upcoming Events

Title	Organized/hosted by	Date & Venue
<b>National Events</b>		
6th International congress on legume genetics and genomics	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics	October 2-7, 2012, Hyderabad
Silver jubilee international symposium on "Global Cotton Production Technologies vis-à-vis Climate Change"	Cotton research and development association and CCS Haryana agricultural university	October 10-12, 2012, Hisar
International symposium on new paradigms in sugarcane research	Society for sugarcane research and development, sugarcane breeding institute, ICAR	October 15-18, 2012, Coimbatore
Third national symposium on agriculture production and protection in context of climate change	The society of agricultural professionals CSAUA&T, Kanpur, UP and Birsa agricultural university Kanke, Ranchi, Jarkhand	November 03-05, 2012, Ranchi
44th Annual National Conference of the Nutrition Society of India (NSI)	Nutrition Society of India Tirupati	November 16-17, 2012,
Winter school on "Molecular breeding approaches for genetic enhancement in oilseed crops"	Directorate of Oilseeds Research	December 1-21, 2012, Hyderabad
Ag Tech Global Summit-2012	Bejo Sheetal Bio-Science Foundation and Maryland India Business Round Table	December 9-13, 2012, Aurangabad
<b>International Events</b>		
12th International symposium on biosafety of genetically modified organisms (ISBGMO12)	International Society for Biosafety Research	September 17-20, 2012 St Louis, Missouri, USA
Sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) serving as the meeting of the Parties (MOP) to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP6)	Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.	October 1-5, 2012, Hyderabad
Eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-11)	Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.	October 8-19, 2012, Hyderabad
1st International Conference for GM Crops and Food	Faculty of Agriculture, Cairo University	November 27-29, 2012 Cairo, Egypt
International scientific workshop 'Non-target organisms and GM crops: Assessing the effects of Bt proteins'	European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the Netherlands Commission on Genetic Modification (COGEM)	November 29th-30th 2012, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

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**Disclaimer :** The information in this newsletter has been compiled from various sources and does not necessarily depict views of the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India.