

BIO SAFETY



जहाँ है हरियाली।
वहाँ है खुशहाली।

A Quarterly
Newsletter

Newsletter



From the Desk of Editor

I am pleased to inform that the Ministry of Environment and Forests successfully hosted the sixth meeting of the Conference of Parties serving as the Meeting of Parties (COP-MOP 6) to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety from 1-5 October, 2012 at Hyderabad. More than 1000 representatives from Parties to the Protocol and other governments, UN agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, academia and the industry participated in this five day meeting. Variety of activities on sidelines of COP-MOP6 provided opportunity for national and local governments, academic institutions, private enterprises, NGOs, many other organizations and citizens from around the world to interact with one another and share their experiences in the area of biodiversity and biosafety.

The Govt of India has taken over the Presidency of the COP11-MOP6 from the Govt of Japan for the next two years. Balancing the use of LMOs with the protection of environment and human health has been a challenging task for us and immense progress has been made since the signing of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB) in 2000. Taking forward this process we hope to further build our capacities with regard to biosafety assessment, safe use of LMOs and increased information sharing. I look forward to cooperation from all to take up the global challenge for preserving our biological diversity and alongside to address sustainable development for the present and future generations.

Hem Pande
Additional Secretary

Ministry of Environment and Forests

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Open ended Online Forum on Risk Assessment and Risk Management

The Open ended Online Forum on Risk Assessment and Risk Management was held from 3-14 December 2012 for discussions by Parties to the CPB. It served as a virtual platform wherein the experts from across the globe interacted and exchanged opinions on specific aspects of risk assessment and risk management of living modified organisms (LMOs). The first round of discussions focused on development of a package that aligns the Guidance on Risk Assessment of LMOs (eg: the Roadmap) with the training manual on Risk Assessment of LMOs. Details of discussions are available on http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/forum_ra/discussion.shtml

This online forum was organised as an outcome of the decisions of the COP-MOP6. The suggestions received through this forum from the experts of Parties by the CBD secretariat will serve as the draft guide for work of the newly established Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Risk Assessment and Risk Management. The new AHTEG is being established by CBD Secretariat.

Highlights of the sixth meeting of the Conference of Parties serving as the Meeting of Parties (COP-MOP6) to the CPB



Mr M Saigo, President of COP-MOP 5 hands over the COP-MOP 6 Presidency to Smt Jayanthi Natarajan, Minister of Environment and Forests, India



Inaugural session at the COP-MOP 6

The sixth meeting of the Conference of Parties serving as the Meeting of Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP 6) was held from 1-5 October, 2012 at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC). The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) hosted the COP-MOP 6. Smt Jayanthi Natarajan, Minister of Environment and Forests received the Presidency of the COP-MOP 6 from the President of COP-MOP 5, Mr M Saigo, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries. In her opening speech Smt Natarajan stressed the need to find balance between health, technology and the environment.

The meeting was attended by approximately 1300 participants representing parties to the Protocol and other governments, UN agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, academia and the industry.



The chair to the opening plenary (L - R) Mr. W. D. Yifru, CBD Secretariat; Mr. M. F. Farooqui, Chair of MOP 6; Mr. C. Gbedemah, Secretary of the Meeting; Mr. B. F. D. Souza Dias, CBD Executive Secretary; and Mr. E. Tamale, CBD Secretariat

COP-MOP 6 addressed a number of substantive issues viz capacity building; handling, transport, packaging and identification (HTPI) of living modified organisms (LMOs); notification requirements; unintentional transboundary movements and emergency measures; risk assessment and risk management; socio-economic considerations; monitoring and reporting; and assessment and review of effectiveness of the Protocol.

Besides these issues the other standing issues that were addressed were compliance committee; Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH); financial resources and mechanism; and cooperation with other organizations, conventions and initiatives.

At the opening plenary, the delegates were convened in two working groups (WGs) to consider the agenda items



within the timeframe available. The experts of working groups were able to reach consensus on certain issues. For some of the issues like risk assessment and risk management and socio-economic considerations, contact groups were also formed during deliberations.

Towards the end of the five day meeting on 5 October 2012 many important decisions were made. To conclude, COP-MOP6 provided an opportunity to deliberate various substantive issues and the implementation of challenges that the future COP/MOPs will have to address.

The COP-MOP6 adopted 16 decisions, including a decision on socio-economic considerations for initiating activities aiming to provide a basis for future substantive work on considerations with regard to socio-economic

impacts of living modified organisms. COP-MOP6 adopted 15 other decisions on: compliance; the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress; subsidiary bodies; cooperation with other organizations, conventions and initiatives; the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH); capacity-building; the roster of experts; monitoring and reporting; assessment and review; notification requirements; handling, transport, packaging and identification (HTPI) of living modified organisms (LMOs); unintentional transboundary movements of LMOs; financial mechanism and resources; risk assessment and risk management; and the budget. The decision on risk assessment and risk management provides a detailed process for testing the guidance, which should allow for endorsement at a future COP/MOP. Detailed report of the COP-MOP6 is available at <http://bch.cbd.int/>



Delegates from
Philippines,
European Union (EU)
and China



Photos source: IISD Reporting Services

CEPA Fair at the COP-MOP 6

The Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) fair was held on the margins of the COP-MOP6 at Hyderabad.

Many international and national organizations namely UNEP, CIBIOGEN, OECD, Centre for international



sustainable development law, Salim Ali centre for Ornithology and natural history (SACON), Biotech Consortium India limited (BCIL) etc made poster presentations and also displayed CDs, publications etc. Presentations were made on the following topics:

- Communication approach related to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety Implementation in Niger (Ministry of Environment, Niger)
- Enforcement of biosafety regulatory framework (UNEP)
- GMOs and International Law - Intersection of the Protocol with Codex and the WTO (Washington Biotechnology action council)
- Legal aspects of implementing the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (Centre for sustainable development law)
- Sharing Indian experiences of using multiple tools for capacity building in biosafety (BCIL)
- Webcast of a film (SACON)

Further details are available at <http://bch.cbd.int/mop6/cepa-fair/>

Side Events - COP-MOP6

Side events were organized in parallel to the COP-MOP6 with the purpose of sharing experiences and increasing opportunities for an informal dialogue among the meeting participants. These side events provided an opportunity for the various organizations working in the areas related to biodiversity and biosafety to be able to exchange information about their areas of work and achievements. More than 20 side events were held during the five day COP-MOP6.

The participating organizations included the Asia-Pacific Association of Agriculture Research Institutions (APAARI), Third World Network, Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises (ABLE), European Network of Scientists for Social and Environmental Responsibility (ENSSER), Research and Information System for Developing Countries etc. The themes of side events were on variety of subjects viz regulations, risk assessment, socio-economic considerations.

- Biosafety regulations of Asia-Pacific countries,
- Harnessing power of modern biotechnology for sustainable agriculture and environmental protection in the developed countries

- Transgene outcrossing in native and indigenous crops-Risk assessment and management options
- Biosafety clearing house capacity building sustainable: the case of the BCH project
- Biosafety and Accountability
- GMO databases – Access, scopes and perspectives
- Biosafety risk assessment capacity building in practice: Recent experiences and new initiatives
- Panel discussion on socio-economic considerations under biosafety protocol and launching of special issue of Asian biotechnology and development review (ABDR)
- Model Act – Proposed provisions for a transparent, effective and workable biosafety regulatory framework
- Socio-economic considerations and biosafety decision making: Assessments, positions, processes and practical experiences
- Strengthening environmental risk assessment – Lessons learnt from Agro-environment research

SIDE EVENT BY RIS: LAUNCH OF SPECIAL ISSUE OF ASIAN BIOTECHNOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW (ABDR) ON SOCIO ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

Special issue of the Asian Biotechnology and Development Review (ABDR) journal was launched by Mr. L. Ramatha, Directorate of Biosafety, Government of Malaysia followed by a panel discussion. The ABDR journal is published by Research and Information system (RIS) for developing countries to generate wider awareness of the issues involved and emerging developments in the area of biotechnology. The journal is supported by the Life Science Division of UNESCO and Department of Biotechnology, Government of India.

This special issue focuses on biosafety and socio economic considerations for GM crops (Article 26 of CPB). The panel discussion had presentations of Prof. D. Makinde, Director, African Biosafety Network expertise; Prof. P. G. Chengappa from Institute of Socio-economic change; Mr. F. P. Welch, Programme coordinator Biodiversity and Biosafety Law, Montreal and Dr. M. Chauvet from Autonomous Metropolitan University, Mexico.



Launch of the special issue of ABDR at a side event parallel to COP-MOP6

Photo source: RIS website

New Releases

Biosafety Protocol News

The recently released issue of 'Biosafety Protocol News' focuses on the role of the media in communicating and raising awareness of biosafety issues and highlights the experiences and lessons learned in this regards. The issue includes articles from authors from three governments viz Belarus, China and Liberia, one from

a Science and Development network and another from a national newspaper. Where the article from Belarus highlights the media-related activities undertaken by the Government of Belarus to provide its citizens with information concerning living modified organisms (LMOs) and the national biosafety system. The article from China provides an overview of current media coverage of biosafety in China and highlights examples of activities undertaken to promote public awareness and media participation and reporting on biosafety. The article from Liberia highlights the importance of proactive media engagement, including through development of a media strategy and preparation of press materials, and the experience with participation of the media in the national biosafety framework process. The key message in other articles is that access to reliable information is absolutely critical. The media serves as an important bridge between

the public and the scientists and/or regulators. It is important for the scientists, policy makers and regulators to actively engage the media in biosafety activities. At the same time it is also crucial for the media to enhance the quality, depth and accuracy of information in their news articles and to expand the range of their reporting activities in order to contribute to broader public awareness of biosafety issues and to the effective implementation of the Protocol.

Recognizing that public awareness, education and populations are imperative for the effective implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the issue covers examples of how some governments and other stakeholders have engaged media to promote public awareness on biosafety issues. A copy of the Biosafety Protocol News can be downloaded from <https://www.cbd.int/doc/newsletters/bpn/>



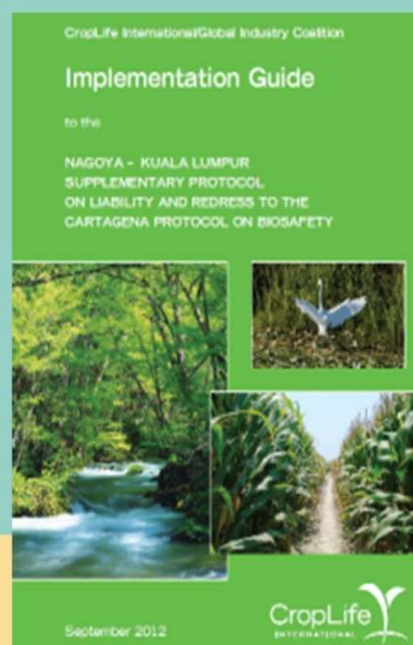
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Implementation Guide to the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

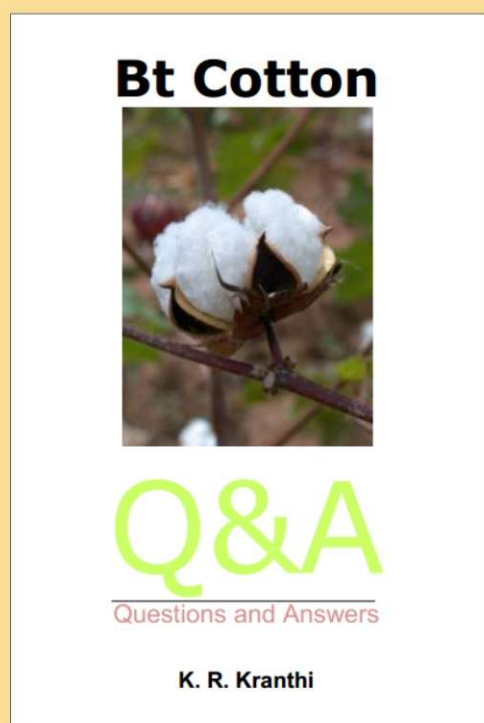
CropLife International and the Global Industry Coalition have published an "Implementation guide for the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on

Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety". The primary purpose of this Implementation guide is to assist countries that do not have existing mechanisms to address damage to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity to develop a system for identifying responsible operators and requiring response measures in conformity with the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol (Supplementary Protocol) to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (Protocol) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (Convention). The co-chairs, Mr Rene Lefeber and Ms Jimena Nieto of the international negotiating process on liability and redress have also opined that the guide constitutes a valuable tool for Governments to better understand and consequently better apply at the domestic level the provisions of the Supplementary Protocol. As the Supplementary Protocol heavily relies on domestic law to fill in important definitions and provisions every attempt has been made to retain as much as possible the exact language of the Supplementary Protocol. Changes have been made only where necessary to convert text for use as a domestic regulation.

The guide makes available to a broader public, in an orderly and friendly manner the provisions of the Supplementary Protocol and therefore promoting and facilitating the understanding of the Treaty for the benefit of the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity around the world. A copy of the above can be downloaded from <http://www.croplife.org/>



Bt Cotton Questions and Answers



A comprehensive book on "Bt Cotton Questions and Answers" has been recently released by the Indian Society for Cotton Improvement (ISCI). The book is authored by Dr. K. R. Kranthi, Director of the Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur. It provides basic information and data to enhance understanding on several issues. It covers fourteen chapters on the following topics:

- Introduction
- Biosafety
- Bt technology in India
- Yields and production aspects
- Hybrids and water requirements
- Bollworm control
- Resistance and management
- New GM Cotton technologies
- Benefits of Bt Cotton
- Criticism and concerns
- Hybrids versus varieties
- Bt and organic cotton
- Illegal brands and spurious seeds
- Policy perspective

The book is available online at CICR website: http://www.cicr.org.in/pdf/Bt_Cotton_Q&A_Kranthi%202012.pdf

Upcoming Events

Title	Organized/hosted by	Date & Venue	Website
National Events			
Winter school on "Molecular breeding approaches for genetic enhancement in oilseed crops"	Directorate of Oilseeds Research	December 1-21, 2012, Hyderabad	http://dor-icar.org.in/media/docs/winter-school-dec-2012.pdf
2nd Jammu and Kashmir Agricultural Science Congress	Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu	December 15-17, 2012, Jammu	http://www.skuast.org/new/science-congress/brochure-science.pdf
North Zone Meet of Indian Society of Mycology & Plant Pathology & National Symposium on Emerging Trends in Plant Pathology	Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Jammu	December 19-20, 2012, Jammu	http://www.skuast.org/new/training/sympo-plantpathology.pdf
National Training Workshop on Applications of Genomics in Crop Improvement	G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology	December 27 - January 16, 2013, Pantnagar	http://www.gbpuat.ac.in/
National Convention on India Cotton: Gearing Up for Global Leadership	The Gujarat Association For Agricultural Sciences, Navsari, Indian Society For Cotton Improvement, Mumbai; Navsari Agricultural University, Surat; and Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur	January 6-8, 2013, Surat	http://www.nau.in/announce.php?id=686
10th National Symposium on Biotechnological Approaches for Plant Research: Constraints and opportunities	ICAR Research Complex for Goa and Society for Plant Protection Sciences	January 27-29, 2013, Goa	http://icargoa.res.in/Goa_Symposium_2013_brochure.pdf
International Conference on Agriculture and Climate Change (ICACC2012)	The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)	January 29-30, 2013, New Delhi	http://www.teriin.org/index.php?option=com_events&task=details&sid=530
Bangalore INDIA BIO 2013	Government of Karnataka and Vision Group on Biotechnology	February 4-6, 2013, Bangalore	http://www.bangaloreindiabio.in/BIO2013/index.php
Indian Seed Congress 2013	National Seed Association of India	February 7-9, 2013, New Delhi	http://nsai.co.in/isc/
International conference on Advances in Biotechnology and Patenting (ICABP -2013)	Bharatidasan University	February 18 -21, 2013, Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu	http://icabp2013.webnode.com
International Events			
Theoretical and Practical Course "Detection of GMOs in Food and Agricultural Products"	International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB)	January 6-10, 2013, Doha, Qatar	http://www.icgeb.org/meetings-2013.html
World Soybean Research Conference IX	Hosted by the Protein Research Foundation, the Oil and Protein Seeds Development Trust, and organized by Paragon Conventions	February 17-22, 2013 Durban, South Africa	http://www.wsrc2013.co.za/
Strategic approaches in the evaluation of the science underpinning GMO regulatory decision-making	ICGEB	July 1-5, 2013, Trieste, Italy	http://www.icgeb.org/tl_files/Meetings/2013/TS_BIOSAFETY_1-5%20July_2013.pdf

Patron

Shri M.F. Farooqui

Special Secretary, MoEF

Editor

Shri Hem Pande

Additional Secretary, MoEF

Editorial Board

Dr. Ranjini Warriar

Director, MoEF

Dr. K. V. Prabhu

Head (Division of Genetics), IARI

Dr. Ravi Khetarpal

Regional Director, CABI - South Asia

Dr. Vibha Ahuja

General Manager, BCIL

For feedback please contact:

Dr. Ranjini Warriar, Director

Ministry of Environment & Forests

Paryavarn Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003

Phones: +91 (011) 24363964 Fax: +91(011) 24361308 Email: warrier@nic.in

Dr. Vibha Ahuja, General Manager

Biotech Consortium India Limited

V Floor, Anuvrat Bhawan, 210, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Marg,

New Delhi-110002 Phones: +91 (011) 23219064-67

Fax: +91(011) 23219063 Email: vibhaahuja@biotech.co.in vibhaahuja.bcil@nic.in

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