

# BIO SAFETY



जहाँ है हरियाली।  
वहाँ है खुशहाली।

A Quarterly  
Newsletter

## Newsletter

### From the Desk of Editor



I am pleased to inform you that India has signed the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety on October 11, 2011. We are also initiating steps to raise awareness and understanding about the objectives and provisions of the Supplementary Protocol as well as identify needs and priorities for becoming a Party to the Supplementary Protocol. In this context, we are hosting "Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety" being organized by Secretariat to CBD on November 17-18, 2011 at New Delhi. Two other workshops on socio-economic issues and detection of LMOs are also being hosted by India in November 2011.

India is committed to effective implementation of Cartagena Protocol in India and capacity building activities are an ongoing process. We participated in the BCH capacity building project supported by Global Environment Facility (GEF) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). A series of three workshops were organized for various stakeholders in which the experts from UNEP, Nairobi and their Regional Advisors from Philippines, Slovakia and Indonesia provided training. This issue of the newsletter has been structured to provide key features of BCH for its effective usage as an information tool on LMOs.

**Hem Pande**  
Joint Secretary

Ministry of Environment and Forests

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## COP 11 and COP-MOP 6



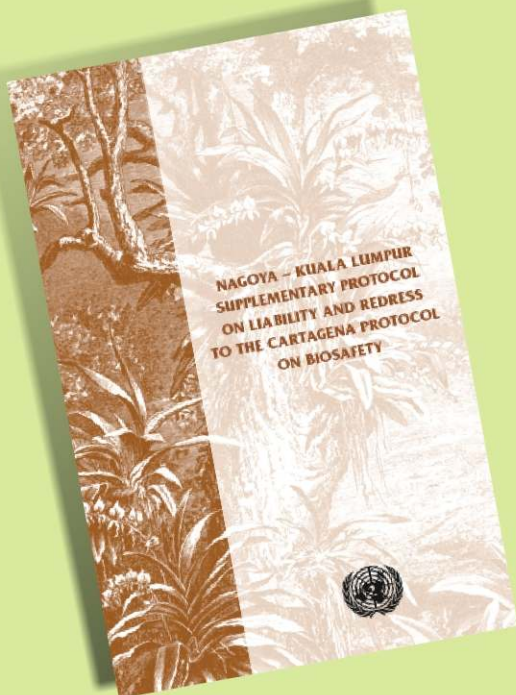
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
INDIA 2012

In preparation for 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 Parties (COP-MOP-6) to be held in Hyderabad in October 2012, a number of intercessional meetings will be organized in India, the outcomes of which will feed into the COP 11 and COP-MOP 6. These meetings include:

- Capacity building workshop on socio-economic impacts of LMOs in New Delhi on 14-16 November, 2011
- Asia-Pacific Regional workshop on Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Protocol on Liability and Redress in New Delhi on 17-18 November 2011
- Sub-regional Training of Trainers workshop on LMOs in New Delhi on 21-25 Nov 2011
- Sub-regional workshop on updating NBSAPs in Dehradun on 6-10 Dec 2011
- Sub-regional workshop on Protected Areas in Dehradun on 6-10 Dec 2011
- Expert Group on Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication in Dehradun on 12-14 December 2011
- SACEP capacity building workshop on Clearing House Mechanism in Dehradun on 12-16 December 2011
- Second meeting of Intergovernmental Committee on Nagoya Protocol on ABS (ICNP-2) in New Delhi in April 2012



# Signing of Nagoya - Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress



The Nagoya - Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety on 15 October 2010. In accordance with its Article 17, the Supplementary Protocol was opened for signature on 7 March 2011 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York by Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. It remains open for signature until 6 March 2012. The Protocol will enter into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit of the 40th instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession (Article 18).

Thirty five countries have so far signed the Nagoya - Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol. Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India, the nodal ministry for implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in India has taken the approval of the Cabinet for signing the Supplementary Protocol.

**India signed the Supplementary Protocol on October 11, 2011.**

## Regional Workshops on the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol

The Secretariat to the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) is conducting regional workshops on the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol. The purpose of the workshops is to raise awareness and understanding about the objective and provisions of the Supplementary Protocol and to identify needs and requirements by Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety with a view to expedite the early entry into force and implementation of the Supplementary Protocol.

The first regional workshop in the series was for Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and it took place on 16-17 June 2011, in Ljubljana, Slovenia. It was attended by representatives from 10 countries of the CEE region that are Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The African regional workshop took

place on 21-22 July 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The workshop was organized in collaboration with the African Union Commission. It was attended by 45 participants, including representatives from 28 Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, representatives of regional economic commissions, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations. The workshop for the Asia-Pacific region will be held in New Delhi on November 17-18, 2011. The workshop materials consist of basic concept about liability and redress, overview of the Supplementary Protocol and its significance, cases for group exercises, strategic plan and national reporting. These documents are available online and can be accessed at [http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/supplementary/NKL\\_workshops.shtml](http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/supplementary/NKL_workshops.shtml).



# Use of BCH for Information Sharing

## AN UPDATE

### What is BCH?

Biosafety Clearing House (BCH) is an information exchange mechanism established under Article 20 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB). It comprises a central portal and a distributed network of external components/ portals. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) manages and hosts the central portal of the BCH, which is critical to the implementation of the Protocol and is intended to be a repository of up-to-date information on LMOs and biosafety. Information available on BCH is useful for decision-makers in countries around the world as well as other stakeholders, specifically, scientists, research institutions, universities, biotechnology industries and enforcement agencies. The BCH website is available in all Six UN languages.



### Finding Information

A wide variety of scientific, technical, environmental, legal and capacity building information can be accessed on BCH. The information currently available in the central portal is organized into two categories: a) National Records submitted by Governments as mandated by Article 20 of the Protocol and b) Reference Records which are submitted by general BCH users. Under the Reference records, three registries regarding LMO information appearing in other BCH records have also been included.

## National Records

### National Contacts

National Focal Points, Competent National Authorities and National Biosafety Websites and Databases

### Laws and Regulations

National Laws, Regulations and Guidelines and Bilateral, Regional and Multilateral Agreements

### Country's Decisions and other Communications

Decisions on LMOs under Advance Informed Agreement; Decisions on LMOs for food, for feed or for processing under Article 11; Other decisions & declarations; and Risk Assessment Reports

### Roster of Experts

Database of experts in biosafety, searchable using various fields.

## Reference Records

### LMOs, Genes or Organisms

LMO-UID Registry; Gene Registry and Organism Registry

### Capacity-Building

Biosafety Capacity Building Projects; Capacity-Building Opportunities; Compendium of Academically-Accredited Biosafety Courses; and Capacity-Building Needs and Priorities

### Directory of International

### Organizations involved in Biosafety Activities

International organisations involved in activities relevant to implementation of the Biosafety Protocol with summaries of their activities and contact information.

### The BCH Virtual Library

The library's collections are the Biosafety Information Resource Centre (BCH-BIRC) and the Scientific Bibliographic Database on Biosafety (Bibliosafety). The library also provide access to Research4Life a collective name for three public-private partnerships which seek to help achieve the UN's Millennium Development Goals by providing the developing world with free or low cost online access to academic and professional peer-reviewed content.

### How to access BCH?

BCH is an easy to use tool for an open access to key information, the BCH provides greater transparency in the implementation of the Protocol.

Interested users can freely search and retrieve information through the BCH website. All the information to BCH is entered and updated through Management Centre. Access to the Management

Centre is restricted to BCH national focal points (BCH-NFPs) and other authorized users who are issued with log-in accounts and passwords. The registered information is validated (i.e. verified for accuracy and authenticity) by the BCH-NFPs before it is made publicly available. This helps to ensure the highest level of security and reliability of the information in the BCH.



# BIOSAFETY PROTOCOL NEWS

## An Information Sharing Tool



Biosafety Protocol News (BPN) is a newsletter published by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) on matters related to Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB) since 2006 as part of its awareness and outreach efforts. The first edition of the newsletter was initiated on October, 2006 with an aim to provide Parties, other Governments, relevant agencies and other stakeholders with a medium to exchange information and news regarding their efforts to implement and promote awareness of the Protocol. The newsletter also serve as an important platform for Governments and relevant stakeholders to share experiences and lessons learned, highlight ongoing partnerships and cooperation, and showcase their capacity-building projects and activities.

Each edition of the newsletter focuses on specific thematic areas. SCBD encourages all Governments, relevant agencies and stakeholders to contribute articles to future issues of the newsletter. The recent issue published in July 2011 focuses on experiences and lessons learned in establishing and implementing national administrative systems for biosafety. This issue highlighted the status of administrative systems for handling biosafety in Cuba, European Union(EU), Kenya, Malaysia and Mexico. The following 9 issues have been published as of now and provide useful information :

**Issue 1-** Introductory Issue on the Working of Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its Implementing Agencies.

**Issue 2-** Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

**Issue 3-** Experiences and Lessons Learned in the Implementation of the Identification/Documentation Requirements in the context of paragraph 2 of Article 18 of the Biosafety Protocol

**Issue 4-** 5th Anniversary Edition on the Experience on first Five Years of Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

**Issue 5-** Experiences and Lessons Learned in Capacity-Building

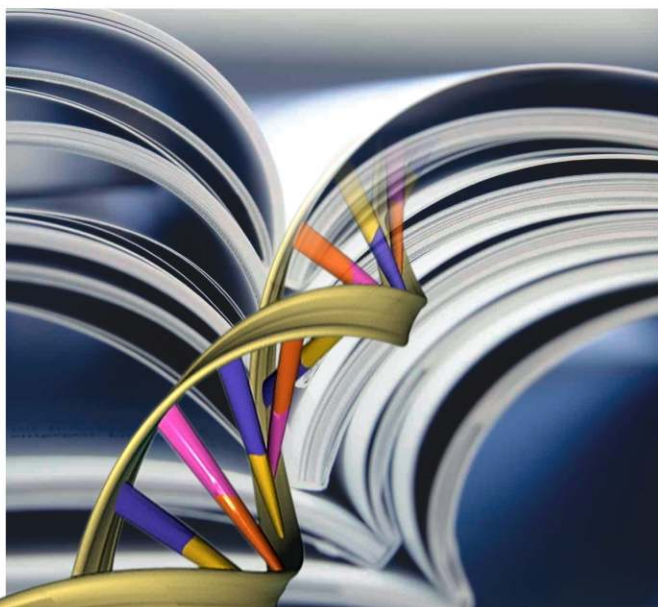
**Issue 6-** Public Awareness and Participation: Experiences and Lessons Learned from Recent Initiatives

**Issue 7-** Experiences and Lessons Learned in Facilitating the Exchange of Information on, and Experience with, Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) through the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH)

**Issue 8-** Working towards a Common Goal: Ten Years of International Cooperation on Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

**Issue 9-** National Administrative Systems for Biosafety

The newsletter can be subscribed by signing in to BCH management centre via <https://bch.cbd.int/member/subscriptions.shtml>. The electronic version can also be accessed online at <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/newsletters/bpn>.





# BIOSAFETY RESOURCE BOOK



Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has recently published the "Biosafety Resource Book", based on materials from the training courses organized by FAO from 2002 to 2010 in the framework of its biosafety capacity development projects. These training courses for biosafety regulators, policy-makers and members of national biosafety committees were aimed to offer them background knowledge critical in the process of reviewing biosafety dossiers and biosafety-related decision-making and to acquaint them with concepts and methodologies relevant to risk analysis of GMO release and biosafety management.

The book consists of following five modules and special attention has been paid to avoid technical jargon and to keep the modules scientifically accurate as well as accessible to non-specialists. Module A is an introduction to molecular biology and genetic engineering. It reviews the basic scientific concepts and principles used in producing GMOs, and provides a

brief description of current and emerging uses of biotechnology in crops, livestock and fisheries.

**Module B** is dedicated to ecological aspects. It provides the necessary background information on ecology and evolution needed to analyse and understand the consequences of introducing GMOs into the environment.

**Module C** is on risk analysis. It provides basic information on biological risks, concepts, principles and methodologies of risk assessment, management and communication, focusing on crop biotechnology and environmental risk assessment of GM crops.

**Module D** is entitled 'Test and post-release monitoring of GMOs'. It addresses the use and monitoring of GMOs under containment, confinement and limited field trials, as well as the monitoring of commercially released GMOs.

**Module E** is about legal aspects. It provides an overview of the existing legal tools and frameworks on biotechnology and biosafety, and offers a thorough description of the international instruments that regulate biosafety and their interactions.

The electronic copy of the book is available on <http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/i1905e/i1905e00.htm>. To receive a copy contact [sandra.tardioli@fao.org](mailto:sandra.tardioli@fao.org) to receive a copy, providing your full postal address.

## COP-MOP5

### Decision Booklets

Booklet Containing Decisions of the Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity Serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety entitled "Biosafety: Setting a New Agenda" is available at: [http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb\\_publications.shtml](http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_publications.shtml)





# Series of Capacity Building Workshops on

# BCH

The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) has received support from United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) under “UNEP-DELC-GEF Project for Continued Enhancement of Building Capacity for Effective Participation in the BCH” to promote capacity-building activities and further guidance on the BCH with special attention to the various target stakeholders.



## Three training workshops were organized as follows:

- Consultative workshop to strengthen compliance to BCH requirements followed by online training on finding and registering information in the BCH on August 17-19, 2011 at New Delhi for key government representatives with responsibilities for implementing the protocol, particularly those that will update and use the BCH as a means of fulfilling the national obligations set forth in the protocol.
- Workshop on understanding of BCH for effective enforcement of regulation for transboundary movement of LMOs/GMOs on September 12, 2011 at National Academy of Customs Excise and Narcotics, Faridabad for custom officials and other enforcement agencies in finding out information about transboundary movement of GMOs
- Workshop on understanding BCH as an effective tool for global information on LMOs/GMOs on September 13, 2011 at New Delhi for various stakeholders involved in Living Modified Organisms/ Genetically Modified Organisms (LMOs/GMOs) related practices viz. research institutions, state agriculture universities, industry, NGOs etc.







The trainings were customized and structured to provide an insight to understanding various aspects of BCH, access to information as well as data entry and management. The workshops were conducted using interactive audio visual tools, online search and case studies so as to share practical use of BCH with the participants. Concerned Project Manager from UNEP Ms. Ileana C. Lopez and three Regional BCH Advisors viz. Dr. Aleksej Tarasjev, Mr. Ruel V. Maningas, and Mr. Mohammed Ilyas participated as the resource persons for providing the training alongwith Dr. Ranjini Warriar, BCH Focal Point for India and representatives from National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources and Biotech Consortium India Limited. The workshops were inaugurated by Shri M.F. Farooqui, Additional Secretary and Shri Hem Pande, Joint Secretary from MoEF. About 140 participants from government departments, industry, research institutions, universities and enforcement agencies attended the three workshops.





# Upcoming Events

Title	Organized/hosted by	Date and Venue
World Cotton Research Conference-5	International Cotton Advisory Committee and Indian Society for Crop Improvement under the aegis of Indian Council of Agricultural Research	November 7 - 11, 2011 Mumbai
National Agricultural Innovation Project Sponsored Training Programme "Molecular Diagnostics for Risk Assessment and Management of Genetically Modified Crops"	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR)	November 8 - 21, 2011 New Delhi
International Conference on Plant Biotechnology for Food Security: New Frontiers	Society for Plant Biochemistry and Biotechnology, National Research Centre on Plant Biotechnology	February 21 - 24, 2012 New Delhi
Workshop on Capacity-building for research and information exchange on socio-economic impacts of Living Modified Organisms under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF)	November 14 - 16, 2011 New Delhi
Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF)	November 17 - 18, 2011 New Delhi
Asia Sub-regional Training of Trainers' Workshop on the Identification and Documentation of Living Modified Organisms	Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF)	November 21–25, 2011 New Delhi

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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.