



# *The Biosafety Clearing-House*

*of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety  
to the Convention on Biological Diversity*

*Giovanni Ferraiolo - CBD Secretariat*



## Welcome to the BCH Central Portal

The Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) is a mechanism set up by the [Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety](#) to facilitate the exchange of information on Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) and assist the Parties to better comply with their obligations under the Protocol. Global access to a variety of scientific, technical, environmental, legal and capacity building information is provided in the six official languages of the UN.

BCH account holders can create and manage records in the BCH by signing in through the [Management Centre](#) (*Registering Information*) section.

### Latest news

- 2014-09-25 [Mexico - Curso Regional para el Fortalecimiento de Capacidades en Bioseguridad de Organismos Genéticamente Modificados...](#)
- 2014-09-25 [Mexico - Participación de la Delegación Mexicana durante la Séptima reunión de la Conferencia de las Partes que actúa como reunión de las Partes en el Protocolo de Cartagena sobre Seguridad de la Biotecnología \(COPMOP\)...](#)
- 2014-09-17 [Republic of Korea - 2014 public hearing on LMO Act hosted by MOTIE, Korea...](#)
- 2014-09-17 [Republic of Korea - Bhutan Delegation Visits to Korea...](#)
- 2014-09-16 [Philippines - Philippines – COP/MOP 7 preps underway...](#)
- 2014-09-15 [Webinar on tools and information resources available on biosafety \(31 October 2014\)...](#)
- 2014-09-12 [Republic of Korea - Holding of Model United Nations General Assembly...](#)
- 2014-09-12 [Republic of Korea - Korea BCH held high school debate competition on LMO...](#)

[More news...](#)

### Latest Additions [\[More additions...\]](#)

- 2014-10-29 [Brazil - National Focal Point](#)
- 2014-10-27 [Uruguay - National Focal Point](#)
- 2014-10-27 [United Arab Emirates - National Focal Point](#)
- 2014-10-23 [Swaziland - Law, Regulation or Guideline](#)
- 2014-10-21 [Republic of Korea - Country's Decision or any other Communication](#)

### Latest updates

- 2014-10-28 [Dominican Republic - National Focal Point](#)
- 2014-10-24 [Côte d'Ivoire - National Focal Point](#)
- 2014-10-24 [Côte d'Ivoire - National Focal Point](#)
- 2014-10-24 [Malta - National Focal Point](#)
- 2014-10-23 [Armenia - National Focal Point](#)

<http://bch.cbd.int>



**COP-MOP 7**  
**29 Sep - 3 Oct 2014**

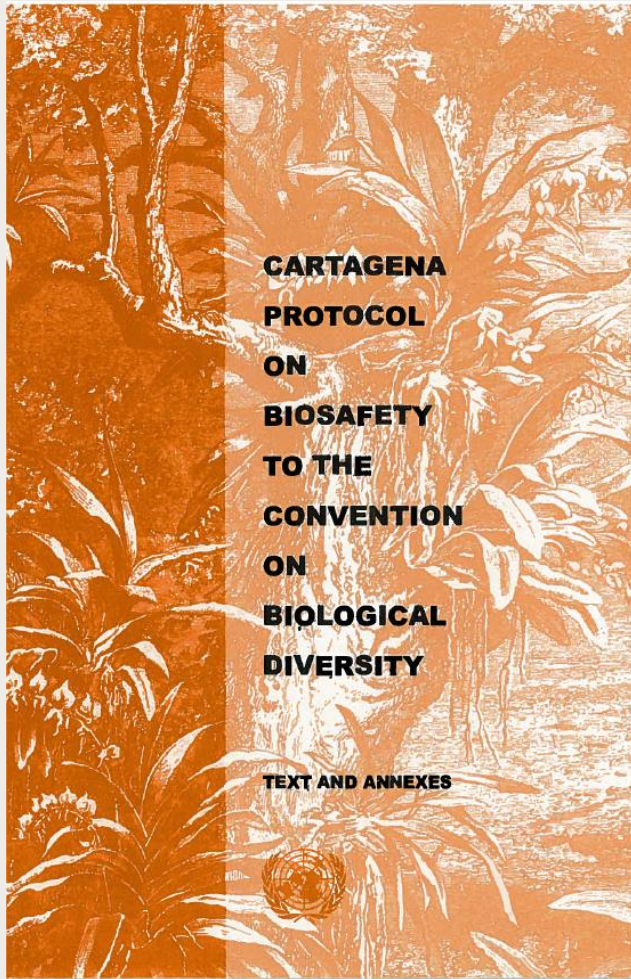
[COP 12 and COP-MOP 7 page](#)

[COP-MOP 7 Documents](#)

[COP-MOP 7 Webcasting](#)

**COP-MOP 6 Decision  
booklets:**

[Ar](#) | [En](#) | [Es](#) | [Fr](#) | [Ru](#) | [Zh](#)



CPB Art 1 - Objective: *In accordance with the precautionary approach contained in Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the objective of this Protocol is **to contribute to ensuring an adequate level of protection in the field of the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms** resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health, and specifically focusing on transboundary movements.*



## *The Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH)*

*is a mechanism set up by the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to **facilitate the exchange of information** on Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) **and assist the Parties** to better comply with their obligations under the Protocol ;*

*Without prejudice to the protection of confidential information, **each Party shall make available to the BCH any information required [...] under this Protocol** (Art. 20)*



## ***Validation of information:***

- ***National records:** directly published by National Focal Points (BCH-NFP - one per country identified directly by the Governments), or submitted by their assistants and then validated by the BCH-NFP*
- ***Reference Records:** submitted by any BCH user and validated by the CBD Secretariat (guided by the principles of inclusiveness, transparency and equity)*



- ***National (official) records:***

*National Biosafety Website or Database / Competent National Authorities / Biosafety Laws, Regulations, Guidelines & Regional and International Agreements / Country's Decisions or any other Communications / Submissions from Parties & other Governments / Risk Assessments Generated by a Regulatory Process / Biosafety Experts and report on their assignments*



- ***Reference records:***

*Capacity Building Activities & Needs Assessments / Biosafety Organizations & Laboratories for LMO detection / Submissions from relevant organizations / Virtual Library (BIRC) / BCH News / Risk assessments generated by an independent or non-regulatory process / **Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) / Genetic elements / Organisms***



**To date:**

**196 Countries Worldwide**

**the Cartagena Protocol has 168 Parties**



**the Convention on Biological Diversity has 194 Parties**

**National Records: submission validated by Governments  
through BCH National Focal Points (one per country)**

**CPB PARTIES**

**CPB NON-PARTIES**

**INDUSTRY /  
ASSOCIATIONS /  
ACADEMIA / RESEARCH**

**INCLUDED (Mandatory)**

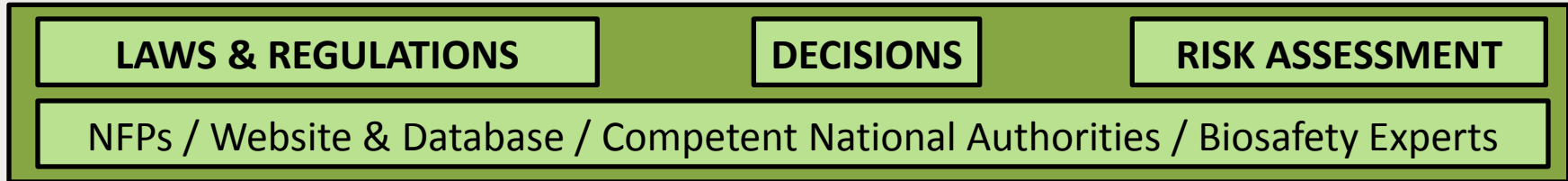
**ACCEPTED (Voluntary)**

**NOT INCLUDED**

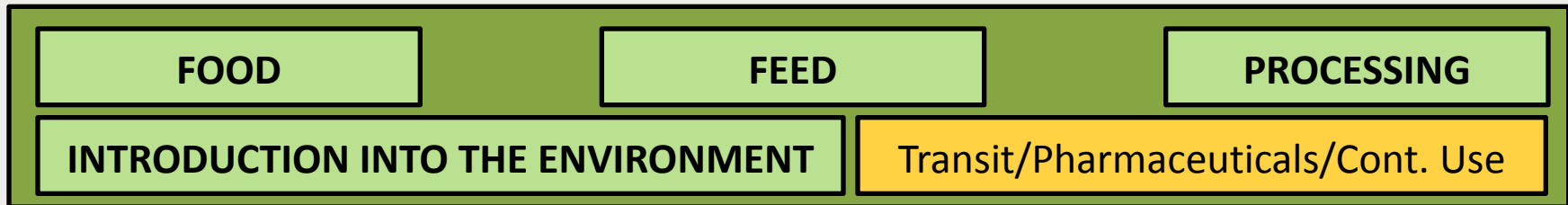




- *Type of National Records:*



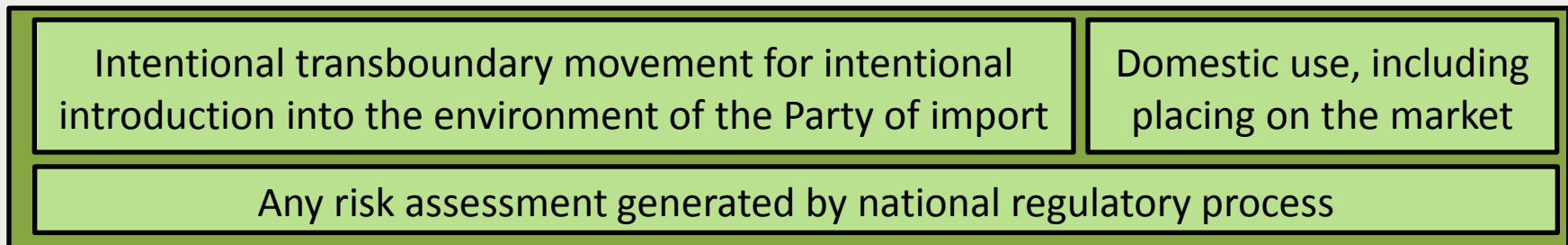
- *Intended use of LMOs:*



- *Type of LMOs:*



- *Scale of the risk assessment:*



Legend:

**INCLUDED (Mandatory)**

**ACCEPTED (Voluntary)**



## *...of special interest for this webinar:*

- ***National (official) records:***

*decisions on environmental releases of LMOs (including field trials), and/or placing on the market + any related risk assessments*

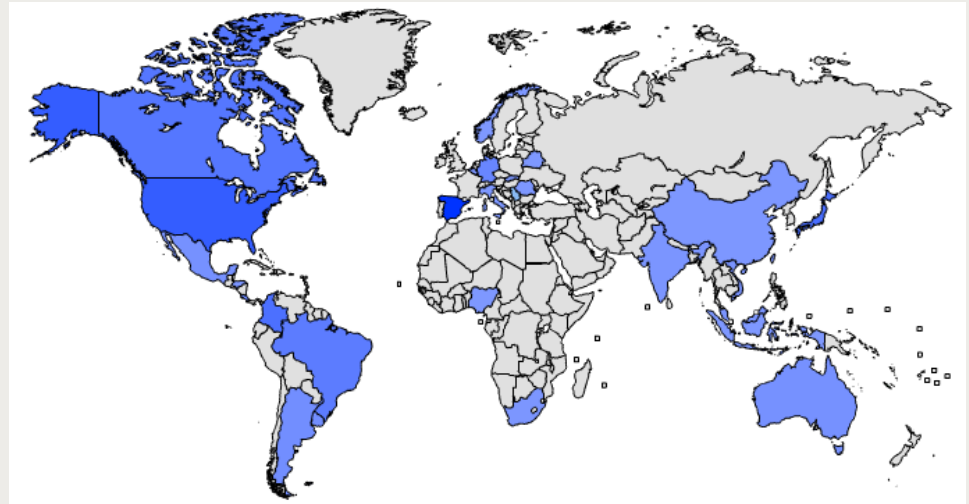
- ***Reference records: Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) / Genetic elements / Organisms***



- **Search by:** *decision / country / region / LMO / trait / use / date / keyword*

- **Browse by:** *raw data / groups / matrix / maps*

- **Receive updates by:** *list server / RSS feeds (main categories of records or tailored searches)*





## Modified Organism

### MON-00810-6 - YieldGard™ maize

**LMO Information**

Decisions on the LMO

Risk Assessments



MON-00810-6  
YieldGard™ maize



<http://bch.cbd.int/database/record.shtml?documentId=14750>

Read barcode or type above URL into internet browser to access information on this LMO in the Biosafety Clearing-House © SCBD 2012

**LMO quick-links:** <http://bch.cbd.int/resources/quicklinks.shtml>):  
The fastest way to reach the BCH page where information on a specific LMO is available (e.g. LMO description, countries' decisions, links to other databases, detection methods, risk assessments, etc.)



## ***Current status\* (1):***

- ***Worldwide open: mandatory contributions for Parties, voluntary for non-Parties;***
- ***As-of-today the largest repository of LMOs information: 404 Living Modified Organisms / 433 Genetic elements / 202 Organisms (...and counting!)***
- ***Financial support granted by COP-MOP core budget***
- ***Translated in all 6 UN official languages***



## ***Current status\* (2):***

- ***367 Competent National Authorities registered by 150 countries***
- ***1350 LMOs decisions registered by 46 countries***
- ***1075 official risk assessments by 37 countries***
- ***Approx. 300 biosafety-related organizations registered***
- ***Over 170,000 visits by 110,000 visitors in the past year (Oct 2013-2014)***



## ***COP-MOP 7 (Rep. of Korea, September 2014):***

- requested the Secretariat to continue its collaboration with other biosafety databases and platforms, including those of the FAO, other clearing-houses of the Convention and the OECD;*
- urged Parties and invited other Governments to inform their representatives in other international forums of the possibility of retrieving electronically all data registered in the Biosafety Clearing-House in order to make them available through other related websites;*





*...for further info:*

- <http://bch.cbd.int>
- <http://www.cbd.int/mop7/>
- <mailto:bch@bch.cbd.int>



# *Thank you!*