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**UNEP-GEF Project for  
Building Capacity for Effective Participation in the  
Biosafety Clearing House**



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**BCH Sub Regional Workshop Series  
Arab-speaking countries**

***Building Capacity for an effective participation in the BCH***

**March 10 – 14, 2008**

**Marriott Hotel - Cairo, Egypt**

**March 2008**



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# UNEP-GEF Project for Building Capacity for Effective Participation in the Biosafety Clearing House



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## ACRONYM

BCH	Biosafety Clearing House
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CPB	Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GMO	Genetically Modified Organisms
IT	Information Technology
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
nBCH	National Biosafety Clearing House
NBF	National Biosafety Framework
NEA	National Executing Agency
SCBD	Secretariat to the Convention on Biological Diversity
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme



# UNEP-GEF Project for Building Capacity for Effective Participation in the Biosafety Clearing House



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### DAY 1: Introduction & Regional Experiences

**Primary Focus:** Status Update on Cartagena Protocol, Biosafety Clearing House Project, Countries' Implementation.

**Plenary Session:** Opening speeches

5 opening speeches were given by Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, Dr. Giovanni Ferreiolo, Dr. Moustafa Fouda, Mr. Alex Owusu-Biney and UNDP Resident Coordinator.

#### OPENING SPEECH BY JYOTI MATHUR-FILIPP, MANAGER OF UNEP – BCH PROJECT

Ms. Mathur-Filipp welcomed the participants and thanked the presence of distinguished panelists representing the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat, the UNEP-GEF, Ministry of Environmental Affairs in Egypt and the United Nations Development Programme. She introduced the five concurrent workshops held under the UNEP-GEF project for Capacity Building for Effective Participation in the BCH and addressed to countries in the Africa and Arab regions. She added that the Biosafety Clearing House project, implemented by UNEP and funded by the Global Environment Facility, is assisting up to 139 countries around the globe to implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB).

She pinpointed to the Agenda 21 and the CBD which recognized both the potential contribution of biotechnology to sustainable development and the need for safety procedures in the development, application and transfer of the new technologies. She highlighted on the important role played by the United Nations, through UNEP, in the development of those procedures, notably the adoption by countries of technical biosafety guidelines and the implementation of a pilot project funded by the GEF to provide assistance to 18 countries to prepare National Biosafety projects.

She tackled the support of UNEP-GEF given to 123 countries approximately to develop draft NBFs, and 19 countries to implement their NBFs and this global BCH project. She reiterated on the objective of the BCH project in assisting countries to fulfill their obligations relating to the Protocol and to participate in the BCH (Established through Article 20).

She presented the approach adopted and which proved successful and effective for the BCH project implementation which included the selection and training of approximately 40 experts from around the developing world, called BCH Regional Advisors. She revealed that the approach promoted networking, learning from neighboring countries and comfort with similar or same cultural background and language. She closed her speech by reiterating on the capacity building initiative aiming at the implementation and operation of the NBFs in the countries.

#### OPENING SPEECH BY ALEX OWUSU-BINEY, REGIONAL COORDINATOR FOR AFRICA, BIOSAFETY

Mr. Owusu-Biney welcomed everybody. He launched his speech by presenting the diversity of Africa at the socio-cultural levels and as a major player in ensuring the safe use of modern biotechnology under the guidance of the CPB. He pinpointed on the importance of the sub-regional workshop as we all strive to build capacity to ensure effective participation of the region in implementing the obligations of the BCH. He added that the workshop is a continuity to earlier national BCH trainings and he hoped that it will create a useful platform for establishing friendships, sharing, networking and promoting partnerships in the common but differentiated obligations in meeting the diverse needs and obligations under national protocols/agenda and the CPB. He highlighted on the need to use this process to conceptualize, discuss and implement our national and possibly regional strategies on how to sustain the Biosafety process including the BCH beyond the project. He closed his speech hoping that this meeting will also give the participants some tools to go back and affect the national processes in tandem with UNEP-GEF regional advisory system now and beyond the project, an insurance that they will be included and contributing in their country's efforts. Though they will also assist and facilitate their country's preparation to the Meeting of the Parties to the CPB.



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## Session 1.1: Objectives of the workshop, methodologies & participants expectations

**Facilitators:** Oussama Abd El Kawy & Elsa J. Sattout

Before launching the sessions, the objectives of the workshop were presented as well as the methodologies to be adopted to set participants on the tracks of the different sessions.

The stated objectives of the workshop were:

- Sharing national experience on Biosafety clearing House
- Define and discuss outstanding issues in relation to the BCH
- Introduce new format of BCH (including tools for participation)
- Introduce the new training materials

The listed methodologies were:

- Presentation
- Working group discussion and presentation of results
- Daily navigation meetings and workshop evaluation
- References: Regional advisors, SCBD, UNEP-GEF

## Participants presentation

Facilitator asked participants to present himself, the institution he/she represents and the expectations from the workshop [See Annex 1].

## Session 1.2. BCH Project: Update & Overview

**Speaker:** E. J. Sattout

Ms. Sattout launched her presentation by listing the BCH project objectives. These are the following: (1) the development of human capacities able to use the BCH and the establishment of an adequate infrastructure for its functioning; (2) provision of the full support to enable a complete participation from the eligible countries and the way to benefit from the BCH. An update on the current situation within countries and the distribution of the sub-regional participation were presented. The training package developed under the project and the achieved training work plans were discussed. Finally, the UNEP BCH team and the Regional Advisors for the Arab countries were introduced. The presentation was closed by going quickly through countries' participation in the BCH and the information provided to the Central Portal for each Arab country.

## Session 1.3. Participation in BCH: Choice of options

**Speaker:** O. Abd El Kawy

Mr. Abd El Kawy presented the 4 options available for the participation in the BCH. These are:

1. Use the Management Centre of the BCH Central Portal
2. Outside the site: Send information to the SCBD through the use of other than internet facilities (Fax, mail, etc.)
3. PULL: provide the information through the national BCH and allow the central portal to pull out the metadata
4. PUSH: Put the information on the nBCH and allow this information to be accessible on the BCH central portal through the use of the interoperability protocols.

He highlighted the advantages and disadvantages of each option.



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## **Intersession: Tasks for participants**

**Facilitator:** E. J. Sattout

The participants were given two assignments:

I. The first assignment targeted the sustainability of the activities undertaken under the UNEP-GEF project after its closure. Participants were asked to brainstorm on the ways to be adopted and tools to be developed to ensure the sustainability of the BCH functioning. They were asked to revisit their country's MOUs sustainability provisions.

The following questions were listed to guide them on the assignment:

1. Will you organize training workshops?
2. Will you build technical capacities for individuals to operationalize and manage the databases and the web server?
3. Did you plan for the development of users guide and technical guide for Hermes and Ajax?
4. Will you train people on how to enter information on the BCH?
5. Did you take into consideration firewalls, backups and updates?
6. Human and technical resources which your institutions will allocate to the BCH?
7. Describe how you will operationalize the BCH on the long-term (Training people, workshops)?

II. The second assignment was a questionnaire about options chosen by countries and the impediments faced by countries to deliver the needed information to the BCH.

## **Session 1.4. Interactive Modules**

**Facilitators:** O. Abd El Kawy & E. J. Sattout

The participants worked on two interactive modules; the first one treating the CPB, the objectives, scopes and mechanisms while the second one treated the BCH.

## **Navigation meeting**

**Concept:** Participants were asked to navigate back in their day and answer to the following questions:

1. What went well?
2. What went wrong?
3. What can be improved?

1 person reported back to the core Navigation Meeting group.

Feedback from participants:

1. What went well?

- Facilitators providing detailed explanations and information in Arabic
- Insight into how different Arabic countries interpret terms
- Acknowledge efforts to translating material into Arabic
- Interactive modules

2/3. What went wrong/can be improved?

- Room for Arabic countries very small
- Time and session management needs to be stricter
- Increase the number of computers to one per participant. - Training was designed for two persons to share a computer so as to promote shared learning
- Parallel dialogue in workshop, facilitators should be strict



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## DAY 2 – Obligations of Party to CP

**Primary Focus:** Obligations of a Party, searching information, Using New and Revised Training Materials

**Session 2.1.** Introduction of the Country obligations to the CPB

**Facilitator:** E. J. Sattout & O. Abd El Kawy

Before launching the hands-on training on case 20, Ms. Sattout presented major issues pertaining to the parties' obligations among which the role of the BCH, the ways parties and countries could benefit from the BCH, countries obligations on sending and updating information on the BCH central portal, the type of information which must be provided. The scenario of the case study 20 was presented and participants were left to work on their own with the support of the facilitators when needed.

**Case study 20:** A country has just become a Party to the CPB and must fulfill its reporting obligations.

**Scenario:** *You have been appointed as the BCH National Focal Point for your government. Your country has just acceded to the Protocol and you have been given responsibility for ensuring your government fulfils its information-sharing obligations now that it is a Party to the Protocol.*

### Part I:

- *Your office is designated as the National Focal Point for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and has been given responsibility for receiving all formal communications on its operation.*
- *Your national biosafety framework is still in draft form, with a period of public comment due to close in one month, which you hope will be followed by adoption of a specific biosafety law. In the meantime, most biosafety activities in your country are covered by voluntary guidelines overseen by the National Gene Technology Advisory Committee (GTAC). The GTAC currently make all relevant decisions regarding release of LMOs in your country. However, your national Food Safety Law is administered by the National Food Authority (NFA) and it does make some mention of labeling for genetically modified foods.*
- *During the development of your biosafety framework, you identified 134 persons with biosafety expertise for inclusion on your national roster of experts.*
- *Six months ago, your government signed an agreement with a neighboring country that is not a Party to the Protocol in which you agreed to accept imports of LMOs for processing under a special streamlined documentation process.*
- *Before the Protocol was adopted in 2003, your GTAC had taken one decision (titled "Decision-1") on importing a genetically modified soybean for food. Between that date and the date of your government becoming a Party, another three decisions were taken on importing genetically modified cotton plants for field trials (Decision-2, Decision-3 and Decision-4). Although risk assessments were undertaken at the time, they contain some commercial-in-confidence information and have not been released publicly. You expect two more decisions (Decision-5 and Decision-6) to be released next month.*

- (a) What are your primary responsibilities as the BCH National Focal Point?
- (b) What is the minimum information you are required to register with the BCH immediately to ensure your government is not breaching its information-sharing obligations under the Protocol?
- (c) What optional information could you also register with the BCH?

### Part II:

- *Six months later, your National Biosafety Law has been adopted. This law also addresses food safety and replaces the previous sections covered by the Food Safety Law. Although not yet translated into any of the official UN languages, nor registered with the BCH, it is accessible through your national biosafety website.*
- *Your National Science Laboratory has locally developed three indigenous varieties of genetically modified maize that are resistant to insect attack. Two varieties (VAR-1 and VAR-2) are undergoing contained field trials, and the third variety (VAR-3) was approved last week for release for domestic use as animal feed (Decision-7).*

Which of these events should you register with the BCH and when? (please use the Online Training site, if required)



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## Part III:

- *Your office was advised this morning that a rabbit infected with a genetically modified virus intended to reduce breeding rates was accidentally released from its containment facility 50 kms from your border with a neighbouring country.*

Do you have any information-sharing responsibilities for this event? If so, how would you enter this in the BCH.

### Session 2.2. BCH Project Closure

**Speaker:** Mr. Prakash Bista

Mr. Bista launched his presentation by refreshing the mind of the participants on the BCH regional advisors roles [Assist NEAs in making a choice for type and style of national participation in the BCH; Deliver training activities, with national counterparts, in use and access of the BCH; Assist in making the BCH participation operational; Assist countries in closing the BCH Project]; on the OPERATIONAL HANDBOOKS (OH) produced within the project and which aim is to assist the NEA in its project execution and the management of the BCH Project on the national level following UNEP project management rules and procedures. He listed the procurement activities to be undertaken upon completion including inventory of equipment with copies of invoices, using Form 6 and final financial statement, using Form 11 were presented.

He informed the participants on the normal duration of a national BCH Project [12 months upon receipt of first cash advance (75%)] and on the transfer of the 25% upon completion of all tasks required under the signed MOU.

He pinpointed on the tests that will be undertaken during project closure among which (1) complete the set-up functionality of BCH during nBCH training workshops by BCH RAs, (2) detailed post-training report on activities implemented (Form 8) and (3) a paragraph summary of nBCH post BCH Project sustainability strategy. He highlighted that upon closure of the BCH Project Cycle, the countries need to submit the revised post-training report, in case last national workshop needs to be conducted with 25% funds transfer (using Form 8) and a final statement of accounts acknowledging UNEP-GEF project funds disbursement as agreed-upon in MOU Annex I (project budget).

### Session 2.3. Introduction to Moodle

**Speaker:** O. Abd El Kawy

Mr. Abd el Kawy introduced the Moodle concept as a training tools, its objectives and benefits. He performed a demonstration exercise on the different sections and contents of Moodle. This session prepared the participants for the working group session on the design of workshop agendas.

### Intersession: QQ & Answers

**Facilitator:** E. J. Sattout

This intersession has been an exercise to create interaction between participants and facilitator and to revive the next sessions. Mainly the session has refreshed the participants minds on issues related to CPB obligations and BCH operation and mandates.

### Session 2.5. BCH: Situation analysis

**Speaker:** Giovanni Ferraiolo

Mr. Giovanni launched his presentation by introducing the objectives of the BCH which are to facilitate the exchange of information and experience about LMOs and to assist Parties to implement the Protocol. He presented the [BCH Modalities of the operation](#) [MOP BS-I/3 -] found in annexes which include the following sections (a) [Role of the Biosafety Clearing-](#)



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House; (b) [Characteristics of the Biosafety Clearing-House](#), (c) [Administration of the Biosafety Clearing-House](#), (d) [Role of the Biosafety Clearing-House focal points](#), (e) [Technical oversight and advice](#), (f) [Obligations of partner organizations](#), (g) [Reports on activities](#) and (h) [Periodic review](#).

Mr. Giovanni presented statistical figures showing a high percentage of missing information on BCH, the one that must be provided by countries. He also showed the change in records over the years 2005 and 2007 in different type of information categories.

## Session 2.6. Working groups: Finding information & Design of workshop agenda

**Facilitators:** O. Abd El Kawy & E. J. Sattout

The participants were distributed in groups to work on finding information exercise and to design workshops agendas targeting various stakeholders groups (Customs, Media, Public participation, etc.).

### Navigation meeting

Feedback from participants

1. What went well:

- Some issues raised the previous day were resolved
- Excellent communication between Resource Persons and participants
- Practical exercises on BCH were interesting
- Presentations, clear and easy to understand
- Enjoyed interactive discussions and games

2/3. What went wrong/improvements:

- Presentations made in English weren't clear for all participants – **Unfortunately not all presenters are bilingual, RAs available to make translations and clarifications.**
- Arabic translations not accurate- **Please highlight areas so changes can be made.**
- Many cables on the ground- **efforts will be made to have them covered up.**
- Arabic room still small- **unfortunately unable to find a replacement room but traffic into the room has been controlled.**

## DAY 3 – SCBD Tools for National Participation

**Primary Focus:** Introduction to Hermes and Ajax

### Session 3.1. Presentation of working groups results on the development of workshop agendas

**Facilitator:** E. J. Sattout

[See PPT]

### Session 3.2. Hermes: Introduction and functions

**Speaker:** O. Abd El Kawy

Mr. Abd el Kawy introduced the Hermes application. He presented the characteristics and mechanism of work. He then gave an overview on its application, the requirements for the equipments and programs and the benefits from using Hermes.



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## Session 3.3. Introduction to Ajax and discussion on improvements for Hermes & Ajax plug-in

**Speaker:** O. Abd El Kawy

Mr. Abd el Kawy introduced Ajax application with compatibility with national systems, maintenance, integration and adaptability.

## Session 3.4. Biosafety in the region

**Speaker:** Alex Owusu-Biney

Mr. Owusu-Biney presented the chronological facts describing the role of UNEP in biosafety at international and regional level. He gave an overview on the pilot activities undertaken as well as the primary strategy adopted. He described the 3 types of biosafety related projects among which the development of National Biosafety Framework (NBF), the implementation of NBF and the BCH projects. He went quickly on the components of NBFs, the tools available and the lessons learned. He also presented the NBF implementation projects, the participating country and the road map for GEF projects cycles.

## DAY 4 – REGISTERING INFORMATION ON THE BCH, OPTIONS FOR NATIONAL PARTICIPATION

**Primary Focus :** Reviewing options for national participation, Registering Information on the BCH, Fulfilling National Information Sharing Obligations

### Session 4.1. Working groups: Outstanding issues in the countries

**Facilitator:** E. J. Sattout

Participants were divided in three groups to work on the technical, political and administrative aspects of outstanding issues hindering the submission of information to the BCH.

The outcomes of the working group sessions are the following for the different groups:

#### 1. Technical aspect

##### Impediments

- Absence of information
- Absence of scientific competent laboratories
- Absence of expertise in the type of information to be submitted to the BCH
- Absence of national mechanism to submit information and which is agreed upon from the various stakeholders
- Absence of needed infrastructure to submit information to the BCH

##### Cause of impediments

- Lack in regulations and their applications
- Lack of awareness in the different institutions
- Lack of human and financial resources
- Absence of coordination between the various institutions

##### Solutions:

- Increase the degree of awareness (decision-makers, Academic institutions, local communities)
- Develop national legislations and promote its application
- Establish and operationalize a National Biosafety Committee
- Raise the needed funds to develop local capacities
- Establish a national database and a biosafety clearing house



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### 2. Administrative and political aspects

#### Impediments

- Current political situation hindering any advances in this field (this is restricted to few countries)
- Lack of political will to prioritize the biosafety issue
- Property right of information exclusive to institution and lack of cooperation and coordination on this matter
- Absence of clear Terms of reference for the institutions
- Delay in receiving information caused by the administrative routine resulting from a lack in the understanding of the BCH Central Portal role.
- Difficulty in sharing information and having control over these information especially in large countries having many ports of entry and in compliance with CPB obligations
- Unclear governmental policies for the sustainability of funds for the BCH

#### Causes

- Lack of awareness at the decision-making level
- Lack of awareness on the importance of national partnership
- Unclear Terms of Reference for each institution dealing with biosafety issues and the multidisciplinary of the biosafety issues make this complex
- Absence, delay, ineffective appointments of BCH-NFP
- Ineffective administrative structure in some countries and irresponsibility at the ports of entry
- Absence of political commitment from National Competent Authority and lack of understanding on the importance of the BCH

#### Solutions

- Increase awareness at decision-making level
- Effective participation in responsibility for managing biosafety information
- Review the competencies of ministries and build confidence and national partnerships
- Evaluate the adequate people who can be BCH-NFP and build their capacities on transparency and information sharing
- Intensive training for customs and control over the staff
- Visualize the incentives for Ministries to adopt a sustainable plan of funding through the participation in regional and international projects.

### Session 4.2. Exercise on Ajax plug-in

**Facilitator:** O. Abd El Kawy

Hands-on training on the Ajax plug-in application was done.

The nBCH of Yemen, Lebanon, Sudan and Egypt was surfed each by country's representative.

### Session 4.3. Searching and finding information: Case studies 21, 24 and 25

**Facilitators:** O. Abd El Kawy & E. J. Sattout

Ms. Sattout presented the case studies scenarios and guidance for their application through hands-on training.

**Case study 21:** A regulator in Japan has received a request to import potatoes from the Republic of Korea  
*You have just started working for a Competent Authority in Japan and have received a request to import potatoes from the Republic of Korea to be used as food and animal feed*



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1. What GM potatoes have been approved in the Republic of Korea that might be in the shipment?
2. Have the GM potatoes events that may be present in the shipment been approved for use as food in Japan?

### **Case study 24:** An inspection agent discovers an unapproved genetically modified crop

*You are the BCH focal point for Egypt. A government inspection agent has reported that they have discovered a crop of genetically modified flax (linseed) growing in the outskirts of Cairo, although the GM flax has been authorized for introduction into the environment in your country. Laboratory tests have determined that this crop is tolerant to the herbicide sulfonyleurea and a nearby university has confirmed that it recently imported some flax seeds from the University of Saskatchewan with the transformation event FP967 for the intent of laboratory use, without getting any approvals.*

*The Nature Conservation Sector of the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency has contacted the owners of the field and requested that the field be burned and samples will be taken from flax crops in the surrounding area.*

Your task is to fulfil any information sharing obligations you may have with the BCH.

### **Case study 25.** Registering information on decisions

*You are working for a Competent Authority and you have recently approved the attached decision to import herbicide tolerant cotton.*

Your task is to register this LMO, risk assessment and regulatory decision with the BCH

## **Session 4.4. Biosafety in the region [Session 3.4 Cont'd]**

**Speaker:** Alex Owusu-Biney

### **Intersession on National participation options: Questions & Discussions**

a. On the cost of management of option 3 and 4 :

Mr. Abd El Kawy revealed that the cost of the management of option 3 and 4 is too high and before the selection of these options countries must take into consideration if funds for that purpose can be secured.

b. On the mechanism and adaptability of Hermes and Ajax plug-in:

Mr. Abd El Kawy reiterated on the concepts of these two applications and made a demonstration on both applications.

c. On the regional BCH:

Ms. Mathur-Filipp made it clear that even if a regional workshop is established in the region, this will not exempt countries from providing the information required under the CPB obligations to the BCH Central Portal. She discussed the EU set up for the regional BCH, which is legalized and formal and EU countries can submit their information to the regional node.

### **Intersession on QQ & Answers**

**Facilitators:** O. Abd El Kawy & E. J. Sattout

This intersession has been an exercise to refuel the energy of participants and to refresh the participants' minds on issues related to CPB obligations and BCH operation and mandates.

### **Navigation meeting**

1. What went well?

- Some of the Arab group's recommendations were fulfilled
- RA successfully transferred knowledge
- Division into sub groups was useful
- Use of short questions
- Excellent discussions and participation leading to learning



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- Presentation on new applications was clear

2/3. What went wrong/Improvements:

None

### DAY 5 – WAY FORWARD, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLOSING

#### Session 5.1. Working groups: Sustainability

Three working group have been formed to work on the sustainability issues in their respective countries/region.

The following points were raised to ensure sustainability of the project activities after closure:

1. Fund raising
2. Develop a mechanism for sustainability of funds
3. Awareness at decision-making level for fund allocation
4. Certification of trainers to follow up on training of trainers process
5. Allocate 15 additional days for Regional advisors to support countries in their sustainability activities



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## Annex 1. Workshop agenda

### DAY 1: Introduction & Regional Experiences

**Primary Focus:** Status Update on Cartagena Protocol, Biosafety Clearing House Project, Countries' Implementation.

- 9:00 Plenary Session:** Opening speeches  
Ms. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, Dr. Giovanni Ferreiolo, Dr. Moustafa Fouda, Mr. Alex Owusu-Biney and UNDP Resident Coordinator.
- 10:00** Coffee Break
- 10:20** Objectives of the workshop, methodologies & participants expectations  
**Facilitators:** Oussama Abd El Kawy & Elsa J. Sattout
- 10:30** BCH Project: Update & Overview  
**Speaker:** E. J. Sattout
- 11:50** Lunch
- 13:20** Participation in BCH: Choice of options  
**Speaker:** O. Abd El Kawy
- 14:20** Intersession: Tasks for participants  
**Facilitator:** E. J. Sattout
- 14:30** Interactive Modules  
**Facilitators:** O. Abd El Kawy & E. J. Sattout
- 15:45** Navigation meeting

### DAY 2 – Obligations of Party to CP

**Primary Focus:** Obligations of a Party, searching information, Using New and Revised Training Materials

- 9:00** Navigation meeting feedback
- 9:10** Introduction of the Country obligations to the CPB  
**Facilitator:** E. J. Sattout & O. Abd El Kawy
- 10:30** Coffee break
- 10:45** BCH Project Closure  
**Speaker:** Mr. Prakash Bista
- 11:25** Introduction to Moodle  
**Speaker:** O. Abd El Kawy



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- 12:00 Intersession: QQ & Answers  
**Facilitator:** E. J. Sattout
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:15 BCH: Situation analysis  
**Speaker:** Giovanni Ferraiolo
- 15:15 Coffee break
- 15:30 Working groups: Finding information & Design of workshop agenda  
**Facilitators:** O. Abd El Kawy & E. J. Sattout
- 16:45 Navigation meeting

### DAY 3 – SCBD Tools for National Participation

**Primary Focus:** Introduction to Hermes and Ajax

- 9:00 Navigation meeting feedback
- 9:10 Presentation of working groups results on the development of workshop agendas  
**Facilitator:** E. J. Sattout
- 10:00 Hermes: Introduction and functions  
**Speaker:** O. Abd El Kawy
- 11:15 Coffee break
- 11:25 Introduction to Ajax and discussion on improvements for Hermes & Ajax plug-in  
**Speaker:** O. Abd El Kawy
- 11:45 Biosafety in the region  
**Speaker:** Alex Owusu-Biney
- 13:00 Lunch

### DAY 4 – REGISTERING INFORMATION ON THE BCH, OPTIONS FOR NATIONAL PARTICIPATION

**Primary Focus :** Reviewing options for national participation, Registering Information on the BCH, Fulfilling National Information Sharing Obligations

- 9:00 Working groups: Outstanding issues in the countries  
**Facilitator:** E. J. Sattout
- 10:00 Exercise on Ajax plug-in  
**Facilitator:** O. Abd El Kawy



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- 10:30** Coffee break
- 10:45** Searching and finding information: Case studies 21, 24 & 25  
**Facilitators:** O. Abd El Kawy & E. J. Sattout
- 12:15** Biosafety in the region [Session 3.4 Cont'd]  
**Speaker:** Alex Owusu-Biney
- 13:00** Lunch
- 14:15** Intersession on National participation options: Questions & Discussions
- 15:00** Intersession on QQ & Answers  
**Facilitators:** O. Abd El Kawy & E. J. Sattout
- 15:45** Coffee break
- 14:00** Intersession [Cont'd]
- 14:45** Navigation meeting

### DAY 5 – WAY FORWARD, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLOSING

- 8:00** Navigation meeting feedback
- 8:10** Working groups: Sustainability
- 9:30** Case study
- 10:00** Outstanding issues
- 10:25** Coffee break
- 10:40** Workshop evaluation
- 11:00** Workshop closure



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### Annex 3. Participants expectations

Name	Country	Expectations
Lara Samaha	Lebanon	Get to know BCH: information needed and use Building capacities
Abd El Hakim	Yemen	Finding information on BCH Building capacities on information exchange Learn about other experiences Know the training modules
Rashad	Libya	Know about BCH/BCH central portal Benefit from other countries experiences Problems faced and their solutions Finding information easily
Raed	Jordan	Exchange of experiences Know about the current status of Arab region Build capacities
Abd El Wahab	Egypt	Know about current status for the production and handling of GMO How BCH work Case studies on real situation Exchange of expertise
Khaled	Jordan	How to design the BCH website for each country Operate the information exchange mechanism in very simple way to enable all user profile to use and benefit
Hussein	Jordan	Know more about CPB Use of BCH especially those linked to import and export procedures Register information Build the nBCH Case studies on imports and exports procedures of LMOs
Mohamed	Mauritania	Information sharing mechanism between countries Make the issue more Taf3eel in all participating countries
A. M. H. Sherif	Egypt	Finding and search about information on BCH
Afrah	Yemen	Understand more the role of BCH Build capacity Benefit from other experiences
Abd Al Maula	Libya	Update on BCH project Constraints to be expected in each country concerning BCH operations Time management of BCH project implementations IT Alternatives for BCH
Nisrine	Sudan	How to benefit from BCH Biosafety in Arab region and in the world Exchange of expertise
M. Walad Sayed		New information on biosafety
Ali	Qatar	Know about the BCH project Other countries experiences and existing infrastructure Networking with other countries
Mohamed El Amin Walad Abdallah	Mauritania	Build capacities in research and registering information on BCH Obligations of countries



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## Annex 4. Navigation meetings daily reports

WHAT WENT WELL	WHAT WENT WRONG/IMPROVEMENTS
<b>DAY 1</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitators providing detailed explanations and information in Arabic</li> <li>• Insight into how different Arabic countries interpret terms</li> <li>• Acknowledge efforts to translating material into Arabic</li> <li>• Interactive modules</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Room for Arabic countries very small</li> <li>• Time and session management needs to be stricter</li> <li>• Increase the number of computers to one per participant. - Training was designed for two persons to share a computer so as to promote shared learning</li> <li>• Parallel dialogue in workshop, facilitators should be strict</li> </ul>
<b>DAY 2</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some issues raised the previous day were resolved</li> <li>• Excellent communication between Resource Persons and participants</li> <li>• Practical exercises on BCH were interesting</li> <li>• Presentations, clear and easy to understand</li> <li>• Enjoyed interactive discussions and games</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentations made in English weren't clear for all participants – <b>Unfortunately not all presenters are bilingual, RAs available to make translations and clarifications.</b></li> <li>• Arabic translations not accurate- <b>Please highlight areas so changes can be made.</b></li> <li>• Many cables on the ground- <b>efforts will be made to have them covered up.</b></li> <li>• Arabic room still small- <b>unfortunately unable to find a replacement room but traffic into the room has been controlled.</b></li> </ul>
<b>DAY 4</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some of the Arab group's recommendations were fulfilled</li> <li>• RA successfully transferred knowledge</li> <li>• Division into sub groups was useful</li> <li>• Use of short questions</li> <li>• Excellent discussions and participation leading to learning</li> <li>• Presentation on new applications was clear</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>



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### Annex 5. Workshop evaluation

#### Section 1. On the BCH

- a. Increasing understanding: 85% Very useful , 15% useful
- b. Understanding the option for public participation: 95% Very useful
- c. Understanding BCH in your region: Useful
- d. Understanding of Administrative procedures: 99% more than useful
- e. Understanding Hermes and Ajax plug-in: 95% between very useful and useful, 5% non useful
- f. Obligations for information sharing: Between very useful and useful
- g. Understanding on how to access the training resources: 100% Very useful

#### Section 2. General evaluation

- a. Importance of the workshop: 85 % very useful
- b. Organization of the workshop: 90% between useful and very useful
- c. Equilibrium between presentation and discussion: 90% between useful and very useful
- d. Presentation of the materials by the speakers: 85% Very useful
- e. Importance of the presence of Regional Advisors from the region: 100% Very useful
- f. General score for the workshop evaluation: Between useful and very useful

The most useful sessions of the workshop were:

- a. The case studies
- b. Hands-on training on finding, searching and registering information on the BCH
- c. Hermes and Ajax plug-in application
- d. Understanding the options
- e. Obligations of the CPB
- f. Questions and answers
- g. Platform to meet people with expertise in Biosafety and BCH
- e. Speaking Arab language during the workshop
- f. working group sessions

Less useful:

- a. Analysis of the present status of the BCH
- b. Negative points were the internet disconnection

Proposition for presenter:

- a. Focus on case studies application
- b. Better time management which was set in the second day

Proposition for organizers:

- a. Training workshop for Qatar
- b. Better choice of room
- c. More sub-regional training workshops
- d. Require from countries to send the right persons
- e. Benefit from Regional Advisors expertise even after the closure of the BCH project