

**MECHANISMS FOR NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND  
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND SYNERGIES OF  
PUBLIC AWARENESS, EDUCATION AND PARTICIPATION,  
INCLUDING ACCESS TO INFORMATION REGARDING  
LMOs/GMOs IN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS**

**Second Round Table on Public Awareness, Access to  
Information and Public Participation Regarding LMOs/GMOs.  
Geneva, 15 -17 November 2016**

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# Background

All laws and by-laws (projects) undergo public discussion before approval

Information on the project approval is posted on the institution website responsible for the project development and within **30 days** any public association or any individual can participate in the discussion.

## **Law “On Safety in Genetic Engineering Activity” of 9 January 2006, No. 96**

### **Article 23**

- Citizens and NGOs are guaranteed a right to complete, up-to-date and accurate information
- State administration bodies, legal persons and entrepreneurs provide information

Each individual application for release of GMOs into the environment shall undergo a procedure of public debates (**60 days**) by placing on the information site of the National Coordination Biosafety Centre of the Applicant data on risk assessment of possible adverse effects of genetically engineered organisms on human health and the environment, as well as risk management measures.



# National Cooperation - Main Stakeholders



**Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection**

**CBD NFP,  
CPB NFP**

**minpriroda.gov.by**

Training, Media  
BCH

Information shared



Information shared

Information collected

**Public**

Joint educational & Outreach Work

**National Coordination Biosafety Centre, NAS Belarus**

**1998**

**BCH NFP**

**biosafety.org.by**

**Aarhus Centre**

**aarhusbel.com**

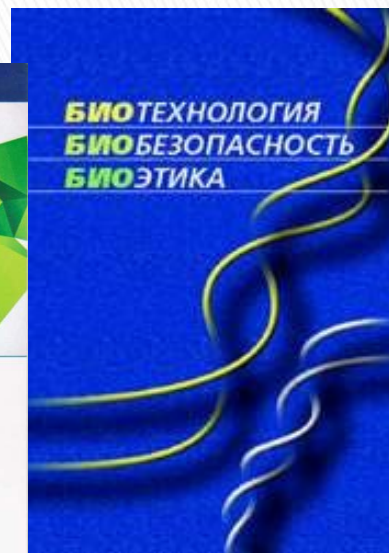
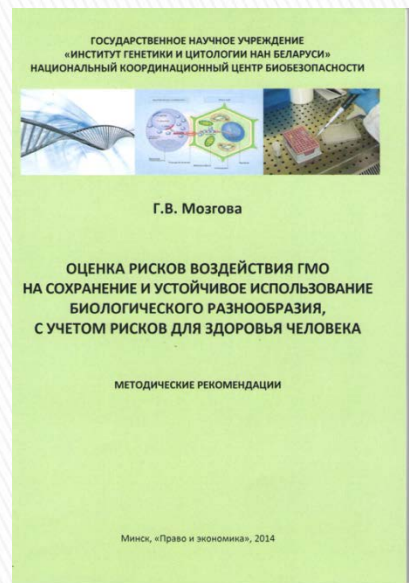
# The National Coordination Biosafety Centre (NCBC)

- Biosafety educational resources, including online modules, biosafety courses and educational articles

<http://biosafety.org.by/publications> and <http://biosafety.org.by/faq>

- Publications

- National methodological guidelines and study materials on biosafety issues





# NCBC web-site and National Database – Free access to everyone

The image shows a screenshot of the website biosafety.org.by. The browser's address bar shows the URL. The website header features the logo of the National Center for Biosafety (НКЦБ) and the title in Russian: "Национальный координационный центр биобезопасности". Below the header, there is a navigation menu with various categories. The main content area includes a welcome message in Russian, followed by a list of tasks and a list of news items. The date "Ноябрь 2015 г." is displayed. At the bottom, there is contact information for the center.

**Navigation Menu:**

- О центре
- Документы
- Законодательство
- Генно-инженерные организмы
- Оценка рисков
- Опытные площадки
- Лаборатории
- НКЦБ
- Портал для обнаружения ГМО
- Публикации
- Рецензии
- Конференции
- FAQ
- Новые биотехнологии
- Новые проекты
- Информация
- Ссылки

**Callouts (Green Boxes):**

- Legislation
- Risk Assessment
- LDGMO
- Books, articles, Guidelines
- FAQ
- Biosafety and Biotechnology News
- BCH
- CBD Projects with Seminars
- 10 Years of CBD
- GMO
- Trial Fields
- Portal for GMO detection
- Reviews
- Seminars
- UEP-GEF Projects with Seminars
- Nagoya Protocol
- On-line Forums

**Main Content:**

**Добро пожаловать на сайт Национального координационного центра биобезопасности Республики Беларусь**

Постановлением Совета Министров Республики Беларусь № 963 от 19 июня 1998 г. на Институт генетики и цитологии НАН Беларуси возложены функции Национального координационного центра биобезопасности. Для выполнения этих функций сформировано соответствующее структурное подразделение и создан его сайт.

Основными задачами сайта Национального координационного центра биобезопасности являются:

- предоставление информации о генно-инженерных организмах (ГИО) и безопасности генно-инженерной деятельности заинтересованным министерствам и другим республиканским органам государственного управления, юридическим лицам, средствам массовой информации;
- обеспечение права граждан и общественных объединений на получение информации в области биобезопасности;
- обмен информацией с координационными центрами биобезопасности других стран и международными организациями.

Ознакомиться с категориями информации, находящимися на сайте, можно в разделе **схема сайта**

**ВНИМАНИЕ: НОВАЯ ВАЖНАЯ ИНФОРМАЦИЯ**

**Ноябрь 2015 г.**

В Министерство природных ресурсов и охраны окружающей среды Республики Беларусь поступила заявка от «НАН Беларуси по земледелию» о проведении государственной экспертизы безопасности генно-инженерных организмов. Согласно Положения о порядке проведения государственной экспертизы безопасности генно-инженерных организмов, утвержденного постановлением Совета Министров Республики Беларусь от 2006 г. № 1160, Национальный координационный центр биобезопасности размещает информацию об оценке риска возникновения вредных последствий для здоровья человека и окружающей среды, обсуждению всеми заинтересованными лицами и организациями. Ознакомиться с материалами можно **ЗДЕСЬ**.

Свои отзывы, замечания и предложения просьба направлять в 60-дневный срок с момента публикации в Национальном координационном центре биобезопасности (НКЦБ) по адресу: 220072, Минск, ул. Академическая, 27. НКЦБ при Институте генетики и цитологии НАН Беларуси. Макеевой Елене Николаевне тел. +375 (17) 399-85-75, факс +375 (17) 284-19-17 e-mail [biosafety.by@gmail.com](mailto:biosafety.by@gmail.com)

Вход в систему

Технологии Google Переводчик

# National Cooperation –

## Implement National Strategic Plan for the Protocol

- Expert Safety Board for Genetically Engineered Organisms
- Based on Decision BS-V/16 of the COP-MOP

The name of the event	Responsible executors	Period of execution
<b>Strategic objective 2. Capacity building to implement obligations on the Protocol</b>		
<b>2.3.</b> Organizing and conducting seminars, round tables and trainings on biosafety issues.	NCBC, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Ministry of Agriculture and Food Ministry of Health, Mass Media, other interested organizations and individuals	2013-2020
<b>2.4.</b> Preparation of proposals on the inclusion of issues related to genetic engineering in the curricula and textbooks for institutions of special and higher education.	NCBC, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus	2015-2016

The name of the event	Responsible executors	Period of execution
<b>Strategic objective 4. Information exchange</b>		
<p>4.2. Development, approval and implementation of Rules on conduction and participation in discussions in the Internet and online conferences based on the NCBC platform, as well as for the BCH events.</p>	<p>NCBC, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Ministry of Health</p>	<p>2014-2020</p>

The name of the event	Responsible executors	Period of execution
<b>Strategic objective 5. Expanded access to the Protocol and collaboration</b>		
<p>5.2. Enhancing of international cooperation and collaboration through workshops, conferences in the field of biosafety.</p>	<p>NCBC, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection</p>	<p>2013-2020</p>



# Joint Cooperation For Capacity-building in the Field of Awareness and Public Education





# Regional and International Cooperation

## - Capacity-Building

### **UNEP-GEF National Project**

**“Development of  
the National  
Biosafety  
Framework for the  
Republic of  
Belarus”  
(2003-2004)**

National Biosafety  
Framework, including  
mechanisms of public  
participation, was  
developed

### **UNEP-GEF National Project**

**“Capacity-  
building for  
Effective  
Participation in  
the Biosafety  
Clearing-House”  
(2006-2007)**

Specialists trained,  
effectively use BCH  
materials, participate  
in BCH and provide  
advice to public how  
to use website  
facilities

### **UNEP-GEF National Project Consultations from CBD Secretariat during Seminars**

**Second (2011)  
and Third (2015)  
National  
Reports  
including 5  
consultative  
Seminars with  
all Stakeholders**

Good practices  
were revealed,  
Gaps was identified  
plan of actions is  
scheduled

# Regional and International Cooperation

## - Capacity-Building

### CEI

#### Regional Project

Consultations from CBD Secretariat during the Seminar

«Public Participation in Biosafety Issues»,  
2013

Good practices on the CEI Regional as well as on the Sub-regional levels revealed, gaps was identified and agreement on collaboration was achieved

### CBD Secretariat

With support of the Government of Japan

Consultations from CBD Secretariat during the Seminar

“Capacity-building to Promote Integrated Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Convention on Biological Diversity at the National Level”, including round table and seminar, 2016

Gaps was identified, plan of actions is scheduled



# International, Regional and National Cooperation - Challenges, Gaps and Future Actions

## **1. NCBC:**

Need to modify online forums and develop online training modules and webinars on GMOs/biosafety issues.

## **2. NCBC and the Aarhus Center:**

- Strengthen the interaction of public awareness and participation on biosafety issues.
- Mandatory participation in seminars.
- Utilize the "Green Information Network" and Aarhus Center participation in online forums.

## **3. CBD Pilot Project on Mainstreaming Biosafety with Biodiversity:**

Round table and seminar identified:

- Lack of integration of biosafety into biodiversity programmes related to Article 23 and the Programme of Work on PAEP.
- A need for more time to plan for and prepare for interdepartmental information exchange and mainstreaming.

## Critical Priority Activities/Areas:

- ✓ Regular seminars for individuals involved in decision-making and professionals of departmental institutions engaged in biosafety and biodiversity conservation issues to inform on the implementation of activities, included the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), and if necessary adjusting them.
- ✓ Encourage public involvement of biosafety issues in the discussions related to the environmental protection.
- ✓ Harmonize legislative frameworks and promote regional cooperation, including Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).
- ✓ Financial, technical and human resources to support to implement Article 23 and the Programme of Work (also PAEP components of a Strategic Plan) as well as the GMO Amendment (e.g. framework of GEF-7 as a priority, sharing information, training activities)



# Recommendations

- Recommend extending the SCBD/PAEP Programme of Work at COP-MOP 8 to set in place relevant mechanisms.
- Recommend adoption of the priority areas/activities of the Programme of Work (COP-MOP 8) that prepares Parties for collaboration, capacity-building and mainstreaming to promote Article 23.
- Work with national, regional and international stakeholders as the Aarhus Centers, CPB and Aarhus Convention to fully implement Article 23 and its Programme of Work as well as the GMO Amendment of the Aarhus Convention (e.g. developing technical information materials and training).
- Develop and strengthen advisory mechanisms to receive assistance from international biosafety organizations as well as mechanisms of regional and sub-regional collaboration.

**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION !**

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