



CASE STUDY 18:

An academic institution registering a biosafety course and workshop.

Objective:

To register an biosafety course and a week-long workshop with the Biosafety Clearing-House.

References:

BCH Training site: <http://bchtraining.cbd.int>

BCH Module 6: Using the Management Centre

BCH Module 8: Sharing Biosafety Information

Scenario:

Optional alternative: If you or your organization has an existing biosafety course, workshop or conference, during this exercise you may wish to register your own programs instead of using the scenarios outlined below.

As a university lecturer in Slovenia, you are keen to publicize information about a new biosafety curriculum your university is offering, to help attract international students. You are offering both a new course that forms part of a post-graduate degree program, and a capacity-building workshop that will be convened by the university. You decide to register both programs with the BCH. Descriptions of both programs are attached.

Extra work: If time permits, you may wish to carry out additional work:

Attach the conference advertisement below to your record (if you do not have an electronic copy of the text, please ask your instructor).

(a) Environmental Safety of Agricultural Biotechnology – Course
Curriculum

Title: International Course in Environmental Safety of Agricultural Biotechnology

Organized by: Univerza v Gorica – Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics

Course Rationale: The new and emerging tools of biotechnology offer significant opportunities to enhance agricultural productivity, food and nutritional security, and environmental quality. Many countries have already developed and are commercializing genetically engineered transgenic crops. Others are undertaking biotechnology research and development programs and importing products of biotechnology.

However, the import and use of biotechnology products have raised a number of international regulatory issues related to risk/benefit analysis associated with biodiversity, the environment, and human health. Managing environmental and food safety risk-assessment and management becomes increasingly critical as we move from laboratory research to research field trials and large-scale commercial releases of biotechnology products.

When new transgenic crops are ready to be tested in the environment, national and institutional biosafety committees must first conduct a biosafety review of the planned release. To ensure that that scientists, regulators and decision makers have the science-based information, skills, and resources required to appropriately evaluate the biosafety issues inherent in the release of a particular genetically modified organism to the environment, Univerza v Gorica will be offering a single semester course in the Environmental Safety aspects of Agricultural Biotechnology as part of its Biosafety Masters Program. Graduate students, and professionals with relevant experience are welcome to attend – students not taking the course as part of the Masters Program will receive a Certificate of Completion on passing the final exam.

Course Description: The course is offered in the first semester of each year. It will give participants a thorough grounding in all aspects of biosafety for environmental release and commercialization of genetically engineered organisms. It covers the theory and practice of environmental risk assessment and management, and communication of benefits and risks of agricultural biotechnology applications. The program also provides practical experience in biosafety evaluation through the real world case studies covering a diverse group of genes, crops, and possible environmental considerations. The course will be run in English and Slovene, and the class size is limited to 80 students.

Further information: Please visit the course website for more details:

<http://www.univerzagorica.si/biosafety>

Registration:

Please Contact:

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Univerza v Gorica

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SI-5000 Nova Gorica, Slovenia

Phone: 386 – 5 331 1234

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Application Deadline: 30 June of the year preceding the course.

Registration Fee: USD\$100

Course Fee: USD\$2,000

(b) Biosafety 2008: Best Practices in Biosafety Training – Workshop Advertisement

10-14 December 2008

Nova Gorica, Slovenia

Biosafety 2008: Best Practices in Biosafety Training

An international workshop organized by Univerza v Gorica

Workshop Agenda:

- Running Short courses
- Using institutional training grants
- Establishing unmet training needs

About the Workshop:

This workshop will focus on lessons learned and best practices in biosafety and biosecurity training events. Academic personnel, communications officers and others working in biosafety capacity-building would benefit from this workshop by sharing their experiences and learning from international best practices.

This workshop will include keynote presentations by regional and international experts as well as presentations by members of the Slovenian scientific community. (All conference proceedings will be in English.)

Closing date for applications:

30 May 2008

Funding:

Applicants that are citizens of the European Union may apply for a grant to cover their travel and accommodation for the duration of the workshop.

There is no registration fee, but places are limited.

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TRAINER NOTES

Training Objective:

Users to experience the process of using the Management Centre to create new Biosafety Course and Capacity-Building Opportunity records.

Requirements:

A BCH account, registered as a general user, capacity-building organization or government.

Notes:

Users can work singly or in small groups for this exercise.

Participants should log-on using their own account through the training site.

Participants may register their own records, or use the samples provided.

If time is limited, consider doing only one of scenario (a) or (b), depending on the interests of the participants in the class.

At the end of the exercise, the instructor will need to validate completed records so that participants can access them through the Biosafety Information Resource.

Additional tasks (without answer key) are provided for users who finish the exercise quickly, which cover attaching documents to a record. Students will need an electronic copy of the case study question document to complete this additional task.