



CASE STUDY 8:
A research scientist looks for information about commercially available transgenic insect resistant cotton varieties

Objective:

Use the BCH Central Portal to access information that might be needed for scientific research.

References:

Biosafety Protocol

BCH Module 4: Finding Information in the BCH Central Portal

COP-MOP Decision BS-V/2 (1a)

Scenario:

A research scientist in South Africa has developed a new and, as yet, unapproved transgenic insect resistant cotton event. In order to evaluate the efficacy of her new event, the scientist wants to undertake experimental field trials in South Africa that will include other commercially available, insect resistant, transgenic cotton varieties. As she is not sure what options are open to her she seeks information to answer the following questions:

1. What other available insect resistant cotton events could the scientist use in her field trials, preferably commercially available varieties?
2. Are there any cotton events that the scientist can import without triggering the Advance Informed Agreement? What procedures should she follow to import these varieties if they exist?

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TRAINER NOTES

Training Objective:

Find relevant information by searching multiple databases on the BCH.

Requirements:

Access to the BCH.

Notes:

- This scenario is more about an illustration of the effectiveness of the BCH as a search engine for gathering information on LMOs in trade and is not intended to highlight the transboundary movement of LMOs and Article 11 (1) of the Biosafety Protocol. In this case, the scientist will also have to research her country's local laws regarding biotechnology and biosafety.
- This case study illustrates problems that can occur when records are not registered correctly with the database – a problem inherent in any distributed system. It is very important to explain why different search strategies designed to recover the same information from the BCH can produce different results and to emphasize the importance of ensuring consistency and quality in any information that may be posted to the BCH. This is a good opportunity to reference the common formats (<http://bch.cbd.int/resources/commonformats.shtml>) and the thesaurus (<http://bch.cbd.int/resources/thesaurus/>).
- Other search strategies could also be discussed, for example starting with Decisions database.
- It is a good opportunity to discuss the COP-MOP Decision BS-V/2 (1a) that reminds Parties to register with the BCH summaries of risk assessment on intentional introductions of LMOs into the environment **for field trials** regardless on whether or not the LMO will be subjected to future transboundary movements or commercialization.