



# International Workshop of GMO-analysis networking

## 8 – 9 April 2013

### JRC Ispra (VA) Italy

Regional meetings – Region MENA

- Heterogeneous region
- Heterogeneous needs;
  - detection capabilities
  - Regulations and legislations



## *State of GMO detection in MENA region*

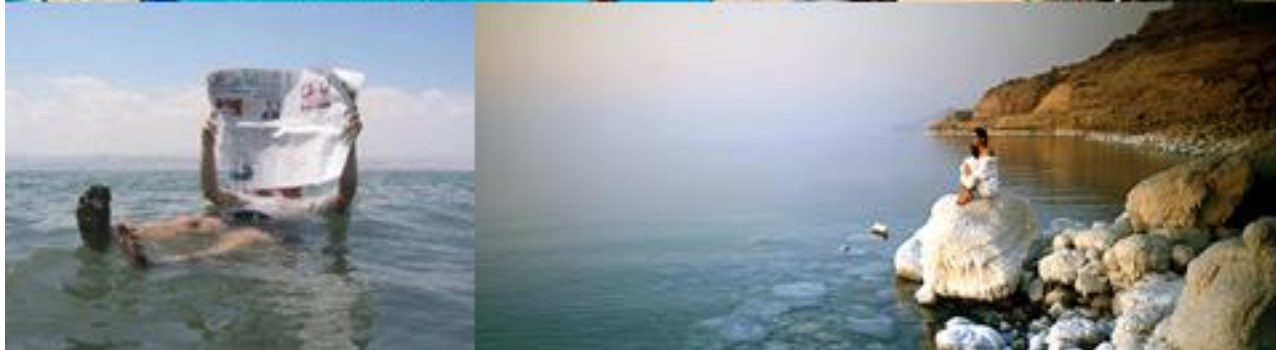
Countries	Cartagena Protocol	CBD
Algeria	2000	1992
Bahrain	2012	1992
Egypt	2002	1992
Iran	2001	1992
Iraq	-	2009
Jordan	2000	1992
Kuwait	-	1992
Lebanon	-	1992
Libya	2005	1992
Mauritania	2005	1992
Morocco	2000	1992
Oman	2003	1992
Pakistan	2001	1992
Qatar	2007	1992
Saudi Arabia	2007	2001
Sudan	2005	1992
Syria	2004	1993
Tunisia	2001	1992
United Arab Emirates	-	1992
Yemen	2006	1992

- Although the 20 countries of MENA region signed the CBD of which 16 countries signed Cartagena Protocol on bio-safety, *there is a need for further work in the direction of enactment of laws and legislation.*

## ***State of GMO detection in MENA region***

- Some countries in the region have high excellence Biotech laboratories; however, the capacity building in GMO detection is limited.
  - full technical expertise in GMO detection and the evolving methodologies and practices;
  - standardized procedures for the management of GMOs at various ports of entry;
  - trained staff in GMOs detection and monitoring;
  - equipment and containment facilities; and
  - technical information or access to information in Arabic as a preferred language

# ***Networking and Harmonization in MENA Region***



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الجمعية العلمية الملكية  
Royal Scientific Society

## **1<sup>st</sup> International Workshop on Harmonization of GMO Detection and Analysis in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region**

**4-5 June 2012**

*Fourteen Countries from MENA region*

Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya,  
Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunis, UEA.

*European Commission/Joint Research Center*

Belgium, Germany, Italy

*African Union Commission*



# 1<sup>st</sup> International Workshop on Harmonization of GMO Detection and Analysis in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region



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- As a result of this workshop, it has been agreed that
  - organizing future workshops in collaboration with JRC to enhance capacity building related to GM detection, legislation and labeling implementation is a necessity for the MENA region.
  - the plan of action for workshop's participants should be developed to address technical issues and identify countries, sub-regional and regional priorities relating to GMO detection and analysis.
  - a regional coordinator was assigned to work together with the workshop's participants to develop an action plan based on the agreed priorities;
  - governments of the region should be engaged to develop activities towards implementing harmonized legislations for GMO detection and labeling.



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- Bahrain
- Egypt
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- UAE





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*Discussion point:*

*1. Forthcoming regional technical challenges for GMO analysis*

- Harmonization of approaches and strategies
- Accreditation of laboratories



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*Discussion point:*

#### *2. Regional needs to meet these challenges*

- Funding (Qatar Foundation, KISR, KAUST, ASTF)
- Harmonize criteria for accreditation  
e.g. flexible vs. fixed scope
- Quality management team



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*Discussion point:*

### *3. Road map / Prioritisation of necessary actions*

- Networking
  - Formulate a nucleus for the region through establishment of database
  - Select country coordinators to identify technical status, needs, priorities in each country
- Initiating a regional screening project
  - Gain of experience
  - Publication
  - Influencing policies and national strategies



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*Discussion point:*

*4. Next steps at regional level / training needs that JRC could help to meet*

- Training needs to establish accreditation according to ISO 17025
- Hands on for the new approaches and strategies
- Short and mid-term training for students, technicians and research assistants at EURL and/or in the region



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*Discussion point:*

*5. Identification of up to 3 regional representative(s) as contact person(s)*



Thank  
you

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