International Workshop on: GMOs: Biosafety and Regulation (25 October 2023)

Risk Communication &

Biosafety Clearing House (BCH)

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Biotechnology & Biosafety

Modern Biotechnology play an important role in development and progress of human life, it has many applications in medicine, industry, environment, agriculture and so on. However potential risks are also associated with the application of modern biotechnology and genetically modified organisms. Therefore adequate safety measures has to be developed at national and international level.

Cartagena protocol on Biosafety

CPB is the first legally binding agreement for ensuring the safe transfer, handling and use of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) from modern biotechnology which may have adverse effect on biological diversity and human health. It was adopted in January 2000 and entered into force on 11 Sep. 2003. So far 173 countries and EU are parties to the protocol. CPB has 40 articles and 3 annexes.

Important Articles

Article15: Risk Assessment

Article16: Risk Management

Article 20: Information sharing and BCH

Article 23: Public Awareness and

Participation

Article 15: Risk assessment

Risk assessment is covered in Article 15.

Based on this article RA should be done case by case based on the latest and reliable scientific information in order to identify:

- 1) the hazard
- 2) probability of occurrence of that hazard (Risk) and;
- 3) Its Consequences (their impacts on biological diversity, Environment and human health).

Article 16: Risk Management

• Risk management which is covered in article 16 involves the evaluation of risks and identification of procedures to avoid or minimize the impact of the risk which may include monitoring and surveillance activities.



Risk Assessment

Risk Management

Scientific advisory committees

Risk

Communication

Stakeholders & Public

Risk Communication

Risk communication involves interactive exchange of information and opinions throughout the risk analysis process. It should involve not only risk assessors and risk managers, but also public as consumers and a wide range of other actual and potential stakeholders.

Article 23 PUBLIC AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION

- The Parties shall:
- Promote and facilitate public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer handling and use of LMOs

Risk Communication

• Risk communication should be clear, understandable, complete, honest and reliable and should build trust among all interested parties, and should influence the final decisions. Therefore stakeholder participation in decision making is a requirement of Risk Communication.

Sources of information

- •Media (TV, radio, newspapers,...)
- Journals, Brochures and bulletin,
- Social media
- Workshops & Seminars
- Public meetings especially involving local and indigenous people
- Official Websites: ISAAA, ICGEB, Codex, and OECD

Article 20 Information sharing and the Biosafety Clearing House

Biosafety Clearing House was established under Article 20 of the biosafety protocol in order to:

- a) Facilitate the exchange of scientific, technical, environmental and legal information on and experience with LMOs,
- b) Assist parties to implement the protocol taking into account the special needs of developing country parties.

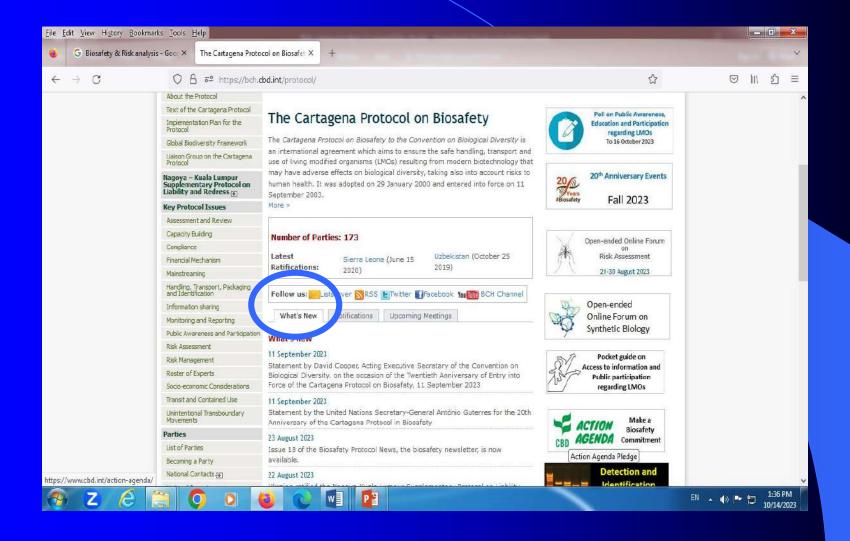
Biosafety Clearing House

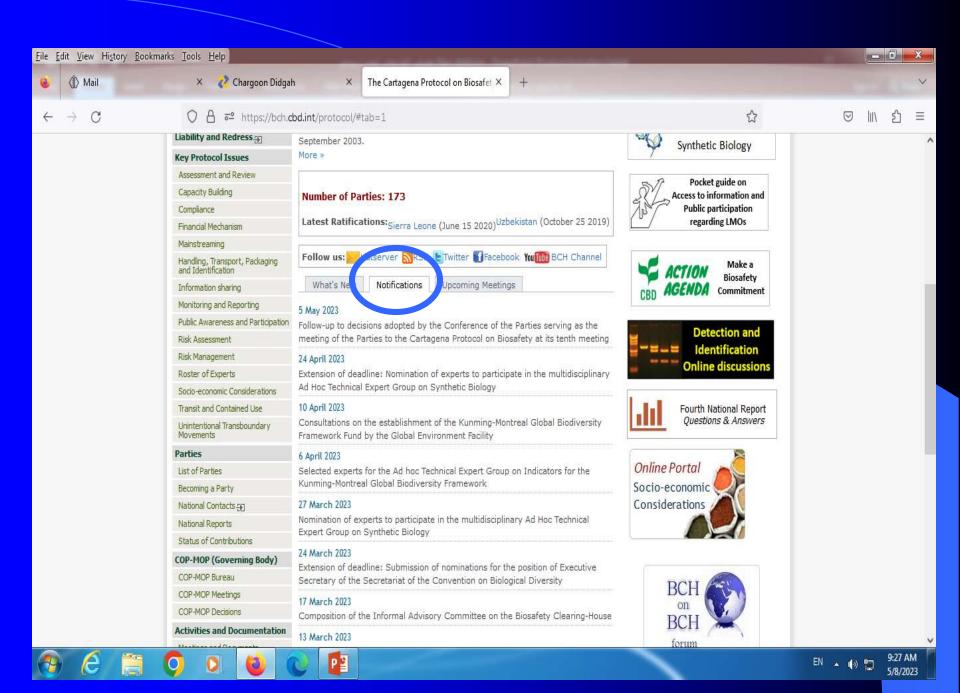
BCH contains reliable information because they are registered by BCH national focal points who are designated formally by governments. Each party should nominate and introduce a person as the National focal point of BCH to the CPB. After being confirmed by the secretariat a login name and password is given to him.

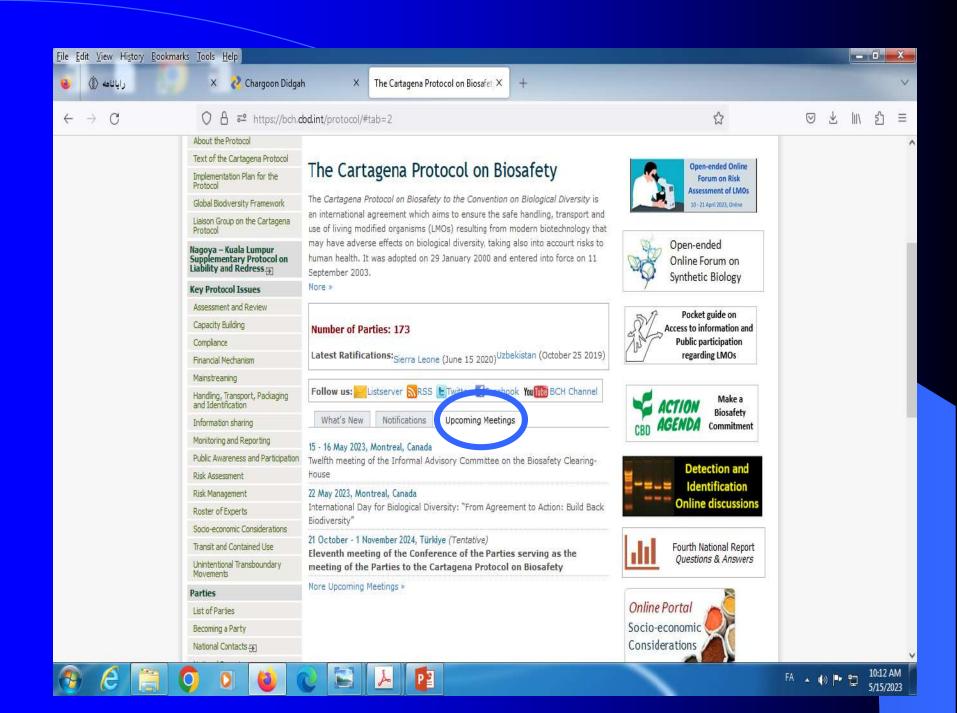
Address of the BCH website is https://bch.cbd.int/.

To enter the BCH we could enter through the Protocol website (https://bch.cbd.int/protocol)

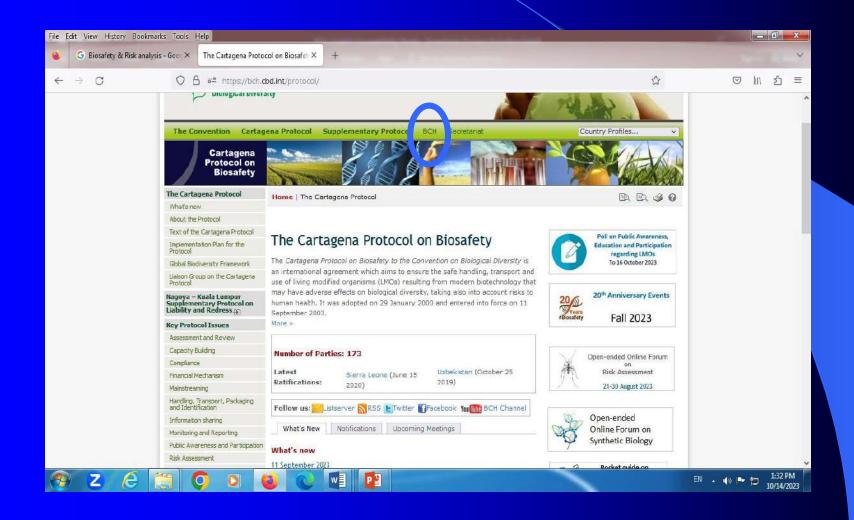
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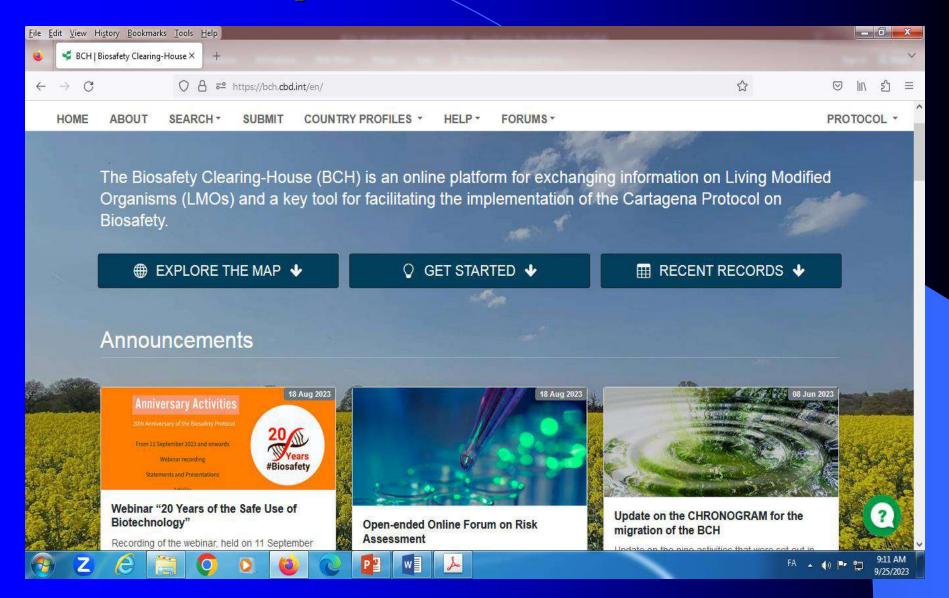


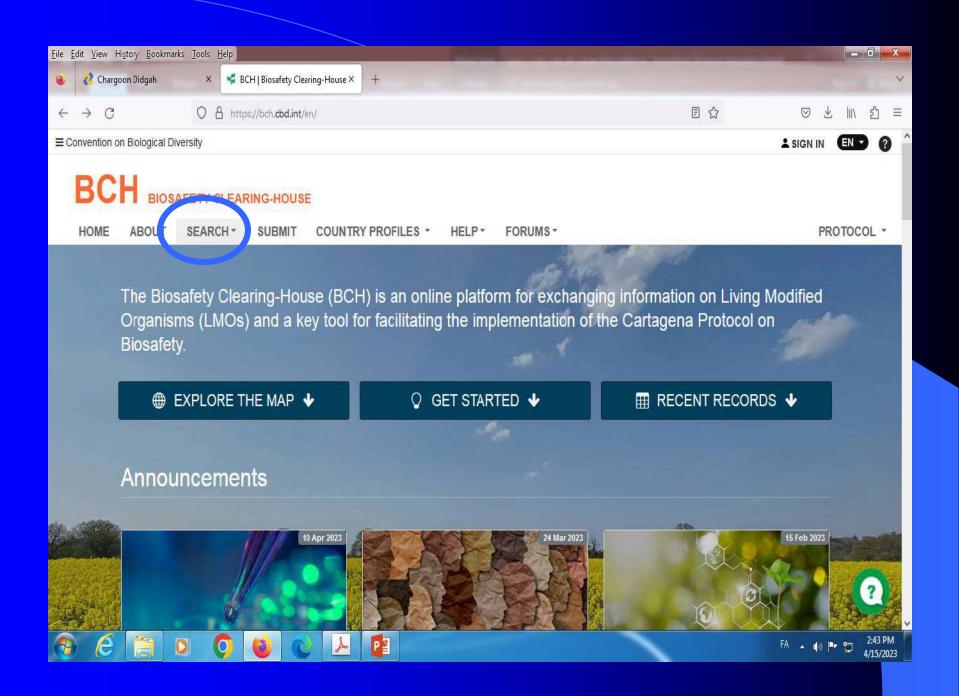


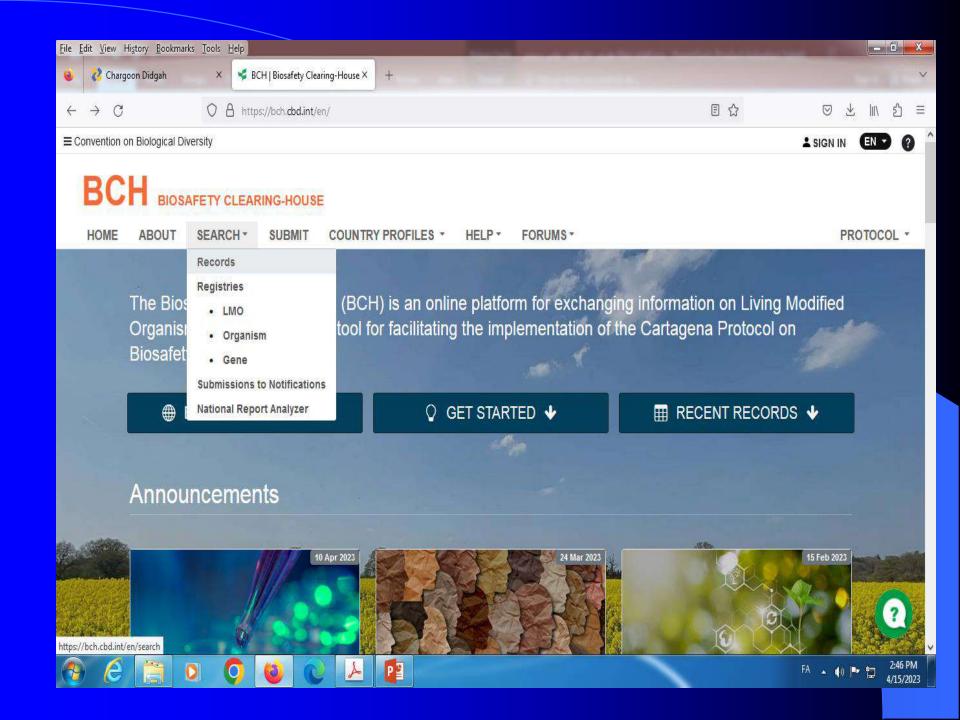
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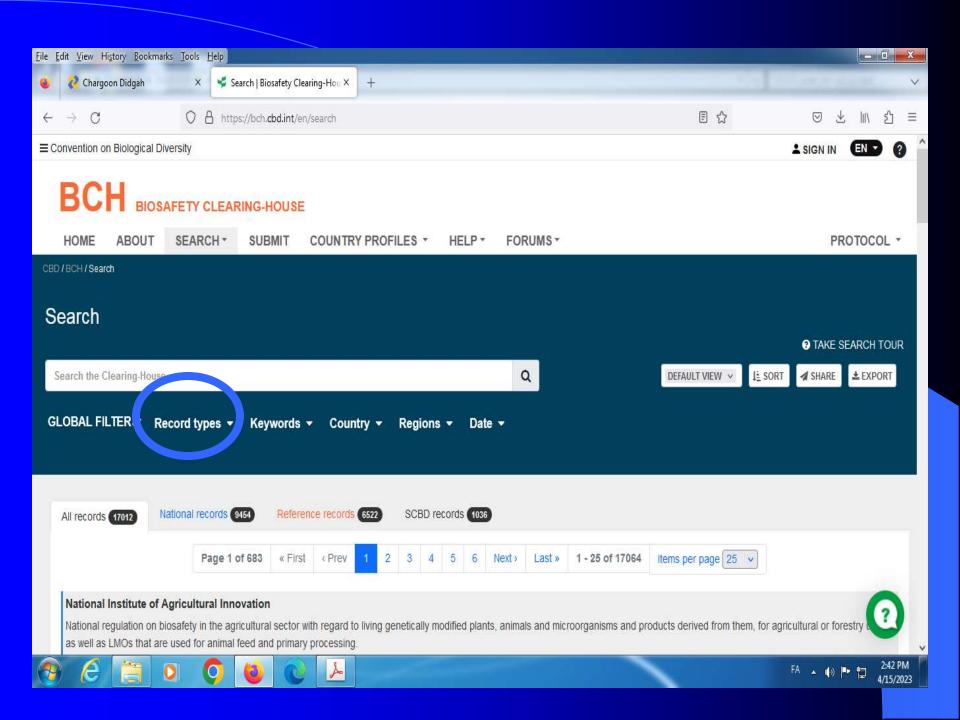


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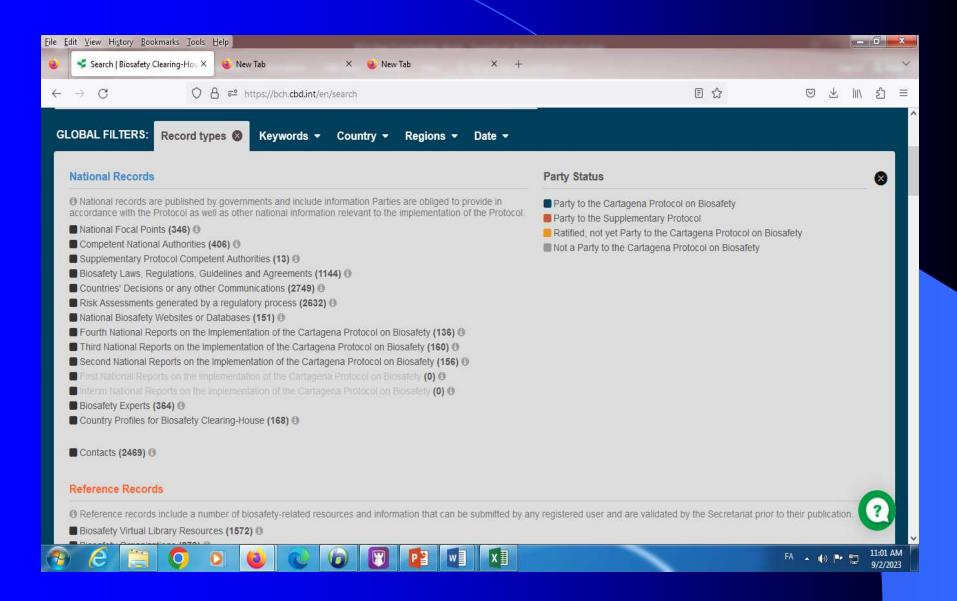




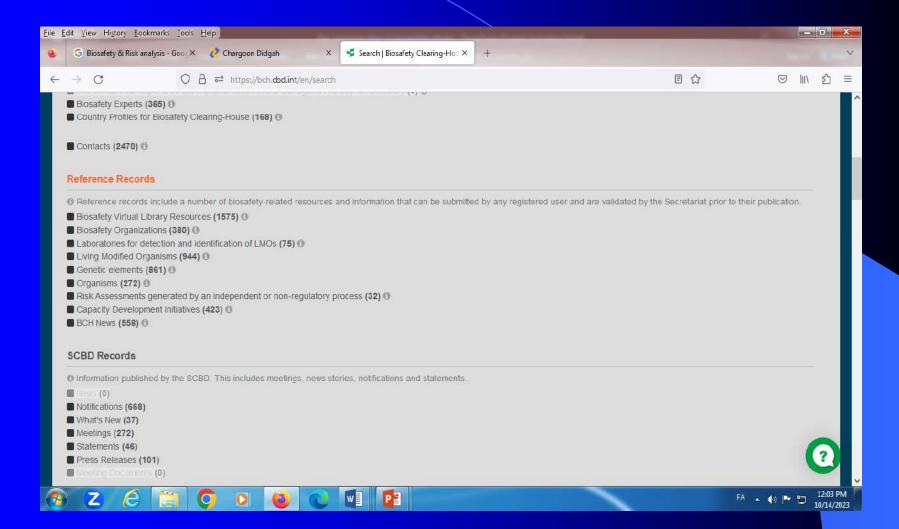




National Records



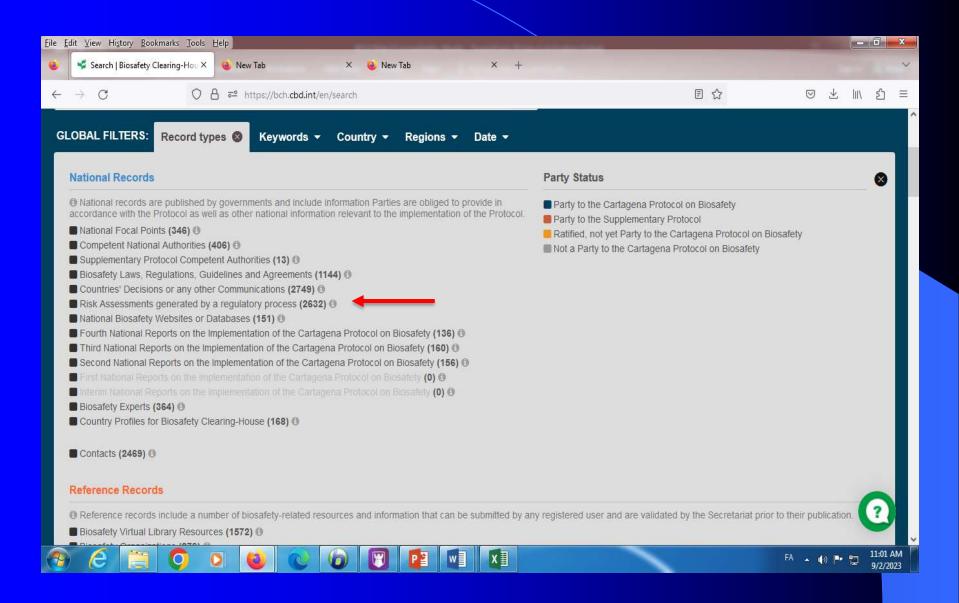
Reference Records

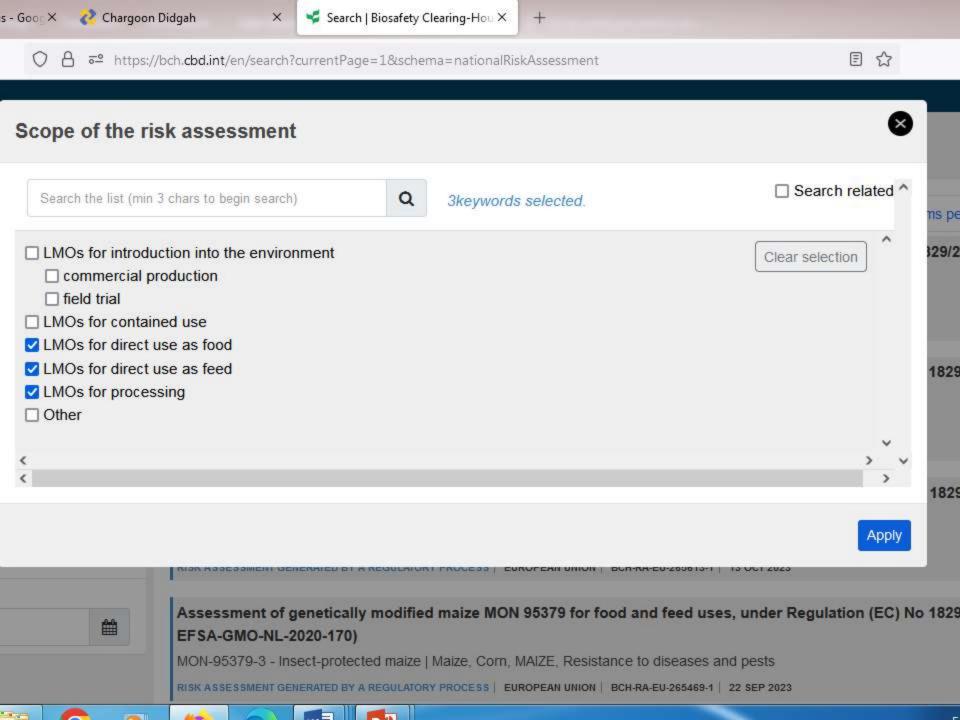


Number of Records in BCH

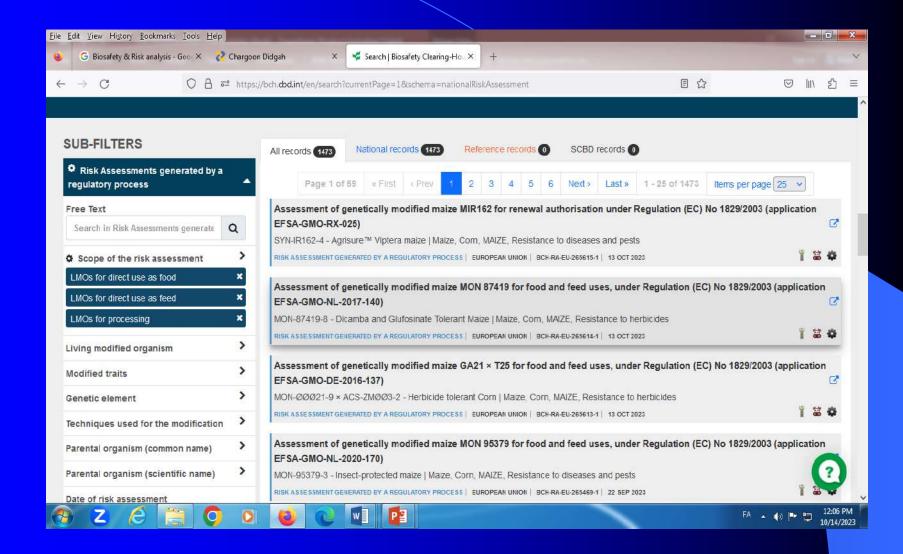
There are about 16,000 records in the BCH, including about 2600 risk assessment records.

Risk Assessment Records

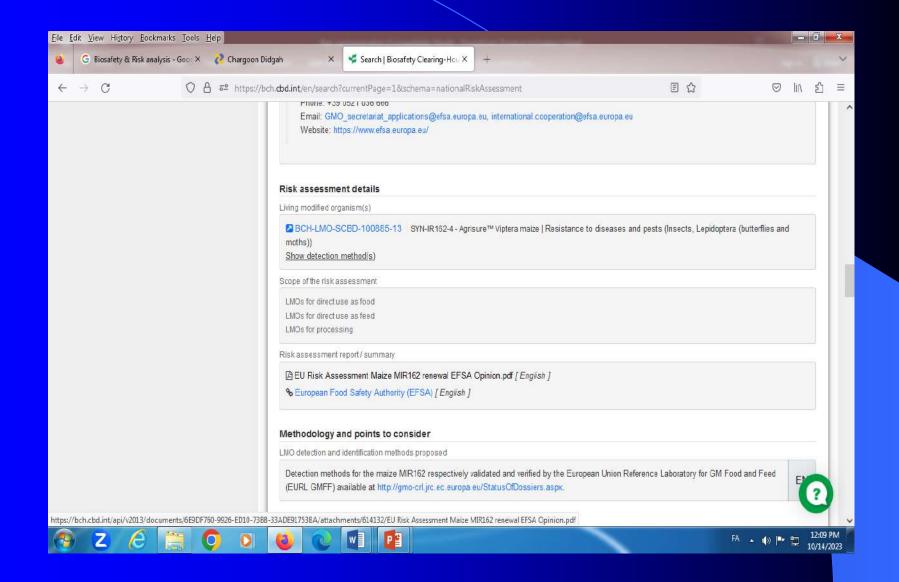




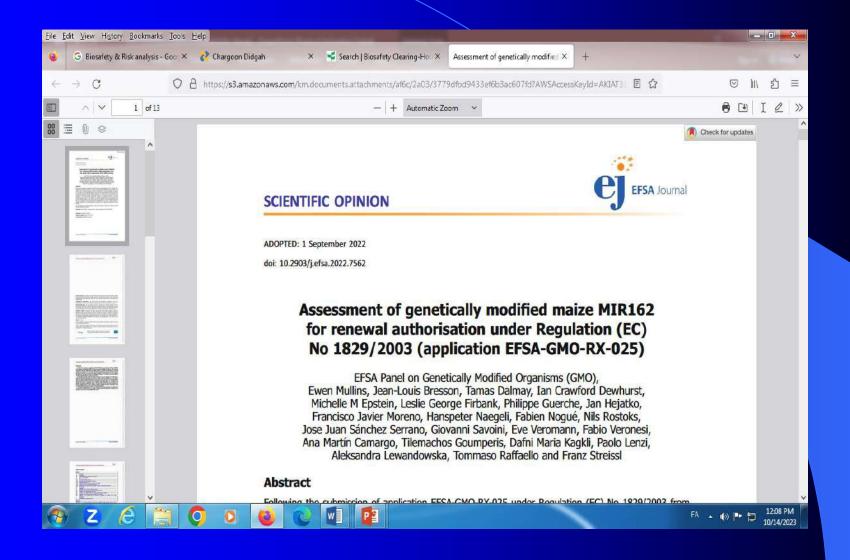
Risk assessment records



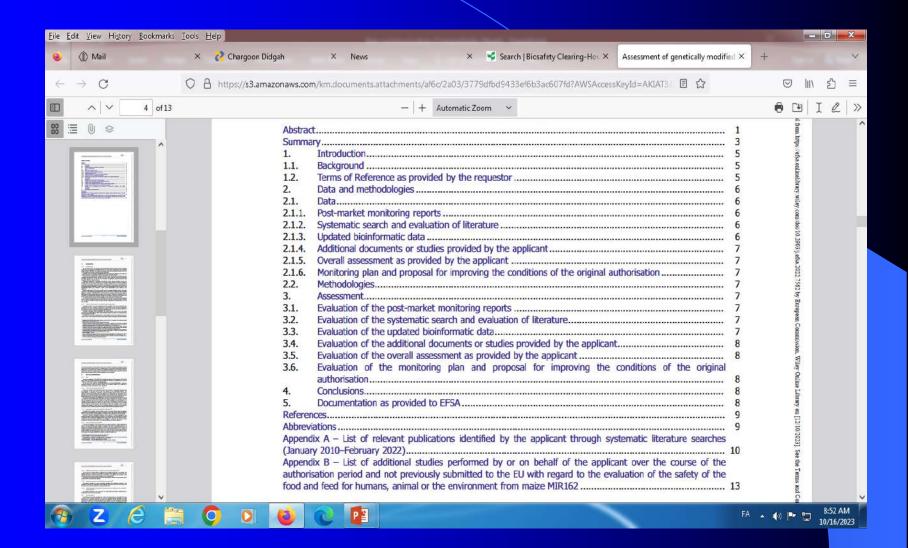
Risk assessment reports



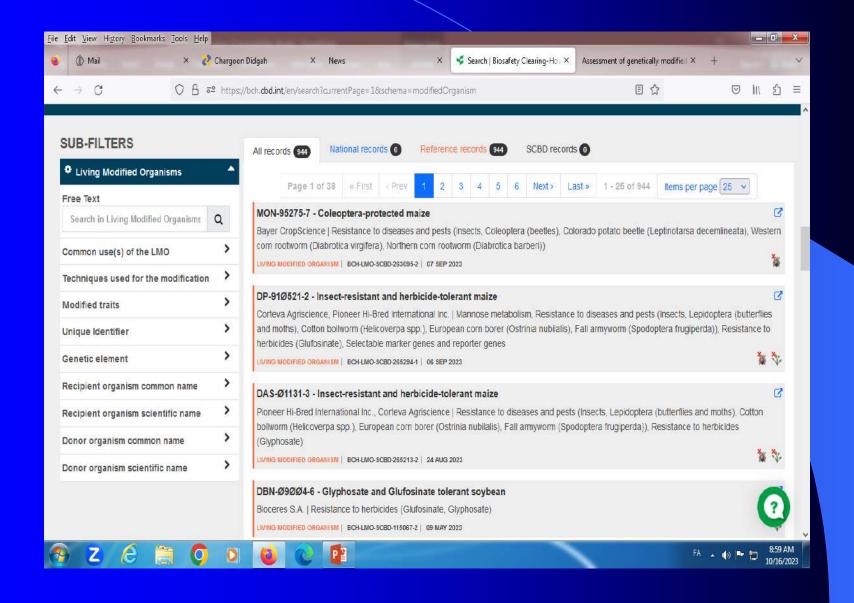
Risk assessment reports



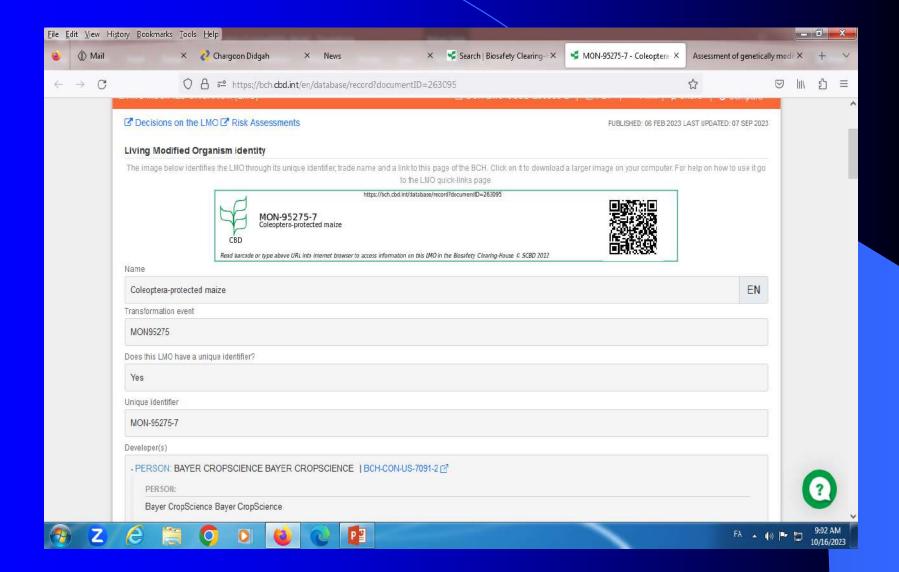
Risk assessment reports



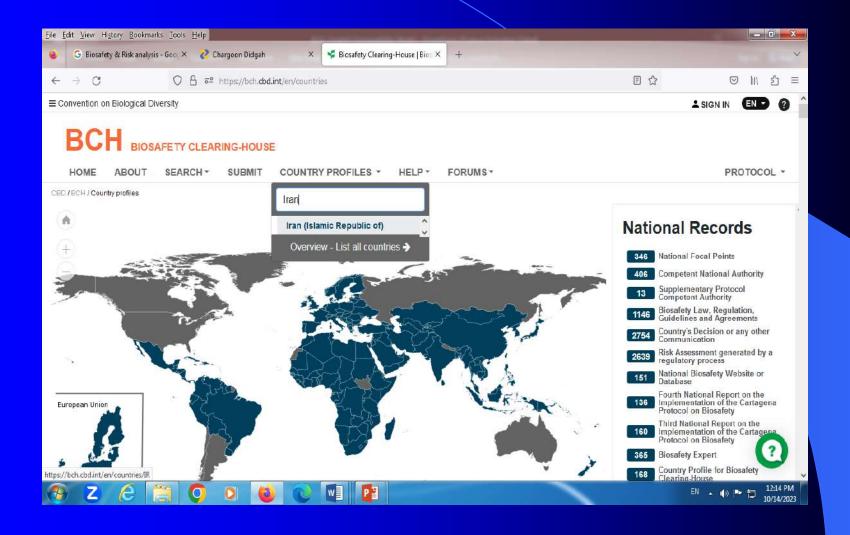
Living Modified Organisms

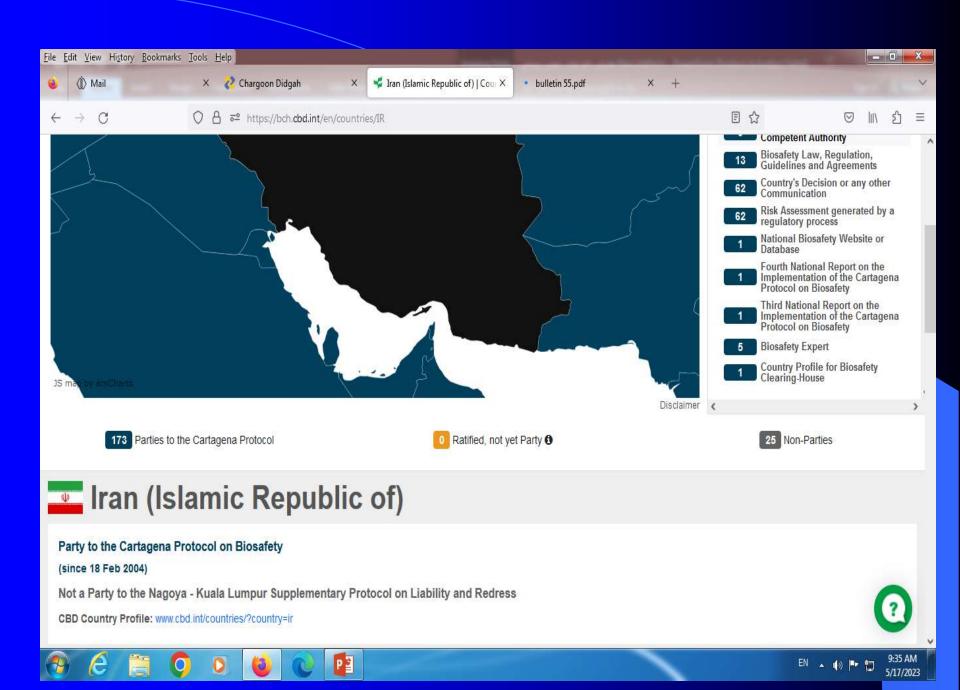


Living Modified Organisms



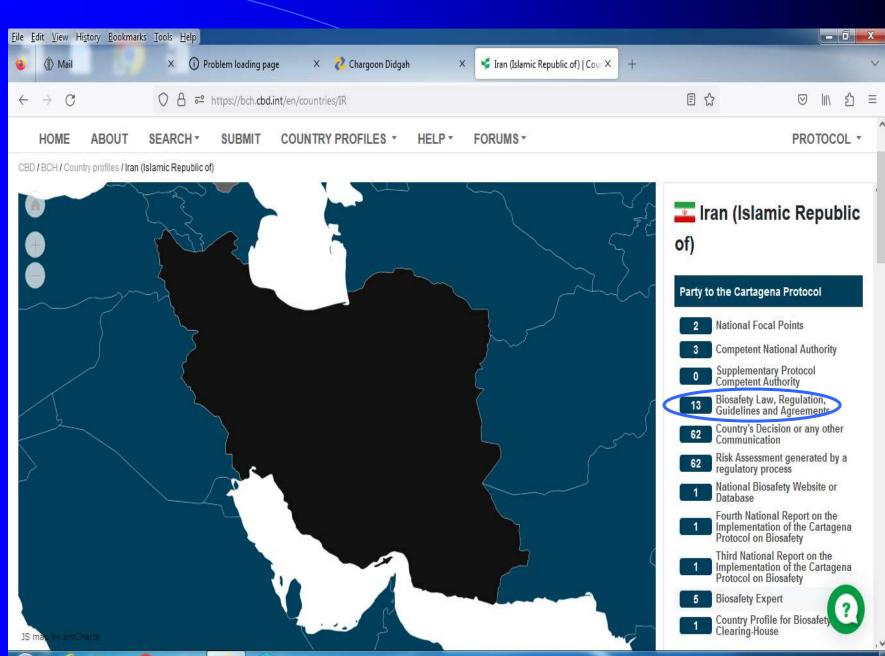
Country Profile





Islamic Republic of Iran

- Signed the CPB on 23 April 2001,
- Ratified the CPB on 20 November 2003,
- Is a party to the protocol since 18 Feb.
 2004.
- Iran Biosafety Law was approved on 29 July 2009 and entered into force on 27 August 2009.



BCH Capacity Building Project

- Due to the important role of the BCH in implementation of the protocol the UNEP-GEF capacity building project for effective participation of the in the BCH was approved by the GEF. 130 countries including I.R. Iran participated in this project.
- National Institute of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology which has the responsibility of BCH since 2003 applied for the project.

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

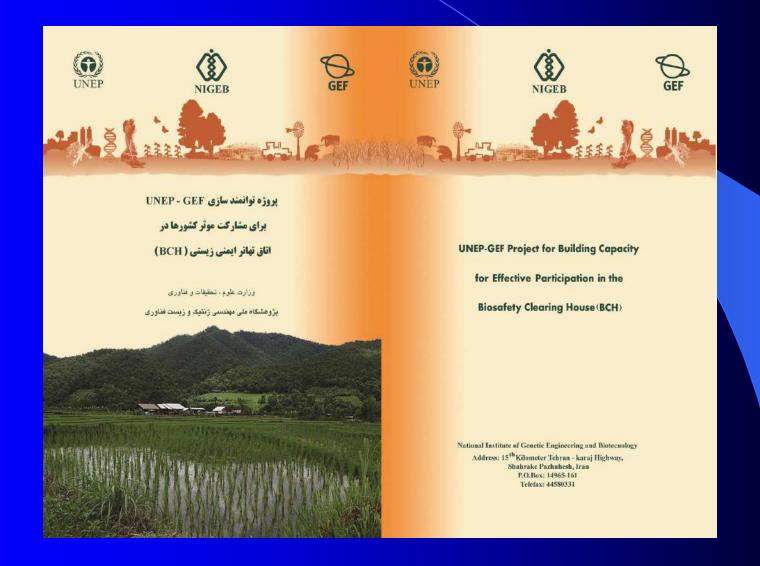
- Start Date : August 2008
- End Date: August 2009
- Establishment of BCH task force consisting of representatives from Ministry of Science, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Commerce, and Department of Environment and held the meetings

Outcomes Project

1- Holding three National workshops



2- Publication of BCH Booklet



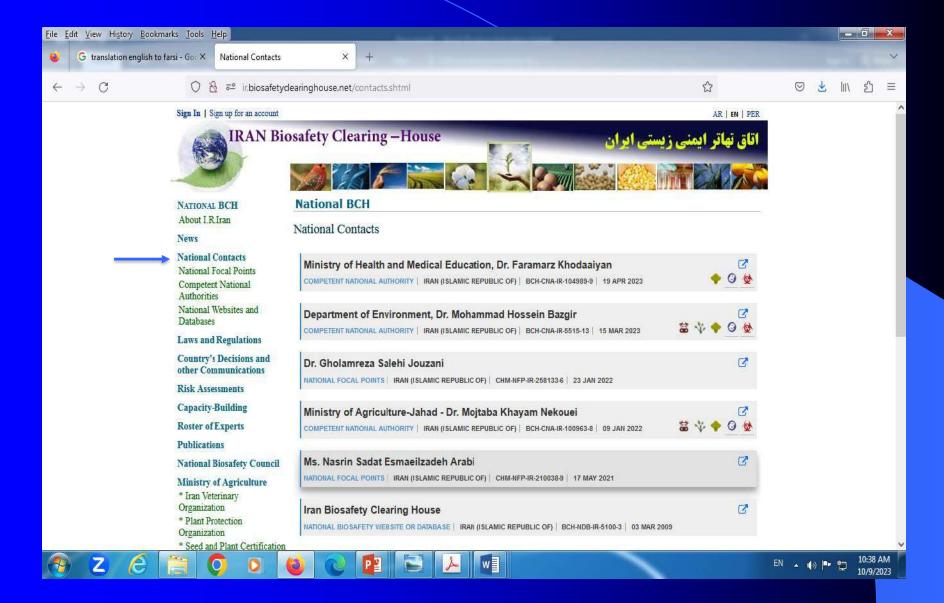
3- Creation of the Iran Biosafety Clearing House website http://ir.biosafetyclearinghouse.net



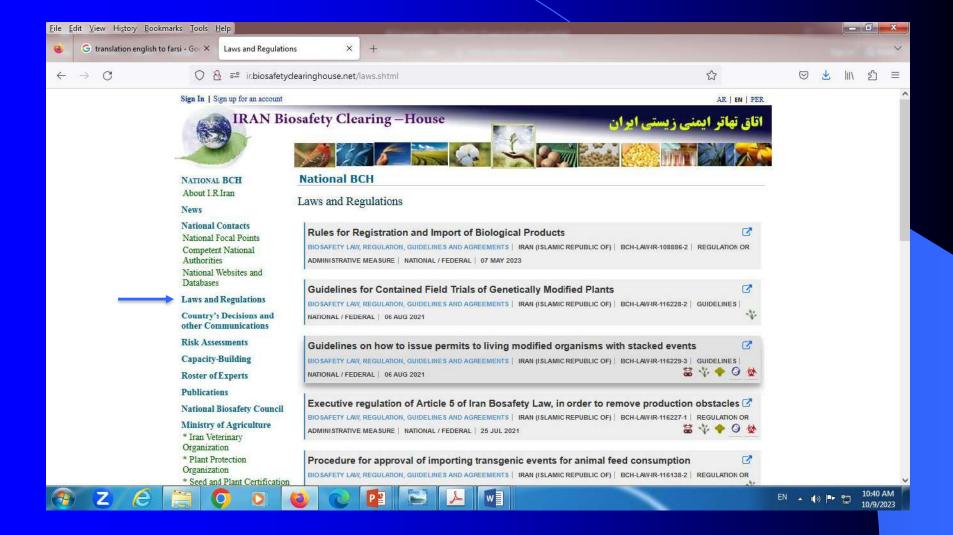
Iran Biosafety Clearing House

- Iran BCH has two main features:
- 1- Displaying the information registered by Iran on the main BCH;
- 2- Registering News and other biosafety information in national language.

National Contacts



Laws and Regulations



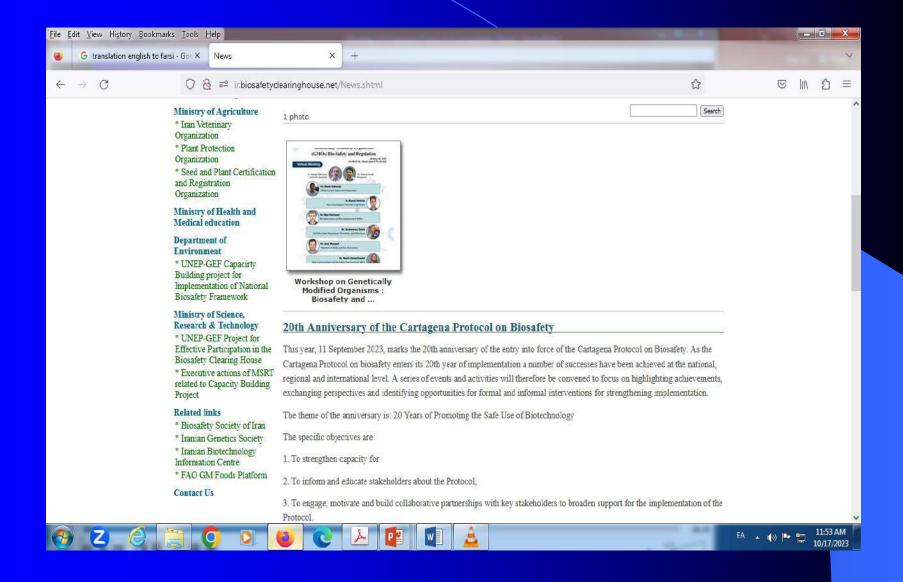
Iran BCH (Home page)



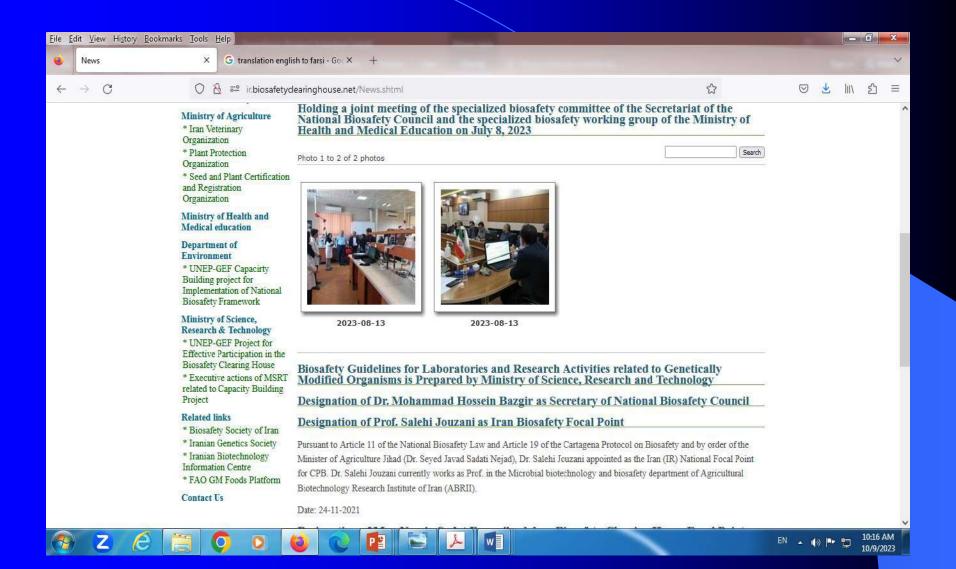
Iran BCH



Iran BCH - NEWS



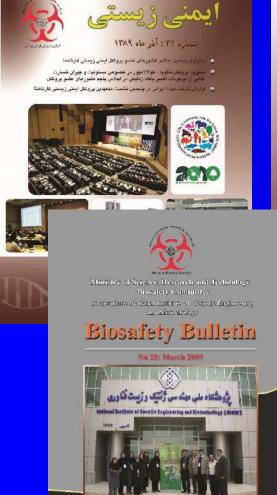
Iran BCH - News



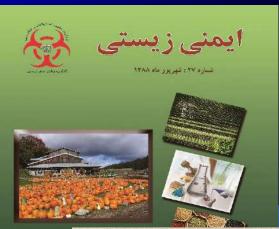
Publications

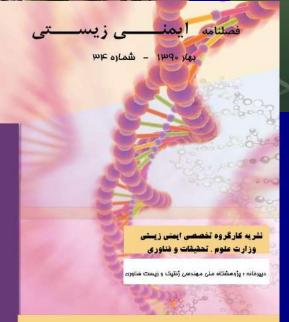


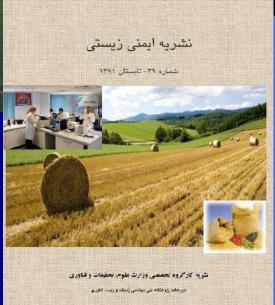
Publication of Seasonal Biosafety Bulletinfrom 2002 to 2017



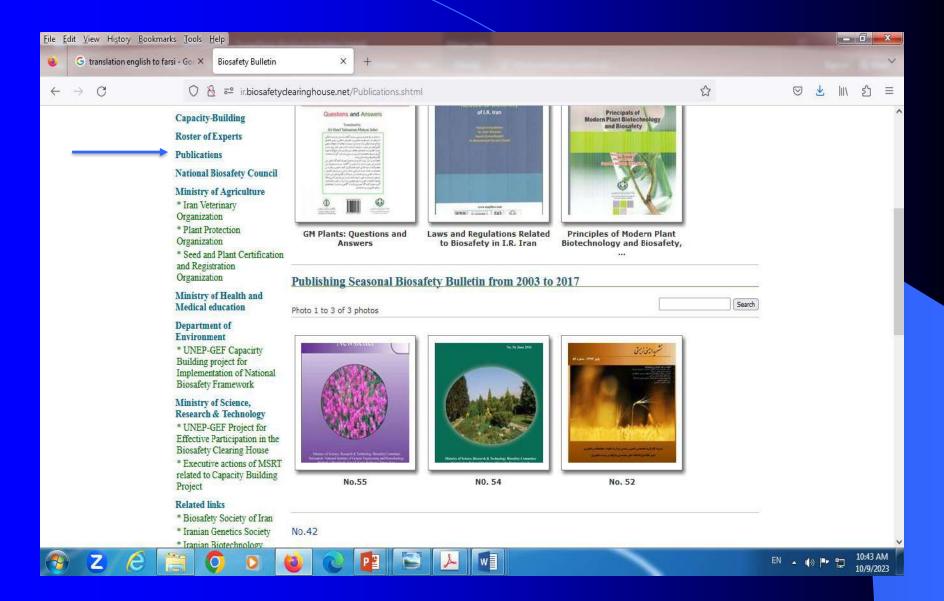




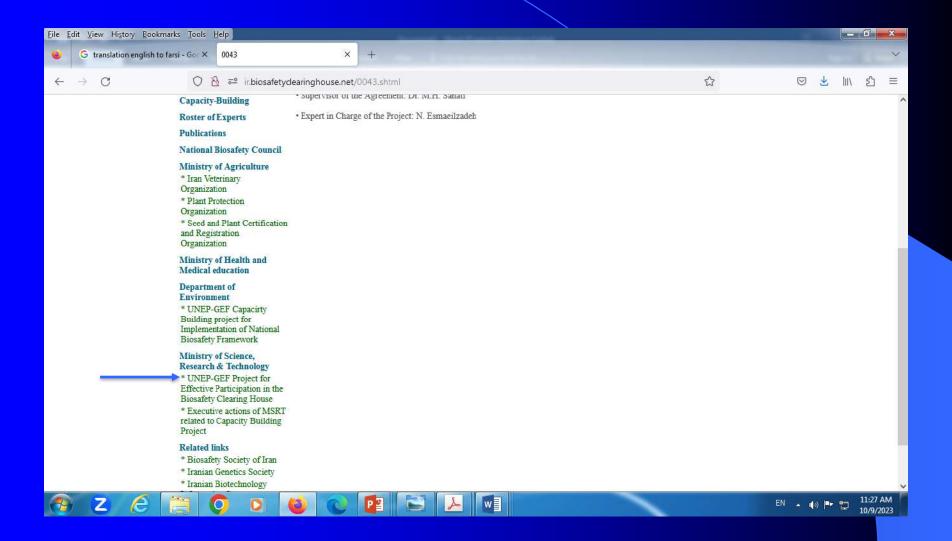


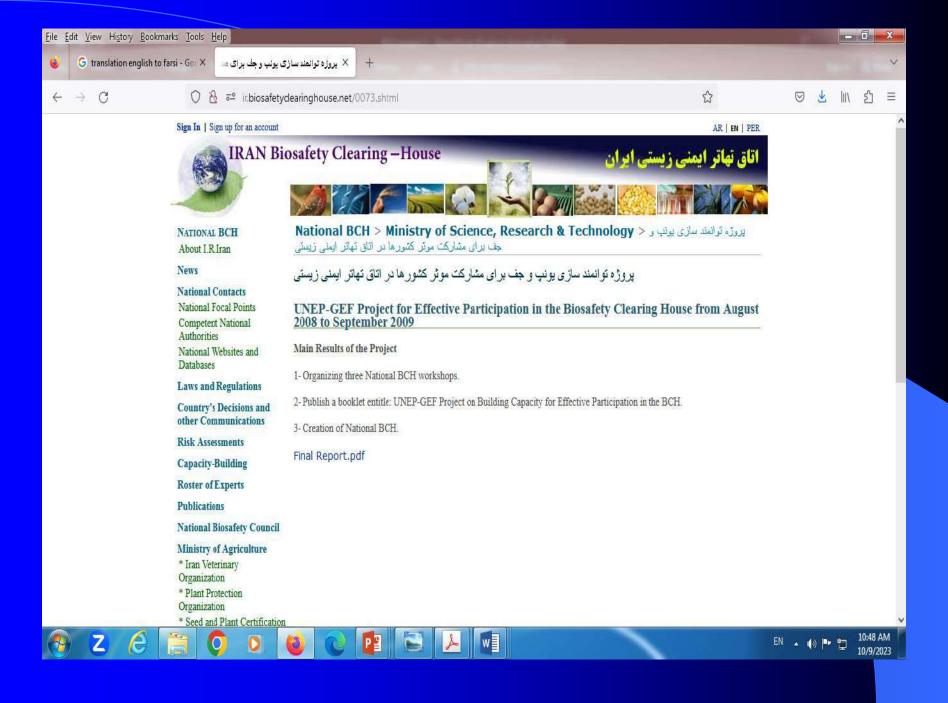


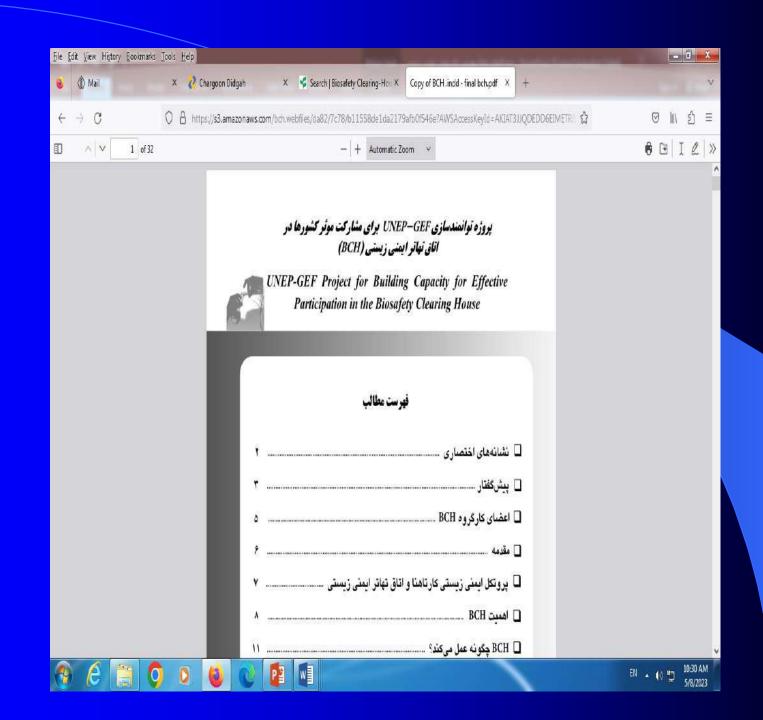
Publications



UNEP-GEF Project for Effective Participation in the BCH







Importance of BCH in RC

As a result by allowing easy and open access to key information, the BCH provide greater transparency in the implementation of the Protocol and this facilitates effective participation of the public and civil society in the decision-making process.

Thanks for your attention

