



Ministry Of Higher Education
Science and Technology

National Biosafety Authority

**University of Philippines Los Banos – Biotechnology:
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Status of Biosafety in Kenya

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**Components of a Functional Biosafety
Regulatory Framework**

- Policy
- Legal and Regulatory
- Administrative Mechanism
- Public Participation

Policy

- National Biotechnology Development Policy
- Published 2006



Kenya Statement at COP-MOP5

Hon. William Ruto, delegation leader to the COP-MOP5, Nagoya Japan at the opening session said:

“Let those with the luxury to chose whether to have red meat, white meat or whatever other colour meat not stand on the way of those who are simply asking to have a meal”

The National Biotechnology Development Policy Statements

- The Government recognized the role Biotechnology can play in poverty reduction, enhancing food security, and in the conservation of biodiversity and the environment .
- The responsibility of every government is to safeguard its citizens and the environment against any development or introduction of deleterious organisms in whatever form.
- This policy will provide those developing and applying the technology a clear framework in which to operate in order to address fears on their safety.

Policy Statements Cont'

- The Government will ensure risk assessment and management is done on all introduced genetically modified material while legislation will be developed to govern and safeguard the use and development of biotechnology products.
- The Government will, as a matter of priority, initiate steps to explore the use of biotechnology for the benefit of Kenyans and ensure that Kenya becomes a key participant in the international biotechnology enterprise.

Legal and Regulatory

- Biosafety Act, 2009
 - Enacted Feb, 2009
 - Establishes the National Biosafety Authority to:
“Exercise general supervision and control over the transfer, handling and use of genetically Modified Organisms with a view to ensure safety of human health and provision of an adequate protection of the environment”
 - Draft Biosafety Regulations
 - Biosafety (Contained Use) Regulations
 - Biosafety (Environmental Release) Regulations
 - Biosafety (Import Export and Transit) Regulations

Administrative Mechanism

- National Biosafety Committee
 - Under National Council for Science and Technology (NCST)
 - Science and Technology Act Cap 250 of 1979
- National Biosafety Authority
 - Established April 2010
 - Competent authority of GoK
 - Focal Point for the Cartagena Protocol
 - Focal Point for the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH)

Administrative Mechanism Cont'

- Regulatory Agencies
 - Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS)
 - National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA)
 - Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS)
 - Directorate of Public Health (DPH)
 - Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS)
 - Kenya Industrial Property Institute (KIPI)
 - Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS)
 - National Council for Science and Technology (NCST)
- Ministry of Agriculture

Public participation

- Stakeholders workshops
 - COMESA Draft Policies and Guidelines
 - Draft Biosafety Regulations (12th April 2011)
 - BioAWARE Strategy
 - Outreach and sensitization Programmes
 - UoN, ISAAA,
 - Bt. Cotton Taskforce,
 - A-Harvest etc

GMO Activities

- Confined Field Trials
 - Bt. Cotton
 - Insect Resistant Maize
 - Water Efficient Maize
 - Sweep Potato virus resistance
 - Cassava – Virus Resistant Cassava
 - Cassava – Bio-fortified
 - Rinderpest vaccine for cattle



GMO Activities Cont'

- Lab transformations
 - Cassava – Post-harvest deterioration
 - Banana – Wilt resistance
 - Pigeon Pea – Insect resistance
 - Yam – Nematode resistance



GMO Activities Cont'

- Under Review
 - Sorghum – Bio-fortified
 - Knock-out mice – Notification
 - Cattle – Trypanosome resistance

Expected Commercial Release

- Bt. Cotton
- Import and Transit of Emergency food aid
- Food, feed and seed import for placing in the market

Opportunities

- Support from Ministry/Policy makers
- Sufficient budgetary allocation by Government
- Partnerships for capacity building – PBS, ABNE, UPLB-Biotech etc
- Sufficient technical capacity at NBA
- Suppressed anti-biotech activities
- Staff development (recruitment) for NBA
- Regional approaches to harmonized Biosafety Policies and Guidelines (COMESA/RABESA)

