

# **National collaboration, partnerships and international obligations**

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# Introduction to Biosafety in Kenya

- National Biosafety Committee (NBC) under (NCST: Science and Technology Act Cap 250)
- Kenya signed the **Cartagena Protocol** on Biosafety in 2000 and ratified it in 2003.
- National Biotechnology Development Policy Published in 2006
- Member countries obligated to establish a regulatory framework and to designate competent authorities and National Focal Point

# Biosafety Act, 2009

- Sets up the **National Biosafety Authority** as the National focal point of all Biosafety matters in Kenya
- Makes provision for the establishment of a legal framework for **the safe handling, use and transfer of genetically modified organisms**
- NBA to **exercise general supervision and control** over dealings in GMO with a view to ensuring safety to human and animal health and protection of the environment

## OBJECTS OF THE ACT

- To facilitate **responsible research** into and **minimize the risks** that may be posed by GMOs
- To ensure an **adequate level of protection** for safe transfer, handling and use of GMOs that may have an adverse effect on the health of the people and the environment
- To establish a **transparent, science-based and predictable process** for reviewing and making decisions on transfer, handling and use of GMOs

# Regulatory Agencies

- The NBA implements mandate through various regulatory agencies namely:
  - Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS)
  - Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS)
  - Department of Public Health (DPH)
  - Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS)
  - National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA)
  - Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS)
  - Kenya Industrial Property Institute (KIPI)
  - Pesticide Control Products Board (PCPB)

# BIOSAFETY REGULATIONS

- The Law provided for gazettment of regulations that for the implementation of the Biosafety Act 2009;
- To date 4 regulations have been gazetted:  
Regulations for;
  - Contained Use GMOs
  - Environmental Release of GMOs
  - Import, Export and Transit of GMOs
  - Labeling (2012) of GMO containing material (e.g. foods and feeds)

# OTHER ENABLING TOOLS

- Standard and Operations Procedures (**SOPs**) on administrative and technical screening of application
- SOPs on food/feed safety assessment and Environmental Risk Assessment
- Guidance documents on **Monitoring** and **Inspection** of approved projects, surveillance, sampling and GMO testing

# GM-Crop Development Stages

Environmental Release

Contained-use

CFT

BSL2: Green /  
Screen house



VARIETY DEVELOPMENT  
& SEED INCREASE

- High Quality
- Desired Quantity
- Right Time

COMMERCIALIZATION

ision: A World-c

KALRO  
BSL2: Lab.





# APPROVALS SINCE AUGUST, 2010

	CFT	LAB/GREEN HOUSE	ENVIRONMENTAL RELEASE
APPROVALS	12	21	1
PENDING	0	2	1
TOTAL	12	23	2

**Target crops in CFT:** maize, sorghum, sweetpotato, cassava, gypsophilla

# Other National initiatives

- Establishment of the National Biosafety Clearing house
- Registration of the Biosafety regulatory documents with the BCH
- Listing of Roster of Experts
- Re-alignment of the strategic plan with that of the Cartagena protocol (2016-2020)
- Preparation of the National reports

# Other initiative on compliance

- Preparations for the COP-MOP meetings
- Attending various COP-MOP meetings; 2010, 2012,2014
- Participation on online forums on thematic topics set by the Secretariat
- Membership to various CPB committees
- (AHTEG, BCH-IAC)
- GMO-Food platform (FAO platform)
- OECD

# Global Environmental Facility (GEF)

- Kenya has previously benefited from GEF funded projects;
  - GEF Pilot Biosafety Enabling project,
  - The UNEP-GEF Demonstration projects (Biosafety act., 2009
  - BCH1 and BCH III (2016).
  - Support for Preparation of the National Reports

# Program for Biosafety Systems (PBS)

- Partnership with PBS started in 2004;
- Initiated activities to enhance implementation of National Biosafety Systems in Kenya:
  - technical assistance in implementing Confined Field trials (CFTs)
  - developed associated CFT guidelines
  - Provided input into the draft of the Biosafety Bill
- PBS launched a comprehensive, 3-year project in Apr. 2007;

# Program for Biosafety Systems (PBS)

“Institutionalizing a Functional National Biosafety System in Kenya” (2010-2013)

- PBS focus activities FY2015 & 2016 have been within the following strategic objectives;
  - To ensure a fully functional biosafety system for addressing deployment of GM products
  - To strengthen biosafety decision-making capacity and expand engagement of different stakeholders.

# The Centre for Environmental Risk Assessment (CERA)

- Collaboration, between NBA-Kenya & CERA, in Capacity Building on Biosafety & Risk Assessment of GMOs started in 2012
- Focus:
  - Enhancing the biosafety regulatory framework in Kenya with emphasis to conduct of risk assessment of GMOs.
- The partnership programs between NBA and CERA include;
  - Training of NBA staff on ERA and expert reviewers
  - Exchange visits
  - E-learning modules

# African Biosafety Network of Expertise (ABNE)

- Collaboration started in 2012, with a communication workshop
- ABNE Goal:
  - To enhance the capacity of African countries to build functional biosafety regulatory systems
- Activities with ABNE over the years;
  - Institutional Biosafety Committees (IBCs) training
  - Short course trainings
  - MSU training (Biotechnology, Food/feed safety)
  - Bench marking visits (Burkina Faso, India, South Africa)



# ISAAA

- Training of NBA staff/ Board of Management on Biotechnology and Biosafety Communication
- Organization of Biotechnology tours
- Pre –COP MOP preparative meetings

Other support: HESI/FAO/COMESA/

The background features a large, faint watermark of the National Biosafety Authority logo. The logo is circular and contains the text 'NATIONAL BIOSAFETY AUTHORITY' around the perimeter. In the center, there is a map of Kenya with the letters 'NBA' overlaid on it. The map is surrounded by a DNA double helix and a biohazard symbol.

# Thank You

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**For more information**

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