



**Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations**

# highlights

SEPTEMBER 2015



## FAO GM Foods Platform

[www.fao.org/gm-platform/](http://www.fao.org/gm-platform/)



**Simple to use  
and accessible  
for all**

The FAO GM Foods Platform is a simple, neutral, easy-to-access global online resource that shares information on food safety assessment of GM plants. The Platform can be accessed at [www.fao.org/gm-platform/](http://www.fao.org/gm-platform/).



**Officially  
validated  
information**

The data in the Platform are official and accurate, based on guidelines from the Codex Alimentarius, the body that sets international food safety standards.<sup>1</sup> National government officials validate the data before uploading them to ensure data accuracy.



**Global  
coverage**

The Platform exists because Codex Members requested FAO to host factual and accurate information and so far there are 165 countries actively participating.



**Protecting  
consumers**

The Platform provides a valuable and reliable resource for countries in a range of situations. When evaluating food safety issues on GM events, national risk assessors can easily refer to risk assessments conducted by other countries or seek advice from the experts who are part of the global Platform community.



**Facilitating  
global trade**

The Platform can have an important role in minimising disruptions in global commodity trade. In the situation of admixture of cargo with low level presence (LLP) of a GM plant, it is possible that the food safety aspects of the GM plant have been already assessed in the exporting country but not yet by the importing country. This can result in rejection of a shipment and the creation of trade barriers. The Platform provides important information that can facilitate a rapid response in such LLP situations.

<sup>1</sup> Codex Alimentarius. Guideline for the conduct of food safety assessment of foods derived from recombinant-DNA plants. Available at [www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/gmfp/docs/CAC\\_GL\\_45\\_2003.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/gmfp/docs/CAC_GL_45_2003.pdf). General information regarding Codex Alimentarius can be found at [www.codexalimentarius.org](http://www.codexalimentarius.org).

## Benefits of the Platform

### USER BENEFITS

#### Essential tool for national authorities

- The latest data on GM food safety assessment of newly developed products
- Food safety assessment results of the same GM events by multiple countries
- A global community network of experts on GM food safety assessment
- An information resource that facilitates rapid response to LLP situations
- Detailed contact information of Focal Points in the trade partner countries

#### Global community of practice

### GLOBAL BENEFITS

- Providing a science-based neutral resource that supports authorities in protecting consumers
- Supporting the implementation of the relevant Codex guidelines
- Reducing disruptions in global commodity trade by facilitating information exchange relevant to LLP situations
- Facilitating a global community of practice on GM food safety assessment

## Information on the Platform

### User-friendly interface



Retrieving information from the Platform is easy with its very simple and user-friendly interface. There are four ways to find the information the user needs:

- By OECD Unique Identifier, the internationally harmonized classification system for GMOs
- By commodities, for example, maize, common bean, apple, etc.
- By trait, the functional characteristics of the inserted gene that explain the purpose of the modification
- By country, with a specific country profile relevant to the national GM food safety assessment and the details of the contact person.

### Science-based technical resources



The national Focal Points of the Platform regularly update their country profile and upload GM food safety assessment data to the Platform. FAO reviews to ensure if all mandatory fields have been filled out for all such submissions before they appear online.

FAO produces a range of useful resources to help users get the best out of the Platform. These include monthly e-newsletters, links to relevant Codex Alimentarius documents and texts, training tools, biotechnology websites and information on occasional Biosafety events and Webinars.

## Key messages

A database containing information of GM food safety that is free and available for all.

The Platform contains official information in accordance with the guidelines of the Codex Alimentarius, the body charged with setting international food safety standards.

Member countries can join the Platform by officially nominating a Focal Point who can then upload country-specific information and food safety assessment data.

Codex Members recognize the importance of the fully-populated, value-added and interactive Platform, calling upon FAO to continue its effort in maintaining and enhancing the Platform and its community.

Maintenance and upgrading the Platform require technical and financial support by Codex Members.



### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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www.fao.org/gm-platform