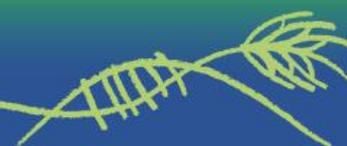


# FAO GM Foods Platform



March 2015

E-Newsletter for the Platform community

<http://fao.org/gm-platform/>

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### Outcome of the eNewsletter survey

During the months of January and February, we have assessed the usefulness of the eNewsletters by a quick survey with the readers. To the question “Do you think the Newsletter is useful for your work and assignment as the national focal point to the FAO GM Foods Platform?”, 71 people have kindly provided the response (Response rate: 24%). Of those who responded, approximately 90% (n=63) responded positively and found eNewsletters useful. Based on this feedback, we will continue our effort to issue eNewsletters and further improve the contents. We would like to sincerely thank everyone who has responded to the survey and we will remain open for any suggestions for further improvements.

### Save the date: A webinar scheduled on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May, 2015

A new webinar jointly organized by FAO, UNEP-CBD and OECD will take place on 27 May 2015. This webinar is specifically designed to be a training session for national focal points to strengthen communication among national colleagues in multiple ministries/departments/agencies. A certificate will be provided upon full participation in the webinar. More information on the content and registration procedure will be available through this eNewsletter as well as on the FAO biosafety event page at <http://tiny.cc/Biosafety-Events>. The final report of the previous webinar on the International Databases on Biosafety held in November 2014 is now available online at <http://tiny.cc/Webinar-Nov-14> (PDF, 186KB).

### Call for interest: FAO Project proposal

FAO is currently developing a capacity development project proposal related to GM food safety. It might be an opportunity for your country to strengthen national capacity to properly conduct GM food safety assessment. FAO is seeking countries with strong interest and specific needs in capacity development in the area of GM food safety. If you think your country is interested in learning more about the project, contact us at: [GM-Platform@fao.org](mailto:GM-Platform@fao.org).

### 40 assessment records from the European Union

A big thanks to the European Union’s recent effort, we are happy to inform you all food safety assessment records from the European Union are now available on the Platform. Go to <http://tiny.cc/FAO-GM-EU> to see all the 40 records. See the most recent approved GM variety, an insect and herbicide tolerant Maize variety, at <http://tiny.cc/Latest-Approval>. We would like

to once again thank the Focal Point of the European Union for the commitment to keep their data up-to-date on the Platform.

### **Platform status: March 2015**

This month Albania successfully registered to the Platform. Also Slovenia (<http://tiny.cc/FAO-GM-SVN>) and the Netherlands (<http://tiny.cc/FAO-GM-NLD>) have completed the country profiles. We now have a total of **159** countries that nominated Focal Points and **155** countries that registered to the Platform. Also **94** countries have completed their country profile pages. Now we are hosting **577** records on the Platform.

### **Country Profile Highlight: China**

For this month, FAO selects China (<http://tiny.cc/FAO-GM-CHN>) and introduces its “Country Profile”. The selection is done at random and there is no criterion for the selection. We strongly encourage all of you to start filling out the Country Profile section of the Platform. You never know when your country will be selected!

‘Regulations on Safety of Agricultural Genetically Modified Organisms (hereafter referred to as the Regulations) was promulgated by Decree No. 304 of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China on May 23, 2001. Implementation Regulations on Safety Assessment of Agricultural Genetically Modified Organisms, Implementation Regulations on the Safety of Import of Agricultural Genetically Modified Organisms and Implementation Regulations on Labeling of Agricultural Genetically Modified Organisms are formulated by Ministry of Agriculture on January 5, 2002 in accordance with the Regulations. The State Council establishes a system of joint ministry conference for the safety administration of agricultural GMOs. The joint ministry conference for the safety administration of agricultural GMOs shall be composed of officials from relevant departments of agriculture, science and technology, environment protection, public health, foreign trade and economic cooperation, inspection and quarantine, and be responsible for the decision-making and coordination of major issues with respect to the safety administration of agricultural GMOs. According to Article 9 of the Regulations, a national biosafety committee (NBC) shall be established and in charge of safety assessment of agricultural GMOs. The NBC shall be composed of experts who are engaged in biological research, production, processing, inspection and quarantine with respect to agricultural GMOs, as well as experts in the fields of public health and environmental protection. The office term of the NBC shall be three years. Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for the nationwide supervision and administration of the safety of agricultural GMOs. The Ministry of Agriculture sets up an office for biosafety administration of agricultural GMOs(OBA), which will be in charge of the administration of the safety assessment of agricultural GMOs. OBA is Affiliated to the Department of Science, Technology and Education.’

### **Question of the Month: I lost my password and/or username, how can I retrieve them?**

In case you lost your password, please select ‘password recovery’ at the login screen (see screenshot below). This will redirect you to a page where you can fill in your username and email. Once these are submitted, your password will be send to your email automatically. In case you lost both your username and password, please send an email to [GM-Platform@fao.org](mailto:GM-Platform@fao.org). We will than provide you with your login credentials.



### Questions? Comments?

We are always happy to receive any questions, comments and/or suggestions to improve the Platform. Feel free to contact us at [GM-Platform@fao.org](mailto:GM-Platform@fao.org).

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