GM Food Safety: Philippine Regulations and Food Safety Assessment

Institutional framework

- What are the bodies (authorities) involved in regulation and risk assessment of GMOs?

Department of Agriculture Order No.8 s. 2002, "Rules and Regulations on the Importation and Release of Plant and Plant Products Derived From the Use of Modern Biotechnology"

Currently, regulation covers only plant and plant products derived from modern biotechnology.

BIOSAFETY AGENCIES:

Department of Agriculture: responsible for the safety of primary food

Regulatory tool – biosafety permit for the importation of regulated article for food and feed and processing (FFP); contains risk management measures, as applicable

Institutional framework

- Within the Department of Agriculture:
  - **Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI)**

    - as the entry point for the permit application and the agency who issues the permit based on an over-all risk assessment
  - **Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS)**

    - for food safety, if the regulated article is a raw agriculture product intended for direct use as food or processing
  - **Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI)**

    - for feed safety, if the regulated article is intended for direct use as feed or processing into feed

- Scientific and Technical Review Panel – consists of scientists outside the DA who will do a risk assessment

- Use of a Risk Assessment Form

Institutional framework

- **Policy**:

  No regulated article shall be allowed importation for direct use as food, feed, or for processing, unless:

  (i) the importation has been duly authorized by BPI

  (ii) the regulated article has been authorized for commercial distribution as food or feed, as the case may be, in the country of origin, and

  (iii) regardless of the intended use, the regulated articles poses no significant risks to human and animal health.

Institutional framework

- For propagation of regulated article, no regulated article shall be released for propagation unless:

  (iii) food and/or feed safety studies show that the regulated article will not pose any significant risks to human and animal health

Institutional framework

- Risk Assessment is based on the Codex Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived From the Use of Recombinant DNA
- For single events and pyramided trait products, a full risk assessment is required
- For plant products carrying stacked genes conferred through conventional breeding, individual traits should have prior approval. A determination of possible or expected interaction between genes shall be determined based on documentary risk assessment that includes gene product interaction, metabolic pathways, gene expression and performance.

GM Food Safety Assessment

RISK ANALYSIS REPORT FOR GENETICALLY MODIFIED PLANT FOR DIRECT USE AS FOOD OR FEED, OR FOR PROCESSING

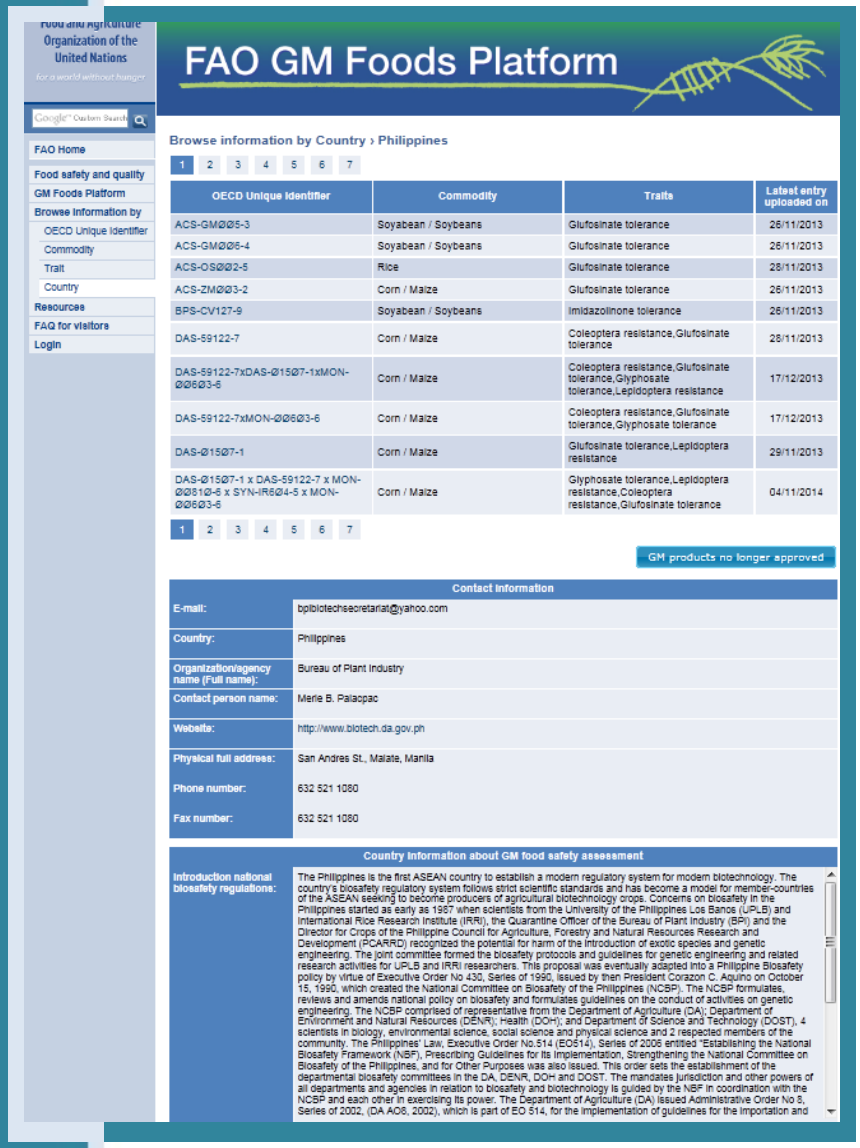
BASIC INFORMATION

Applicant	Event
Contact	Trait Description
Information	Trait Introduction
Host Organism	Method
Proposed Use	
Date Received	Status

THE HOST ORGANISM - Scientific name: _____

TO BE FILLED UP BY THE APPLICANT					**TO BE FILLED UP BY THE ASSESSOR**
	Yes	No		**Cross Reference of Document(s) Submitted**	**Remarks/Recommendations**
Source of key nutrients?			If yes, describe		
Source of antinutrients?			If yes, describe		
Source of toxicants?			If yes, describe		
Source of allergens?			If yes, describe		

Data contribution to the Platform



Country status in the Platform:

- 2 Focal Points (Ms Merle Palacpac and Ms Ma. Lorelie Agbagala)
- Country profile filled out
- Risk assessment data shared (69 records)
- Link created

Value of the Platform for Philippines

- For risk assessment work, access to relevant data bases:
  - ✓ For updates on risk assessment parameters
  - ✓ For reference to other countries' risk assessments
  - ✓ In case of technical issues/data gaps in risk assessment, can refer to existing data bases
- Tool for emergency response in case of Low Level Presence (LLP) of GM
- For monitoring, as approval of other countries of transformation events is considered in decision making

Possible FAO's roles on the topic

- Capacity development assistance
- Include in the Platform, information on relevant emerging issues on food safety assessment of GM Food
- Webinars and other activities to keep the Platform community active
- Assistance in the development of a communication network between regulators from countries

END

http://biotech.da.gov.ph