

## FAO GM Foods Platform

### Launch of the FAO GM Foods Platform

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## FAO GM Foods Platform



- Simple online platform to share information on safety assessment of foods derived from recombinant-DNA plants authorized in accordance with the Codex Plant Guideline
- Follows the agreement reached at the Commission 33 (2008) on the annex III of the Plant Guideline (LLP annex)
- Replacing the relevant specific functions of the IPFSAPH

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

## FAO GM Foods Platform

### Development process

- In late 2012 FAO established an Informal Network of national experts from a total of 33 countries.
- The purpose of the Informal Network was to discuss the Platform scope, structure and functions.
- The Informal Network members' contribution was completely voluntary and was not to represent individual country's positions
- Some very intensive and fruitful discussions took place through e-mail exchanges.
- The FAO GM Foods Platform has undergone two full review cycles before being launched to ensure it meets the requirements agreed in the abovementioned Codex guideline as well as the diverse needs of all Codex Members.

## FAO GM Foods Platform

### Platform users

- The FAO GM Foods Platform is open for the public
- All the data/information shared on the platform is visible to all
- Only officially nominated Focal Points by national authorities are allowed to upload data/information on the Platform
- Nomination and registration process:
  - April 2013 Nomination form was distributed by e-mail through Codex mailing list
  - Codex Contact Points were requested to facilitate the national nomination process
  - The Nomination Form has been filled and returned to [GM-Platform@fao.org](mailto:GM-Platform@fao.org)
  - FAO GM Foods Platform team sends detailed instruction to the nominated Focal Points (copy to Alternates if any) to register online

## FAO GM Foods Platform

### Desired profile for the Focal Points

- The national Focal Point **MUST**:
  - Have an access to the national GM food safety assessment/approval documents.
  - Have fair-good English skills in reading and writing.
  - Be familiar with use of computers, online information communication and information retrieval.
- The national Focal Point **SHOULD**:
  - Be the responsible officer for GM food safety assessment, management or communication.
  - Be familiar with the relevant Codex documents (meeting reports of the Codex ad hoc Task Force on Foods derived from Biotechnology and Codex principles and guidelines on the relevant topics).
- It is **PREFERABLE** (but not mandatory) that the Focal Point has:
  - Experience as a regulator or scientist active in agricultural biotechnology or relevant disciplines to the GM food safety assessment.
  - Academic background in molecular biology, plant breeding, biochemistry, immunology, toxicology, human/livestock nutrition or relevant scientific disciplines.

## FAO GM Foods Platform

### Should/can I be a Focal Point?

- If you believe you should/can be the Focal Point for your country:
- Please have you officially nominated as a Focal Point by your country's Codex Contact Point
- Contact [GM-Platform@fao.org](mailto:GM-Platform@fao.org) for more information

## FAO GM Foods Platform

### Progress report

- As of 30 June 2013:
  - 71 members (countries) have officially nominated Focal Points to the Platform
  - Many of them have also nominated Alternates to the Focal Points
  - 56 countries (Focal Points) have registered to the Platform
  - 4 countries have filled out the “Country Profile” section
  - 3 countries have started uploading the relevant data and information

## FAO GM Foods Platform

### Userguide

- 35 Pages of a detailed userguide for the Platform which includes step-by-step instructions with screenshots is available for all levels of users.
- If you are nominated Focal Points or Alternate Focal Points, please bring hard copies of the userguide back home.
- We also have electronic version online at [http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/gmfp/resource/s/2\\_FAO\\_GM\\_Foods\\_Platform\\_User\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/gmfp/resource/s/2_FAO_GM_Foods_Platform_User_Guide.pdf) as well as on our USB sticks

## FAO GM Foods Platform

### Strategy for maintaining the useful and up-to-date Platform

- The major ultimate focus should be to establish a populated and up-to-date GM foods platform to fulfill the objective of the Annex III of the Plant Guideline
- While FAO ensures an effective communication and exchange of information among Member States and promotes a fruitful use of the Platform, **the Platform will only be useful when the data and information are shared by Members**
- Throughout 2013, FAO will focus its efforts on having all Codex Members:
  - 1) nominate official Focal Points;
  - 2) register to the Platform through their Focal Point; and
  - 3) upload relevant data and information to the Platform.

## FAO GM Foods Platform

### Evaluation of the Platform by Members

- Each Codex Member is responsible for the accuracy of the uploaded information
- FAO is responsible only for the format of the information and not for the individual contents
- All the texts and functions of the Platform have been discussed among the Informal Network members and decided largely on the basis of practicality, as the Informal Network was not necessarily designed to develop an official consensus
- FAO invites all Codex Members to carefully review/evaluate the FAO GM Foods Platform
- Should any Members have suggestions for changes, FAO invites the Member(s) to discuss the item(s) officially with all Codex Members to obtain the consensus (e.g., through electronic Working Group). Once FAO receives such official consensus to change items on the FAO GM Foods Platform, FAO will immediately implement the changes accordingly. This applies to all the texts, functions, labels, links and documents that appear on the Platform.

## FAO GM Foods Platform

### Evaluation of the Platform by FAO

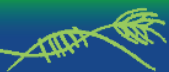
- FAO will conduct the Platform’s usage evaluation in June 2014
- If a significant number of countries have uploaded relevant data and information, FAO’s commitment to maintain the Platform will be assured and FAO will make the maximum efforts to secure funds for this activity
- In a situation of low usage levels, FAO may suggest that Codex Members discuss the Platform’s future at the occasion of the Commission in 2014

## FAO GM Foods Platform

### Demonstration

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

## FAO GM Foods Platform



### Questions?

- Contact us at: [GM-Platform@fao.org](mailto:GM-Platform@fao.org)
- FAO's responsible officer:  
Masami Takeuchi ([Masami.Takeuchi@fao.org](mailto:Masami.Takeuchi@fao.org))