

FAO Technical Consultation on low levels of GM crops

Background note

Dates

20-21 March 2014 (2-day meeting)

Venue

Headquarters, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy

Objectives and scope of the Technical Consultation:

- The Consultation aims to facilitate international dialogue among FAO Members on low levels of GM crops in international food and feed trade. The results of a FAO technical analyses on the topic, including economic and trade related policy analysis will be presented for discussion.
- The scope of the Consultation will be technical and exploratory, providing a forum for experts to present the results of their research findings on the issue. It will be the prerogative of participating FAO members to utilize the findings for relevant national policies, regulations and guidelines.
- The Consultation is not intended to make any recommendation for any decisions or policies that national authorities make under their own legislative framework.

The Technical Consultation will contribute to achieving the following results:

- Awareness raised on the issue and surrounding factors and possible impacts on food security.
- Improved understanding and recognition of various points of view of the issue from relevant stakeholders.

Participants:

- The Consultation is primarily intended for senior level government officials with responsibility for trade as well as safety of GM food. All FAO member countries will be invited to attend.
- Invitations as observers - will also be extended to relevant industry representatives, consumer representative bodies, NGOs and academia.
- Key partner organizations including World Health Organization (WHO), World Trade Organization (WTO), Codex Alimentarius, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) will also be invited.

Financial support

FAO will be able to provide financial support to approximately 45 representatives (15-25 developing countries) to attend this Consultation. The criteria used to identify countries eligible for this support are:

- Developing countries that have contributed to the FAO study (Feb 2013) by sending the full response to the FAO survey;
- Developing countries that are actively researching the topic;
- Developing countries that have a clear policy on regulating GMOs in general;

- Developing countries that have nominated Focal Points to the FAO GM Foods Platform (<http://fao.org/gm-platform>);
- Developing countries that have indicated that they have LLP and/or AP situations in the survey; **or**
- Developing countries that have expressed their strong interests in the topic in the past.