COUNTRY-CASE PRESENTATION: PHILIPPINES

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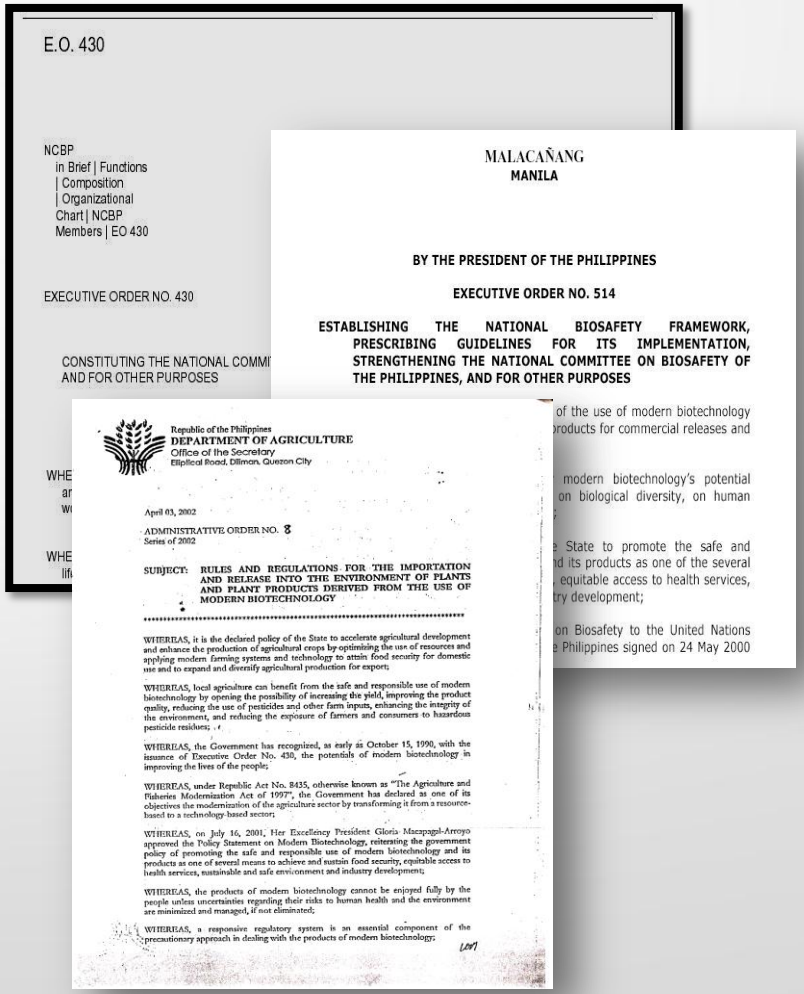
Policy on Modern Biotechnology

- Promote the **safe and responsible use of modern biotechnology and its products as one of several means to achieve and sustain food security**, equitable access to health services, sustainable and safe environment and industry development

--Policy Statement by then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in July 2001

Modern Biotechnology Regulation

- **Executive Order No. 430 s. 1990 –** addresses safety issues during research on GM
- **Executive Order No. 514 s. 2006 –** strengthened the National Committee on Biosafety of the Philippines
- **DA Admin Order No. 8 s. 2002 –** regulates importation and release into the environment of GM plants and plant products



E.O. 430

NCBP
in Brief | Functions
| Composition
| Organizational
Chart | NCBP
Members | EO 430

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 430

CONSTITUTING THE NATIONAL COMMI
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 514

ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL BIOSAFETY FRAMEWORK, PRESCRIBING GUIDELINES FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION, STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON BIOSAFETY OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

of the use of modern biotechnology
products for commercial releases and

modern biotechnology's potential
on biological diversity, on human

State to promote the safe and
its products as one of the several
equitable access to health services,
try development;

on Biosafety to the United Nations
Philippines signed on 24 May 2000

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Secretary
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

April 03, 2002

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 8
Series of 2002

SUBJECT: RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE IMPORTATION AND RELEASE INTO THE ENVIRONMENT OF PLANTS AND PLANT PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM THE USE OF MODERN BIOTECHNOLOGY

WHEREAS, it is the declared policy of the State to accelerate agricultural development and enhance the production of agricultural crops by optimizing the use of resources and applying modern farming systems and technology to attain food security for domestic use and to expand and diversify agricultural production for export;

WHEREAS, local agriculture can benefit from the safe and responsible use of modern biotechnology by opening the possibility of increasing the yield, improving the product quality, reducing the use of pesticides and other farm inputs, enhancing the integrity of the environment, and reducing the exposure of farmers and consumers to hazardous pesticide residues;

WHEREAS, the Government has recognized, as early as October 15, 1990, with the issuance of Executive Order No. 430, the potentials of modern biotechnology in improving the lives of the people;

WHEREAS, under Republic Act No. 8435, otherwise known as "The Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997", the Government has declared as one of its objectives the modernization of the agriculture sector by transforming it from a resource-based to a technology-based sector;

WHEREAS, on July 16, 2001, Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo approved the Policy Statement on Modern Biotechnology, reiterating the government policy of promoting the safe and responsible use of modern biotechnology and its products as one of several means to achieve and sustain food security, equitable access to health services, sustainable and safe environment and industry development;

WHEREAS, the products of modern biotechnology cannot be enjoyed fully by the people unless uncertainties regarding their risks to human health and the environment are minimized and managed, if not eliminated;

WHEREAS, a responsive regulatory system is an essential component of the precautionary approach in dealing with the products of modern biotechnology;

Activities under Regulation

(Risk assessment is the cornerstone for a decision to issue a permit)

Direct Use for Food, Feed or for Processing	
Risk Assessment and Permits	DA BPI

Contained (Lab, GH)

- Risk Assessment (DOST BC)
- Biosafety Permits (DA BPI)

→

Field Testing (CFT, MLT)

- Risk Assessment
  - CFT (DOST BC)
  - MLT (DA BPI)
- Biosafety Permits (DA BPI)

→

Commercial Propagation

- Risk Assessment (DA BPI)
- Biosafety Permits (DA BPI)

Strengthening of DA Admin Order 8

Administrative Order No.22 Series of 2007- ***Amending Specific Sections of Part V***

- clarifies further the approval process for registration and importation of regulated articles for direct use as food and feed or for processing
- reiterates the requirement to declare content or possible GMO content in regulated articles for importation

Administrative Order No 31 Series of 2008- ***harmonizing with the Codex Guidelines***

- stipulates adoption of the: **(1)** Codex Principles for the Risk Analysis of Food Derived from Modern Biotechnology (CAC/GL44-2003) and **(2)** the Codex Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant DNA Plants (CAC/GL 45-2003)

Incidents and Management involving Low Level (unintended) Presence

1. Liberty Link (LL) Rice 601 (mid-2006)

- Host: *Oryza sativa*
- Trait: Phosphinotricin (PPT) herbicide tolerance, specifically glufosinate ammonium
- Trait Intro: Agrobacterium tumafaciens mediated plant transformation
- Field Trials: 1999-2001 at LSU AgCenter
- Approval: U.S.: Environment – 2006 (thru its extension system)
  Colombia: Food & Feed – 2008

- Alleged presence of LL Rice 601 in imported commercial long grain rice in supermarkets
- NFA recalled all commercial rice alleged to contain LL601
- March 2007: MTA between Phil DA and Bayer on detection methods to ensure zero presence in proposed rice imports from US under the commodity grant program

- GOP required testing of the shipment for presence of LL601
- A PQO was sent to US to check compliance with the requirements and to oversee loading in Port of Lake Charles and Jacinto Port
- February 2008: arrival of shipments; samples were tested negative to LL Rice

2. Corn TC1507 (2008)

- Unapproved event in the Philippines
- The shipment of corn MON 810 for propagation was reported to have presence of the unapproved event
- Quarantined the whole shipment while the manner of disposal was being addressed
- Seed disposal (used as fuel in cement facility)

PHL did not have a policy on LLP at that time. However, DA AO 8 provides…

- Transformation events with no biosafety permit are not allowed into the country and subject to disposal
- Technology developers/importers are required to declare GM content in shipments
- Disposal of unapproved events in a manner provided by law

Adoption of Codex Annex 3
(Administrative Order no. 1 series of 2009)

- Stipulates adoption of the Annex 3 to the Codex Plant Guideline for the conduct of food safety assessment in situations of low-level presence of recombinant-DNA plant materials in food and feed

  - Consultations on IRR were conducted. Issuance pending due to (1) issues during consultation, (2) acceptable threshold for LLP, (3) detection method

GM Crops in the Pipeline

Golden Rice

Delayed Ripening Papaya

Bt cotton

Bt eggplant

Institutional Capacity for GMO Regulation

- Continuous upgrading of laboratory facilities (BPI PEQS Plant Pathogen and Molecular Biology Laboratory) to enhance competence in pathogen and GMO detection
- Strengthening of manpower skills on GMO testing, field evaluation monitoring, quarantine, and regulatory processes and procedures through local and international trainings
- Successful participation in the EU-JRC Proficiency Testing Program in 2012

- Strengthened collaboration with other organizations, programs and advanced laboratories abroad such as EU-JRC, ASEAN GMFTN, USDA (through Cochran Fellowship Program), among others, to boost capacities on GM testing and regulation
- Functional institutional biosafety committees; continuous training of members on risk assessment
- DA AO 8 is a living regulatory system; continuous strengthening of guidelines

Trainees during the ISO17025 accreditation training activity conducted at the PEQS' GMO laboratory

Country Perspective on the Future Situation

- The cornerstone of a decision for approval and issuance of a biosafety permit for direct use as food and feed or for processing is a food safety or risk assessment conducted in accordance with internationally accepted principles and practices
- The regulatory framework of the Philippines adopts a zero-tolerance policy for unapproved events.
- The Department to put in place a response system for future LLP incidents by adopting Annex 3 to the Codex Plant Guideline for the conduct of food safety assessment in situations of low-level presence (DA AO 01 s. 2009) and by continuously working on the rules and regulations to implement Annex 3

Thank you

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