

**TECHNICAL CONSULTATION ON LOW LEVELS OF
GENETICALLY MODIFIED (GM) CROPS IN
INTERNATIONAL FOOD AND FEED TRADE
ROME, ITALY, 20-21 MARCH 2014**

BHUTAN

**BHUTAN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD REGULATORY AUTHORITY
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTS
ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN**

KINLEY PELDEN



International Undertakings

- **1995 - Bhutan became party to the International Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**
- **2002 - Bhutan ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB) to the Convention on Biological Diversity**

National GMO Policy

- **Biosafety Regulatory Frameworks**
- **2011 - Ministerial notification issued by the MoAF as per the Cabinet Order banning import, transit, release and research of GMOs capable of reproducing**
- **Biosafety Bill of Bhutan 2014**

Biosafety Bill of Bhutan 2014

Exemptions

- **Traditional and domestic methods of animal and plant breeding, other similar methods which do not involve the use of modern biotechnology and products derived from GMOs for pharmaceuticals for human and veterinary use.**

Prohibitions

- **Import, transit, intentional introduction, any use including contained use, research and development that involves GMOs capable of reproducing and any other genetically modified biological material capable of reproducing.**

Biosafety Bill establishes

- **National Biosafety Commission (NBC) as the highest decision making body on biosafety related issues**
- **BAFRA as the National Competent Authority for implementation of all biosafety related activities**
- **Technical Working Group on Biosafety**
- **Legal framework for implementing biosafety related activities**
- **Regulatory framework to address the safe transfer, handling and use of products derived from GMOs**
- **The requirement to conduct GM related risk/safety assessment**
- **Labeling requirement**

GM Food and Feed related legislation

- **Food Act of Bhutan 2005**
 - **Labeling requirements**
- **Seed Rules and Regulations 2006**
- **National Environment Protection Act 2007**
 - **Need to establish regulatory controls over import and use of GMOs and their products**
- **Biosafety Bill of Bhutan 2014**
 - **The requirement to conduct GM related risk/safety assessment**
 - **Labeling requirements**
- **Draft Risk/safety assessment Guidelines**
 - **Adapted from the Codex principles and Guidelines and EFSA Guidelines**

LLP/AP Incidents and Management

- **The legislations require the agricultural commodities to be subjected to detection of any presence of GMO**
- **LLP/AP incidents in Bhutan**
 - **Testing and detection system yet to be operationalized**
- **Management Strategy**
 - **Strengthening the GMO detection and quantification technical capacity at the entry points and the GM Food Testing Laboratory, Yusipang, Thimphu**

Challenges for Bhutan

- **Technical Capacity**
 - Limited technical capacity to detect and quantify GMOs
 - Need to strengthen the inspection system
 - Limited capacity of the Technical Working Group on Biosafety

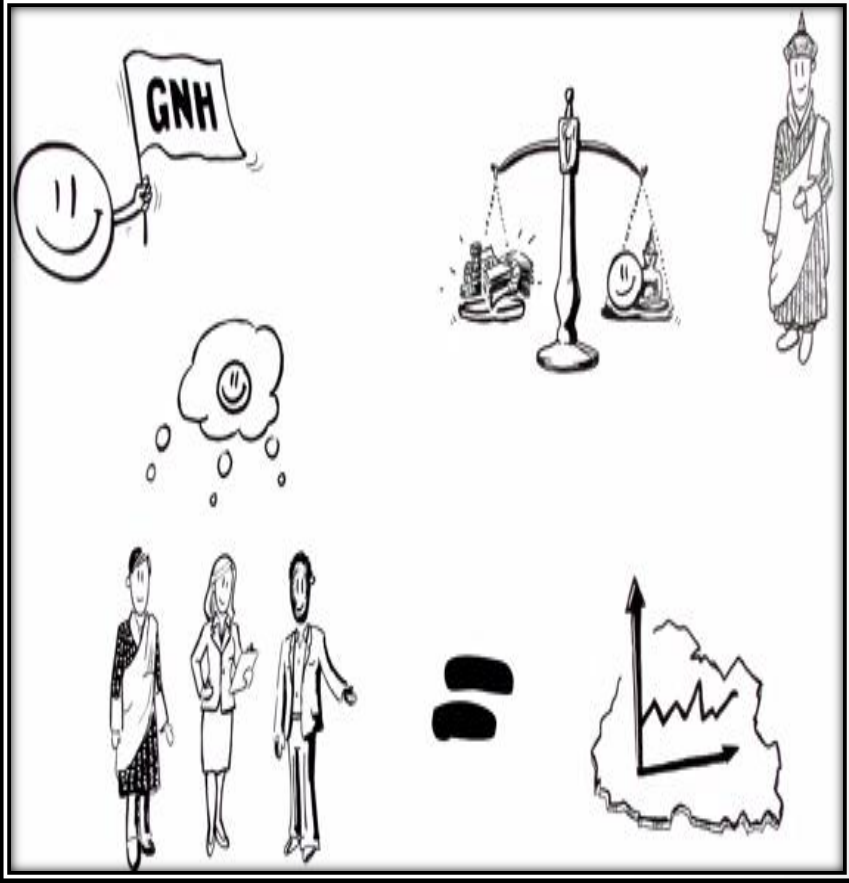
- **Limited technical infrastructures and resources**
 - Detection/testing infrastructures at entry points are yet to be established

- **Limited access to reliable information**
- **Lack of awareness on GM technology and GMOs**
- **LLP/AP management plans needs to be established**

Country Perspective on future situation

- **Increasing import of agricultural commodities needs to be subjected to detection of LLP/AP of GMOs**
- **The detection and Quantification capacity needs to be strengthened**
- **Inspection and monitoring capacity needs to be strengthened**
- **Information sharing and easy access to safety assessment information**

DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLE



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Zqdqa4YNvI>

GROSS NATIONAL HAPPINESS



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socio-
economic
development

Cultural
preservation

Environmental
conservation

Good
governance

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