



Biosafety of Genetically Modified Organisms

Mexican experience

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Law of Biosafety of Genetically Modified Organisms (LBMOGM)

Approved by the Mexican Congress on March 2005

This law establishes the bases that guarantee the protection of the environment, the biodiversity and human health by regulating the use, release and commercialization of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) product of modern biotechnology.



Biotechnology in México.

Around 100 Research Centers with 750 Professors/Researchers working in Biotechnology or related areas



Concerns on the release of transgenic Bt-Maize, since México is centre of origin of maize, prompted the Congress to prohibit any research on GMOs (2002).

Scientific community (Mexican Academy of Sciences) recommended the Congress to discuss and approve a law that could regulate the research, use and release of transgenic organisms.



***Competent authorities for biosafety:
Intersecretarial comission(CIBIOGEM)***

Minister of Health (SSA)

Minister of Agriculture, (SAGARPA)

Minister of Biodiversity and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT)

Minister of Economy (SHCP)

Comission of Science and Technology (CONACyT)



Scientific Advisory Board

***(Panel of recognized research scientists working in
Biotechnology)***

CIBIOGEM

- 1. Establishment of mechanisms and procedures allowing an adequate and reasonable assessment of potential risks when handling GMOs, as well as monitoring these potential risks at short-, medium-, and long-term intervals.***
- 2. Evaluation case by case***
- 3. Sanctions to unauthorized release or bad use of GMOs***
- 4. Development and promotion of basic and applied research in biotechnology and biosafety.***

GMOs that must be authorized:

I. Those that are for human consumption

II. For processing human food

III. Those for human health

IV. Those for biorremediation

GMOs excluded:

I. Transgenic microorganisms used for production of medicaments in confined spaces (regulated by General Law of Health)

Actions that deserve sanctions:

I. Release or work with GMOs without authorization

II. Release or work with GMOs without taking care of terms authorized

III. Present false information when requiring permits

IV. Work or release of GMOs or any other organism with the purpose of making or releasing biological weapons