THE EFFECTIVE REGULATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF GMOs IN SOUTH AFRICA

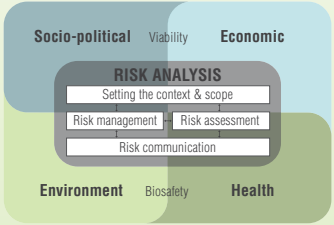
SUSTAINABLE BIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Through its recently established National Bio-economy Strategy, South Africa is investing in its bio-economy to generate sustainable economic, social and environmental development.

GM technology is one of the science-based bio-solutions with which to achieve this. Relevant policies and legislation have been put in place to promote the responsible and sustainable development, production, use and application of GMOs.

ENSURING SUSTAINABILITY

Modern biotech innovations promise great benefits to humankind if they are developed and used within a framework that ensures their sustainability; i.e. when their potential socio-political, economic, environmental and health impacts are proactively assessed and managed within acceptable limits. Thorough science-based risk analyses are the basis of these evaluations and ensure approved GM products are at least as safe as their conventional counterparts.



SOUTH AFRICA's GM REGULATORY MILESTONES

1979	Establishment of SAGENE - a scientific advisory committee to oversee GMO R&D
1992	1st field trial with GM crop (IR cotton)
1994	Member of Codex
1995	Member of World Trade Organisation
1996	1st commercial GM crop planted (IR Maize)
1996	Field trials with locally developed GM sugarcane (HT)
1997	GMO Act signed into law
1997	1st commercial GM cotton planted (IR)
2001	1st commercial GM soya planted (HT)
2001	National Biotechnology Strategy
2003	Acceded to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
2004	Department of Health's labelling regulations National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act
2005	1st commercial stacked crop planted (IR-HT cotton)
2011	Department of Trade & Industry's Consumer Protection Act labelling regulations
2013	National Bio-economy Strategy

South Africa has a well-established, evolving regulatory framework for GMOs and a wealth of institutional memory that could benefit other developing countries.

IR = Insect resistant HT = Herbicide tolerant

Biosafety South Africa's mandate is to enable safe, sustainable and compliant research, development, production, use and application of biotechnology - in particular GMOs.

biosafety SOUTH AFRICA
www.biosafety.org.za
biosafety@biosafety.org.za

science & technology
Department: Science and Technology
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

STATUS OF GM PRODUCTS IN SOUTH AFRICA

OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS ON AVERAGE

In addition, many GM-derived medicines, including anti cancer agents, vaccines, insulin, cytokines and growth factors are on the South African market.

- **2.7 million** hectares of GM crops were planted in South Africa.
- **90%** of maize is GM (HT and/or IR)
- **95%** of soybean is GM (HT)
- **100%** of cotton is GM (HT and/or IR)
- Since 1999, **393** permits for confined field trials on 10 different crops have been issued.

IR = Insect resistant HT = Herbicide tolerant

THE GMO PERMIT APPLICATION PROCESS