

China's experiences in implementing the Cartagena

Protocol on Biosafety

China signed the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety on August 8, 2000. On 8 June 2005, the Chinese Government approved the Cartagena Protocol and became a party to the Cartagena Protocol on September 6, 2005. Since becoming a party, China has earnestly fulfilled its commitments, actively participated in the negotiation of the Protocol and achieved fruitful results.

China has set up the National Biosafety Administration Office (located in the Department of Nature and Ecology Conservation of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment), which serves as the focal point for the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH NFP) , organizes the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol, leads China's negotiation team on the Cartagena Protocol, and coordinates biosafety management. In 2010, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, together with more than 20 ministries and organizations, compiled the China National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan (2011-2030), which integrated biosafety into China's national biodiversity strategy and action plan. China has established the Inter-Ministerial Joint Conference System for the Biosafety Management of Agricultural Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), composed of 12 ministries, which is responsible for researching and coordinating major issues in the biosafety management of agricultural

GMOs.

China has tightened regulation on biotechnology and its products. A succession of laws and regulations have been promulgated, including Biosecurity Law (2020), Measures for the Safety Administration of Biotechnology Research and Development (2017), Regulations on the Biosafety Administration of Genetically Modified Organisms in Agriculture (2001), Measures for the Biosafety Assessment and Administration of Genetically Modified Organisms in Agriculture (2002), Measures for the administration of the examination and approval of the activities of forest trees transgenic engineering (2006), and Measures for the Administration of Inspection and Quarantine of Inbound and Outbound Genetically Modified Products (2004). The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, the General Administration of Customs and the Ministry of Ecology and Environment have issued more than 300 technical standards on the biosafety testing, assessment, supervision and regulation of GMOs, and a national GMO biosafety management system is gradually improved.

Through the implementation of biosafety scientific research projects and experimental base construction projects, China has improved the research capacity and level of cultivation and safety evaluation of genetically modified organisms, and strengthened the construction of biosafety laboratories, experimental bases and other infrastructure. Extensive safety

testing and assessment of GMOs has been carried out to prevent any potential negative impacts on biodiversity conservation and on the sustainable utilization of bio-resources resulting from the release of GMOs into the environment. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs conducts annual training courses on agricultural GMOs for local agricultural authorities and relevant personnel to improve their biosafety management capabilities; provides training for R&D personnel at universities and agricultural research institutes to improve their understanding of laws and regulations on agricultural GMOs; conducts training courses on GMO biosafety at universities, middle schools, and elementary schools to improve students' biosafety awareness; and popularizes the knowledge on GMOs among local residents and farmers to enhance their understanding of GMOs.