

In the name of God



Islamic Republic of Iran CPB NFP

Executive Secretary,
CBD, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
United Nations Environment Program
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Dear Sir/Madam

March 13, 2019

Reference to Notification No. 2019-009 dated February 1, 2019, please find bellow the response of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

1) Iran values scientific findings and innovation. Gene drive is one of the fascinating technologies for crop improvement as well as environmental conservation and combating vectors carrying dangerous diseases.

2) Iran does not have practical experience undertaking risk assessment of living modified organisms containing engineered gene drives and living modified fish so far.

3) We do not foresee any (new) challenges in undertaking risk assessment of living modified organisms containing engineered gene drives and living modified fish, except two potential issues: (1) the issue of off-target gene drive, (2) the issue of potential aggressiveness of specific alleles in populations and its impact.

4) We are considering the specific needs (if any) to properly undertake risk assessment of living modified organisms containing engineered gene drives. For this, we are conducting series of practical workshops, during which we hope to finalize any specific needs and requirement (if any). We will share with you the findings as soon as we complete this activity.

With my best personal wishes.
Sincerely yours;

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'B. Ghareyazie'.

Behzad Ghareyazie
CPB National Focal Point,
Islamic Republic of Iran