



The Current Status and Experiences gained with the identification and documentation of Living Modified Organisms

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Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

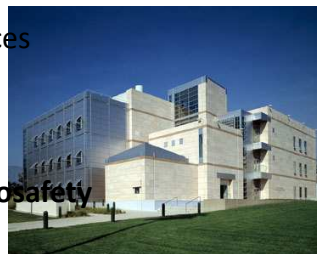
Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Signed	24.05.2000
Ratified	28.04.2004
Entered into force for Sri Lanka	26.07.2004

Institutional Structure

- **National Competent Authority/National Focal Point**
Ministry of Environment
- **Sectoral Competent Authorities**
 - Department of Agriculture
 - Department of Animal Production and Health
 - Ministry of Healthcare & Nutrition
 - Dept. of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
 - Ministry of Industry and Commerce
 - Dept. of Wildlife Conservation

National Coordinating Committee on Biosafety



Current Status of identification and documentation requirements of LMOs

Existing provisions in national regulatory/administrative framework for imports of LMOs

Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety



National Biosafety Framework & National Biosafety Policy

Objective : To ensure adequate levels of protection in the safe use of modern biotechnology based on the precautionary principle

- **Cabinet approval in 2005**
- Discretionary power by policy which is approved by Cabinet of Ministers



National Biosafety Policy

some points...

Policy Statements

- **Labelling of genetically modified products shall be made mandatory.** Compulsory labelling will be required for all products resulting from modern biotechnology, at all stages of the production process, from raw material to final product
- **National safety guidelines and implementation practices shall be adopted.** The guidelines shall cover all related aspects, including material handling, equipment, storage, waste disposal, laboratory safety, etc.
 - Laboratory safety guidelines, Laboratory Manual on detection of Genetically modified organisms, food, feed & process products



National Biosafety Framework

- **Annex 3: Country specific guidelines for import of Genetically Modified Organisms and products**
 - **Permit with conditions specified** issued in quadruplicate.

Original	→	given to the applicant for presentation to the Authorized Officer at the port of entry;
Duplicate	→	sent by the applicant to the shipper in the country of origin for their guidance relative to the terms and conditions
Triplicate	→	presented to the Collector of Customs at the port of entry
Fourth copy filed with the application.		
 - **HS Codes** for food & feed – under preparation



National Biosafety Framework Contd..

Annex 4: Guidelines for internal transport and release of GMOs and products

- Information required for preliminary observation
 - Name, address, and telephone number of consignee.
 - Name and address of shipper, owner, or person shipping or forwarding the consignment.
 - Identifying shipper's mark and number.
 - Written permit number authorizing the importation.
 - General nature and quantity of the content.
- Detailed inspection for compliance with import regulations & import permit
- All persons granted permission to import GMOs and products, required to submit performance evaluation reports to the NFP as specified by the Director/NFP

Food Act No 26 of 1980

Regulations under section 32

Food (Control of Import, Sale and Labeling of Genetically Modified Foods) Regulations 2006

Published in Gazette No 1456/22 – August 03, 2006

Operation since 1st January 2007



GM Food regulation



No person shall , import, store, transport, distribute, sell or offer for sale

- any genetically modified organism as food for human consumption;
- any food containing or consisting of genetically modified organisms;
- any food produced from or containing ingredients produced from genetically modified organisms;

without the approval of the **Chief Food Authority**
(Director General of Health Services)

Food which contains or has genetically modified organism **less than nought decimal five per cent (0.5%)** are **exempted** from the provisions of these regulations.

GM Food regulation Labeling..

- Inclusion of Statement **“Genetically modified”**

Place the approved product in the market with appropriate **labeling**

Include statement **“genetically modified”**
in package or retail sale



Biosafety Bill

- Objective

To ensure that applications (uses, development, research, productions, marketing & other commercial applications, handling, transport, import, export, sale, including contained use & reexport, transfer, disposal & release) of any LMOs undertaken in a manner that prevents/reduces risks to biological diversity & human health



Objective Contd.....

- Any exporter to **notify** in writing prior to transboundary movement of LMO
- To maintain **safety standards**
- To submit **receipt of acknowledgement** of notification of exporter by importer
- To **label** all GMOs, products, products made by processes involving use of GMOs and any substances secreted or made
- Require importer to apply adequate measures to ensure **safe transboundary movement** of LMO



Biosafety Bill...

Includes a section on

- **Handling, transportation, packaging and identification of modified organisms**

National Competent Authority shall have power to make rules in respect of handling, transportation, packaging and identification of any LMO/GMO



Experience gained

With identification of LMOs, use of existing documentation systems, existing initiatives and facilities for identification of LMOs



Experience gained

No imports yet

- **GM Food**

No requests made so far

- **GM feed**

Décision not given for import

Identifying GM Foods

Ministry of Health

- There is a Port Health Office and an Airport Health Office under the Directorate of Quarantine in the Ministry of Health.(They have Food and drugs Inspectors and doctors)
- They check the GM certificates of potential GM foods, like potatoes, maize etc in importation.



Enforcement Mechanism in Customs

Import entry

- Appraising – check for permits/approvals
 - DWLC/DoA/Dept. of Health/AP&H/FD/Dept. of Fisheries & Aq. Resources permit
 - Controller of Imports & exports permit
 - DoA/quarantine permit
- Examination – Draw the Samples by Customs/relevant Authorities
- Approval by relevant Authorities
- Release by customs

Ministry of Environment Market survey of GMOs

- Two surveys completed (2009,2011)
- **Soya:** Soya bean-whole, Soya sauce, Bean curd, Soya Sausages
- **Corn/:** frozen/in liquid
- **maize** Flour, Seeds, Based products:snacks Corn flakes
- **Tomato:** Puree/paste, Ketchup, Sauce, Peeled, Crushed/diced/whole, Juice
- **Potato:** chips, French fries, Wedges/mashed
- **Yeast:** Bakers yeast
- **Chocolates**
- **Cheese**
- **Thripasha**
- **Samaposha**
- **Ordinary flour (Paan piti)**
- **Textured Vegetable Protein (TVP)**
- **Soya Milk**



Difficulties/challenges encountered



What is Lacking

- **Customs/Health**
 - Monitoring procedure
 - Immediate testing facilities/identification not available in govt. sector
 - Information
 - Risk factors – Producers, Trade companies, exporters, country of origin
 - Awareness among officers
 - Customs/Food & drug inspectors
 - Relevant officials

Capacity building needs and priorities



Capacity building needs and priorities

Customs/Health

Awareness among officers

- Customs/Food & Drug Inspectors
- Relevant officials



Training

Testing facilities – rapid testing labs



Data base



Recommendations for improving

- Develop identification/documentation systems
- Education/Training of officers
- Develop new courses on these
- Develop books, journals, guidelines
- Develop testing facility at entry points
- Upgrade laboratories



Thank you

