

# SUSTAINABLE BIOTECH INNOVATION



**Biosafety South Africa is a national service platform under the auspices of the** Department of Science and Technology and the Technology Innovation Agency. Its mandate is to support innovation in biotechnology by ensuring the sustainable development and use of biotech products. Modern biotech innovations promise great benefits to humankind if they are developed and used within a framework that ensures their sustainability, that is, when their potential health, environmental and socio-economic impacts are pro-actively assessed and managed within acceptable limits.

Biosafety South Africa enables and promotes sustainability through the delivery of value-added services and strategic investments. With specific reference to genetic modification (GM) technology and genetically modified organisms, the platform's role is to provide stakeholders with the necessary guidance and risk-management information to help ensure compliance, provide unbiased science- and evidence-based information in support of rational and effective decision-making, and develop GM risk assessment, management and communication capacities.

Our services include providing relevant, science-based regulatory and technical

information to a wide range of stakeholders, assisting with regulatory applications and advising GM product developers to help ensure an integrated and sustainable approach to research and development in South Africa. Through Biosafety South Africa, the South African government has also invested more than R9 million over the past five years in many strategic biosafety research projects at universities and other public and private research organisations to generate independent scientific risk management data.

These projects contributed to confirming the safety of the current GM products on the South African market and generated valuable, locally relevant information that is used to ensure the continued, safe and sustainable use of these products. In addition, by supporting these research projects numerous post-graduate students who will be South Africa's future risk managers, were trained.

Biosafety South Africa is committed to safe, sustainable biotech innovation by ensuring access to sciencebased risk analysis information, services as well as strategic investments.



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