

4.25 Papua New Guinea



4.25.1 Papua New Guinea's National Biosafety Framework (2005) (draft)

The draft Biosafety framework has been designed to address the following key issues in the light of the country's limited human and institutional capacities in handling, using, managing and developing GM products:

- (a) Increase awareness on biosafety and biotechnology
- (b) Conduct an inventory to establish number of GMOs in the country either as food, feed, food processes or pharmaceuticals
- (c) Develop an institutional framework for the assessment of GMOs
- (d) Develop regulations and guidelines for the safe assessment, handling, use, management and transfer of a GMOs
- (e) Strengthen and improve human and institutional capacities for the identification and assessing risks related to GMOs
- (f) Formulate policy and regulatory framework on biosafety and biotechnology
- (g) Strengthen and promote the precautionary approach
- (h) Strengthen and promote community participation in assessment, use, management and transfer of a GMO
- (i) Strengthen institutional networking and coordination

4.25.2 Biosafety and Biotechnology Bill (2005) (draft)

The main objectives of the Bill are:

- (a) To protect the health and safety of people and the environment, by identifying risks posed by modern biotechnology, and by preventing, reducing and eliminating them through regulation
- (b) To ensure both the long-term and short-term social, economic and environmental considerations and to prevent threats posed by GMOs on the country's biodiversity
- (c) To protect and sustain the potential of natural and physical resources against threats posed by GMOs to meet the foreseeable needs of future generations and safeguard ecosystems

- (d) To avoid or mitigate any adverse effects of activities on the environment by regulating the activities related to GMOs
- (e) To ensure regulation of dealings with GMOs consistent with national interests

Source:

1. *Papua New Guinea's National Biosafety Framework. 2005. National National Department of Environment and Conservation of Papua New Guinea, p 134. (Available at www.unep.org/Biosafety/files/PGNBFrep.pdf; accessed on 29 March 2008).*