4.21 Nepal

4.21.1 National Biosafety Framework (2007)

The Bill is applicable to the development, production, contained use, field test, intentional introduction into the environment, and import and export of GMOs that may have an adverse effect on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and environment taking also into account the risks to human health.

The proposed Biosafety Policy (framework) covers the following aspects of GMOs and use of modern biotechnology:

(a)   The existing or potential use of GMOs in laboratory or in an open space.

(b)   Human health, biodiversity, natural environment, agricultural products, foods and drinking products, animal feed and areas of sewerage management.

(c)   Regulation of experiment, flow of information, review, assessment of risks including socioeconomic and ethical effects.

(d)   Monitoring of import and export, laboratory and field test.

(e)   Research and development in academic and industrial sectors

(f)   Safety of the place where functions relating to GMOs are carried out.

(g)   Public participation on the issues of modern biotechnology and biosafety

The technical framework of biosafety mainly covers the scientific research and testing of seed, plants, food, feed and animals with GMOs, which may be imported or produced within the country. The tests aim to identify the components of GMOs, and identify whether the tested GMOs pose any adverse risks to biological diversity and human health. On these grounds, decision will be made whether to allow or restrict the import of the tested GMOs. It also covers the management of risks from the use of GMOs.

Source:

1.   National Biosafety Framework of Nepal (2006) Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Kathmandu, Nepal. (Available on http://www.unep.ch/biosafety/development/Countryreports/NPNBFrep.pdf-Nepal ; accessed 27 September 2007)

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