

PROJECT OF
IMPLEMENTATION OF
NATIONAL BIOSAFETY
FRAMEWORK FOR TURKEY

**SAFETY AND
EMERGENCY
MEASURES ON
BIOSAFETY
IN TURKEY**



**GEF/UNEP AND MINISTRY OF FOOD,
AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK OF THE
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**

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EMERGENCY MEASURES ON BIOSAFETY
IN TURKEY**

This document was prepared with reference to the Biosafety Law No. 5977.

FOREWORD

In an effort to protect the environment and biodiversity against the potential risks of genetically modified organisms, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety -the first international document that is of a binding nature in this area- took effect around the world on 11 September 2003 and in Turkey on 24 January 2004. The protocol seeks to ensure an adequate level of protection in the field of the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, also considering its risks to human health, and specifically focusing on transboundary movements.

The Biosafety Law, which was prepared by taking the Cartagena Protocol, the EU Acquis, the situation and needs of the country into consideration, was approved by the Turkish Grand National Assembly on 18 March 2010, published in the Official Gazette no. 27533 of 26 March 2010 and entered into force on 26 September 2010. The Biosafety Law aims to establish and implement a biosafety system in order to prevent the potential risks of the genetically modified organisms and products thereof obtained through modern biotechnological means within the context of scientific and technological advancements and protect human, animal and plant health; safeguard and ensure the sustainable use of the environment and biological diversity and to determine the procedures and principles governing the control, regulation and monitoring of these activities.

Within the scope of the Biosafety Law the "Regulation on the Genetically Modified Organisms and Their Products" and the "Working Principles and Procedures of the Biosafety Board and Committees" were published on the Official Gazette No. 27671 of 13 August 2010.

In order to develop the capacity needed for ensuring biosafety within the scope of the national and international legislations, the project titled "Support for

the Implementation of the National Biosafety Framework of the Republic of Turkey” was prepared and accepted by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The project was implemented between 2013 and 2017 under the coordination of the Directorate General of Agricultural Research and Policies (DGARP). Within the scope of the project, five guidelines were prepared by considering the works of national consultants and the contributions of the relevant partners obtained during the workshops, which were conducted at the preparation stages of some of the guidelines. The following guidelines have been developed: “Application Guideline”, “Technical Guideline for the Risk Assessment of Genetically Engineering Crops and Derived Food And Feed”, “Socio-economic Evaluation Criteria for the Decision-Making Process Regarding GMOs and Products”, “Guidelines on Control and Traceability of Genetically Modified Organisms and Products” and “Legal Guideline”.

Our General Directorate considers the works conducted for raising public awareness during the project, the documents prepared as outputs of the project and overall project experience significant gains. I hope that these guidelines, which were prepared within the scope of the project, will be useful. I also congratulate and thank everyone who contributed to the project, especially the UNEP-GEF Portfolio Manager (Biosafety) Alex Owusu-BINEY, Project Assistant Birgül GÜNER, Project team consisting of Hilal YÜCE ARSLAN, Ayfer ŞAHİN and Serdar AYDEMİR, national consultants Professor Emine OLHAN, Professor Mustafa Fadıl YILDIRIM, Associate Professor Remziye YILMAZ, Dr. Seval ÜNALAN and Fatih KAYA.

Dr. Yusuf ARSLAN
Project Coordinator

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Operational starting date	: 30/09/2013
Official end	: 16/08/2017
Trust Fund	: GEF
Period	: GEF IV
Implementing Agency	: UNEP
Project executing organization	: Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MFAL), General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policies (GDAR)
Cost of Project	: 1.292.650\$
Cost to the GEF Trust Fund	: 542.650 \$
Co-financing	: 750.000 \$
Project Coordinator	: Dr. Yusuf ARSLAN
Proje Assistant	: Birgül GÜNER
Project Team	: Hilal YÜCE ARSLAN Ayfer ŞAHİN Serdar AYDEMİR

PRESENTATION

The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety entered into force in the world on 11 September 2003, and in Turkey on 24 June 2004 (Law numbered 4898; dated 24.06.2003 and published in the Official Gazette numbered 25148) as the first binding document in order to ensure the protection of environment and biodiversity against the possible risks of genetically modified organisms. Prepared by taking the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, European Union Acquis, and the condition and needs of Turkey into consideration, Biosafety Law was accepted on 18 March 2010 in the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, and issued on the Official Gazette dated 26 March 2010 and numbered 27533, as the law numbered 5977. It entered into force on 26 September 2010.

According to Biosafety Law; with a view to protecting human, animal and plant health and ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of the environment and biological diversity; the importation, exportation, experimental release into the environment, placing on the market of GMOs and products thereof and contained use of genetically modified microorganisms are permitted in accordance with the **results of scientific risk assessments.**

Biosafety Board makes “**decision**” on applications for GMO and its products, according to the results of the risk assessment made by Scientific Committees in line with scientific principles and social-economic assessment.

One of the issues required to be included in the Board decisions on GMO and its products approved by the Board as per the 3rd Article and the 15th paragraph of the Law (Application, assessment and decision making) “Safety and Emergency Measures”. Safety and emergency measures should be prepared by the **applicant** by considering the specifications and purpose of use of the product. It includes the safety measures to be taken from the import to the final users of the GMO and its products.

Users on each stage are **obliged** to completely follow, and inform the following user about, the safety and emergency precautions in line with the Law 7th Article and the 6th Paragraph of the Law: “Relevant people are obliged to inform the buyers during the release of GMO and its products, about the safety rules and measures stated in the decision regarding the treatment, processing, transport, storage and other processes”.

SAFETY AND EMERGENCY MEASURES

- This document is comprised of measures to be taken for the process from exportation of GMO products to their delivery to the end-user.
- The safety and emergency measures shall be **notified by the applicant** by taking into account the specifications of the related product as well as usage and intended purpose thereof.
- Users included in each stage of the process shall be **liable** to abide fully by safety and emergency measures specified herein and to inform the next user in respect thereof.
- The explanations shall be prepared in line with the product specifications and its intended purpose and be in an explicit form so that the users may easily use them.
- In case of emergency, it is **obligatory** to fill in the “*Emergency Notification Form*” attached to the annex herein and to communicate it to the nearest Provincial/ District Directorate of Food, Agriculture and Livestock.
- The information to be considered confidential shall be included in “Section Ğ”.
- The present document shall be completed in handwriting. In cases where spaces are not adequate, a separate sheet shall be used.

A. Safety and emergency measures to be taken during loading-unloading

(In this section, necessary safety measures to be taken during loading-unloading with regard to the products that may cause spillage, dispersion, contamination in the place of acceptance, acts of stealing and theft, delivery of a different product etc. shall be defined. All available special tools, equipment, if any, to be used in this process as well as other components shall be defined separately and explicitly including their brands and models, if need be.)

1. Safety Measures

2. Emergency Measures

B. Safety and emergency measures to be taken during transportation

(In this section, necessary safety measures to be taken during transportation with regard to spillage, dispersion, contamination, acts of stealing and theft, delivery of a different product etc. shall be defined. All available special tools, equipment, if any, to be used in this process as well as other components shall be defined separately and explicitly including their brands and models, if need be.)

1. Safety Measures

2. Emergency Measures

C. Safety and emergency measures to be taken during storage

(In this section, necessary safety measures to be taken during storage with regard to spillage, dispersion, contamination, acts of stealing and theft, delivery of a different product etc. shall be defined. All available special tools, equipment, if any, to be used in this process as well as other components shall be defined separately and explicitly including their brands and models, if need be.)

1. Safety Measures

2. Emergency Measures

Ç. Safety and emergency measures to be taken during handling

(In this section, necessary safety measures to be taken during handling with regard to soiling and contamination, spillage and dispersion, acts of stealing and theft, delivery of a different product etc. shall be defined. All available special tools, equipment, if any, to be used in this process as well as other components shall be defined separately and explicitly including their brands and models, if need be.)

1. Safety Measures

2. Emergency Measures

D. Safety and emergency measures to be taken during packaging

(In this section, necessary safety measures to be taken during packaging with regard to soiling and contamination, spillage and dispersion, acts of stealing and theft, delivery of a different product etc. shall be defined. All available special tools, packages, equipment, if any, to be used in this process as well as other components shall be defined separately and explicitly including their brands and models, if need be.)

1. Safety Measures

2. Emergency Measures

E. Safety and emergency measures to be taken for packaged products during loading-unloading and transportation

(In this section, necessary safety measures to be taken for packaged products during loading-unloading and transportation with regard to soiling and contamination, spillage and dispersion, acts of stealing and theft, delivery of a different product etc. shall be defined. All available special tools, packages, equipment, if any, to be used in this process as well as other components shall be defined separately and explicitly including their brands and models, if need be.)

1. Safety Measures

2. Emergency Measures

F. Other measures

(In this section, safety and emergency measures necessary to be taken for other issues and practices that are not stated in this form, if any, shall be explained.)

1. Safety Measures

2. Emergency Measures

G. Safety Measures and Emergency Focal Point

(In this section, contact information of the focal point to be cooperated, with whom safety measures will be exchanged, shall be provided.)

1. Focal Point for Safety Measures
Name and Surname :
Business Address :
Home Address :
Landline (Business) :
Fax :
Landline (Home) :
Mobile Phone :
E-mail :
2. Focal Point for Emergency
Name and Surname :
Business Address :
Home Address :
Landline (Business) :
Fax :
Landline (Home) :
Mobile Phone :
E-mail :

Ĝ. Confidential Information

(In this section, information related to safety and emergency measures, which must be considered confidential information, shall be provided.)

1. Safety Measures

2. Emergency Measures

ANNEX: Emergency Notification Form

(It shall be used in case of emergency)

- Please provide as much detailed information as possible regarding the emergency.
- The information provided herein shall be disclosed to the general public. Information that are considered “Confidential Information” shall be given in the Section “G” under the title of “Confidential Information”

A. Emergency Application Date (To be filled in by the Ministry)

1. Date of Receipt of the Emergency Notification	
2. Time of the Receipt of the Emergency Notification	

B. General Information

1. Date of Emergency	
2. Time of Emergency	
3. The trade name, field of activity, title, business address and the contact details of the organization including phone number(s) of the contact person who has filed an application for an emergency	

4. The place of the emergency stemming from a GMO product, the address and contact details of the place including the phone number(s) of the contact person

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5. Nature of the emergency

1. Accident that occurred during transportation	
2. Fire	
3. Flood	
4. Explosion	
5. Building destroyed or damaged to an extent which would hinder the activity	
6. Theft	
7. Natural disasters	
8. Other *	

*** If you select "other", please explain it in a separate sheet.**

C. Information on the GMO

1. Unique Identifier Code	
2. Definition of the GMO	
3. Intended Use of the GMO	
4. Intended Purpose of the Product at the time of the emergency	
5. Authorizing Body	

D. Detailed Explanation related to the Emergency

(In this section, detailed explanation shall be provided where, when and how the emergency has occurred and its probable causes.)

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E. Focal Point

General Directorate for Food and Control

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Provincial Directorate

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District Directorate

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F. Contact information of the notifying organization/person

1. Of the notifying organization :

a. Title	
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b. Address and contact details	
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c. Name and contact details of the contact person	
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2. Of the notifying person :

a. Name-Surname	
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b. Address and contact details	
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G. Confidential Information

(The information to be provided in this section shall be treated as "Confidential Information")

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GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND POLICIES

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