



# STATUS OF GMOS IN BAHRAIN



**M.Dahmani Fathallah**

Arabian Gulf University  
Manama Bahrain



# LEGISLATION IN THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN



As a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council:  
GCC, Bahrain fully adhere to the Pan GCC  
legislation Framework

Two Legislation Bodies :

- **Majless Shura**
- **Majless Annouab**
- **+ The Government**

# BAHRAIN & THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY [CBD] 1992

✓Bahrain is a CBD party Since : 1996-08-30 by Ratification

✓Bahrain is also a Party in the Cartagena Protocol since: 2012-05-07

Signify the consent of a State to be bound by a treaty.

This implies that Bahrain needs to full fil the requirements of articles 8(g) et 19(3) of the CBD that deal with GMO

# Commitments Related To Articles 8(g) et 19(3) of the CBD

## ARTICLE 8(G)

Each Party “shall establish or maintain means to regulate, manage or control the risks associated with the use and release of living modified organisms resulting from biotechnology which are likely to have adverse environmental impacts that could affect the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account the risks to human health.”

## ARTICLE 19(3)

“The parties shall consider the need for and modalities of a protocol setting out appropriate procedures, including, in particular, advance Informed agreement, in the field of the safe transfer, handling and use of any Living modified organism Resulting from biotechnology that may have Adverse environmental effect on the Conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.”



# What Happened Since

- In 2008 officials from the Arabian Gulf countries met in Abu Dhabi in an attempt to come up with a common regulatory framework for drafting rules to govern the testing, production and import of GM food.
- Draft regulations to control testing, production and labeling of GM foods were supposedly endorsed by GCC states
- In 2011 the Gulf technical sub-committee for organic, functional and genetically modified food was created after the 14th Meeting of the Gulf Technical Committee held in Qatar to update and raise the Gulf specifications production and import of GM foods.
- Article 25 of the Common Customs Law of the GCC Member States adopted by the Supreme Council at the 20th Session (Riyadh, November 1999) and implemented by the year 2002 :
  - *" Imported goods are subject to the proof of origin according to the rules of origin adopted within the framework of the international and regional economic agreements in force"*

# Pan GCC Law of April 2012

The Shura Council amended and approved a pan-GCC legislation on the transfer of seeds and shrubs, it.

**“People importing, exporting or growing genetically modified or contaminated crops would face a minimum of three months in jail, or a more severe punishment taking into consideration articles in the Penal Code related to intentional harming the health of others”**

Members wanted to bring the new bill, which is being implemented across the GCC, in line with Bahrain's Penal Code.

# What Can we say about GMO Legislation in Bahrain

- Banning : **YES** but
- Culturing : **NO** but
- Control & Testing:  
**NO**
- Trading/Labeling : ?





# What's the Situation at the Markets Stalls

- Products coming from the United State and Asian countries : No Labeling
- Products coming from the EU : Some are labeled GMO free some are not
- Products manufactured locally and in the GCC : No Labeling
- NO routine testing of imported products for presence GMO





# Is legislation alone sufficient to solve the issue?

In Bahrain the issue is not about whether GMOs are good or bad but about the right to know

Legislation cannot be effective without technical capacity in testing and controlling GMOs



**GMO FREE**

OR



?

**A Question soon to be Fully  
Answered**

**Bahrain along with the others Gulf Council  
Countries is in it's way to complete a legislation  
on GMOs**