

Introducing GMO Legislation and Implementation in Kuwait

Current Status

A working group at the Environment Public Authority (EPA) was formed based on the Resolution No. (135) for the year 1998.

They formed "A Team for laying down the necessary legislations for the insurance of biosafety, which governs the handling, transport and introduction of genetically modified organisms (GMOs)".

The formed group has discussed the Biosafety Protocol that was emerged from the International Convention on Biodiversity.

Joining the Biosafety Protocol was in conformity with the country interests in conserving the existing biodiversity, including the introduction of GMOs in the terrestrial and marine environment, natural and biological resources and fisheries, which are stipulated in the policies and general goals of the EPA in the second item relating to preserving of environment and natural resources

It was also due to the State's commitment to the unified system for the protection of wildlife, which was accredited in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit held in Kuwait, December 1997.

Recently, a memorandum on the ratification of biosafety protocol was sent to the Administration of Legal Advice and Legislation.

Major Obstacles of Protocol Implementation:

- Lack of expertise, human resources and institutional structure relevant to the subject of biosafety and biotechnology, which required for the implementation of the Protocol.

Major Obstacles of Protocol Implementation:

- Lack of documented data on biotechnological researches and experiments at the national level.
- Difficulty of access to available information on biosafety from foreign and international sources.
- Restricted financial resources available for the implementation of the protocol.

Needs:

- Developing human resources to ensure the comprehensive training of individuals relevant to the subject of biosafety, such as training lawyers on technical issues, and likewise training technicians on legal issues.
- Enhancing human and institutional capacities to ensure the implementation of the Protocol in the proper manner.

Needs:

- Strengthening the international and regional cooperation, and exchanging of experiences, particularly in the field of assessment and management of potential risks that arises from the utilization of biotechnology.
- Facilitating the access to international sources of information.

Needs:

- Raising public awareness about the risks and benefits of the modern biotechnology applications by promoting the cooperation between governmental institutions and the private sector.
- Providing a national data base of researches relevant to biotechnology.

Capacity enhancement requires the availability of the following:

- National institutional capacity building and the formulation of mechanisms for Protocol implementation, such as establishment of reference centers and laboratories having the experience in the field of biotechnology.

- Training professionals at all levels in the areas of risk assessment and management.
- Facilitating the access to information sources through the development of databases that includes scientific data, programs and research activities in the field of biotechnology.

- Documenting information relevant to the existing biodiversity, and the attempt of conserving biodiversity without distributing the ecological stability due to testing and releasing of GMOs.
- Raising public awareness and participating of all governmental and private sectors in this process.
- Exchanging experiences in the field of biosafety and biotechnology at the national, regional and international level.

- Encouraging regional institutions to create an expertise regional center for sharing and exchanging of information, and the training of national and regional staff.
- Establishing of regional points of contact on biosafety, and the financing of these points to ensure the continuity of work.*

كلية العلوم
وحدة التثنيات الحيوية



Biotechnology Center

Kuwait Universitys Biotechnology Center, KUBC, is a research unit located in the College of Science. It is dedicated to serving research needs in the field of Biotechnology. This includes such area as clinical research, molecular diagnostics, as well as population and environmental studies.

KUBC Equipment and Services

- The goal of KUBC is to advance research in the field of Biotechnology throughout The State of Kuwait and within the region. This is to be accomplished by providing local and international analytical services and consultations, in addition to education and training on the use of its state-of-art scientific instrumentation.