

IMPLEMENTATION OF LEGISLATION ON GMOs IN TURKEY

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General Directorate of Agricultural Research



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Legislation

- UN Cartagena Biosafety Protocol (act 4898, 24 June 2003)
- Instruction on the Field Trails of Transgenic Culture Plants (TGD/TOH-032, 14.05.1998)
- Draft Law on Biosafety



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Instruction on the Field Trails of Transgenic Culture Crops

- Instruction was put into work in May 1998 by GDAR
- All transgenic crops, developed through modern biotechnology either imported or locally developed, intended for deliberate release to environment subject to field trials under controlled conditions



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Preconditions for eligibility of application for field trial

- ❑ Genetically Modified Plant (GMP) should be registered in exporting country and present in the OECD variety list
- ❑ GMP must be in production for marketing in the country where the GMP is registered and other countries having regulation on GMOs



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Preconditions for eligibility of application for field trial

- ❑ Scientific reports focusing on the effects of the GMP on the environment, human and animal health, including possible interactions of the GMP with natural flora and fauna shall be made available for risk assessment
- ❑ GMP varieties having wild relatives in Turkey are subject to more detailed consideration in decision making on the establishment of the field trials



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Implementation of Instruction

- Application to General Directorate of Agricultural Research
- Evaluation of application by the pre-acceptance committee
- Evaluation of Application by the Scientific Committee
- Designing Field Trails with the agreement of applicant and the research institute



Implementation of Instruction

- ❑ Field Tests carried out by Research Institutes for two years in controlled field conditions,
- ❑ Original variety and local varieties are used as controls,
- ❑ Guard rows are planted,
- ❑ Remedies after harvest are to be destroyed,
- ❑ The field is kept under control for following the weediness, the effect to flora and fauna,



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Implementation of Instruction

- Following subjects considered in the field test
 - Effectiveness of gene
 - Yield tests
 - Effect to flora and fauna
 - Gene flow
 - Weediness
 - Economic evaluation





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Implementation of Instruction

Laboratory Tests

- Tests for food and feed equivalence
- Tests for toxicity and allergenicity

Final Scientific Evaluation

Decision Making???





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Laboratories

- ❑ Ankara Provincial Control Laboratory (Food and Feed)
- ❑ Bursa Food Control and Central Research Institute (Food and Feed)
- ❑ Ankara Central Research Institute for Field Crops
- ❑ Antalya West Mediterranean Agricultural Research Institute (Horticultural Crops)
- ❑ Hacettepe University Biology Department (Allergenicty and Toxicity)



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Application for Field Tests

Herbicide Resistant Cotton DP 5690 RR

Insect Resistant Cotton DP 410 B

Insect Resistant Maize

– DK 626 Bt , RX 770 Bt, P. 31B13Bt,
P.33A14Bt. B.33V08Bt, Mon 810



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DRAFT LAW ON BIOSAFETY



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Basic Principles

- Precautionary principle
- Substantial equivalence
- Scientifically sound risk assessment
- Case by case evaluation



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Scope

This law applies to GMOs and products thereof; activities involving GMOs and products thereof, including research, development, production, environmental release, marketing, use, import, export, transport, storage, packaging and labeling; and private and public, legal persons and individuals related with these activities



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Matters Considered

- Contained Use
- Placing On The Market As Food, Feed Or For Processing
- Deliberate Release Into The Environment
- Consent
- Cansellation of Consent
- Application And Evaluation
- Confidential Information



Matters Considered

- Risk Assessment and Risk Management
- Public Awareness and Participation
- Simplified Procedure
- Monitoring and Product Analysis
- Co-existence
- Inspection And Enforcement
- Documentation, Labeling And Traceability
- Transport, Storage And Packaging
- Emergency Action Plan



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Matters Considered

- Sosio-economic Evalaution
- Decision Making
- Prohibitions
- İmport and Export
- Transit
- İnstitutional Structure
- Legal and Criminal Liability
- Punishment





Consent

- Experimental release
- Contained use
- Use for food and feed
- Production





Conditions for Consent

- Safety and health of humans, animals, plants and environment should not be threatened
- Freedom of choice of consumers should not be impaired
- Material balance of environment and ecosystem functioning should not be impaired
- GMO or its novel traits should not spread to or invade the environment
- Sustainability of biodiversity and land races should not be threatened



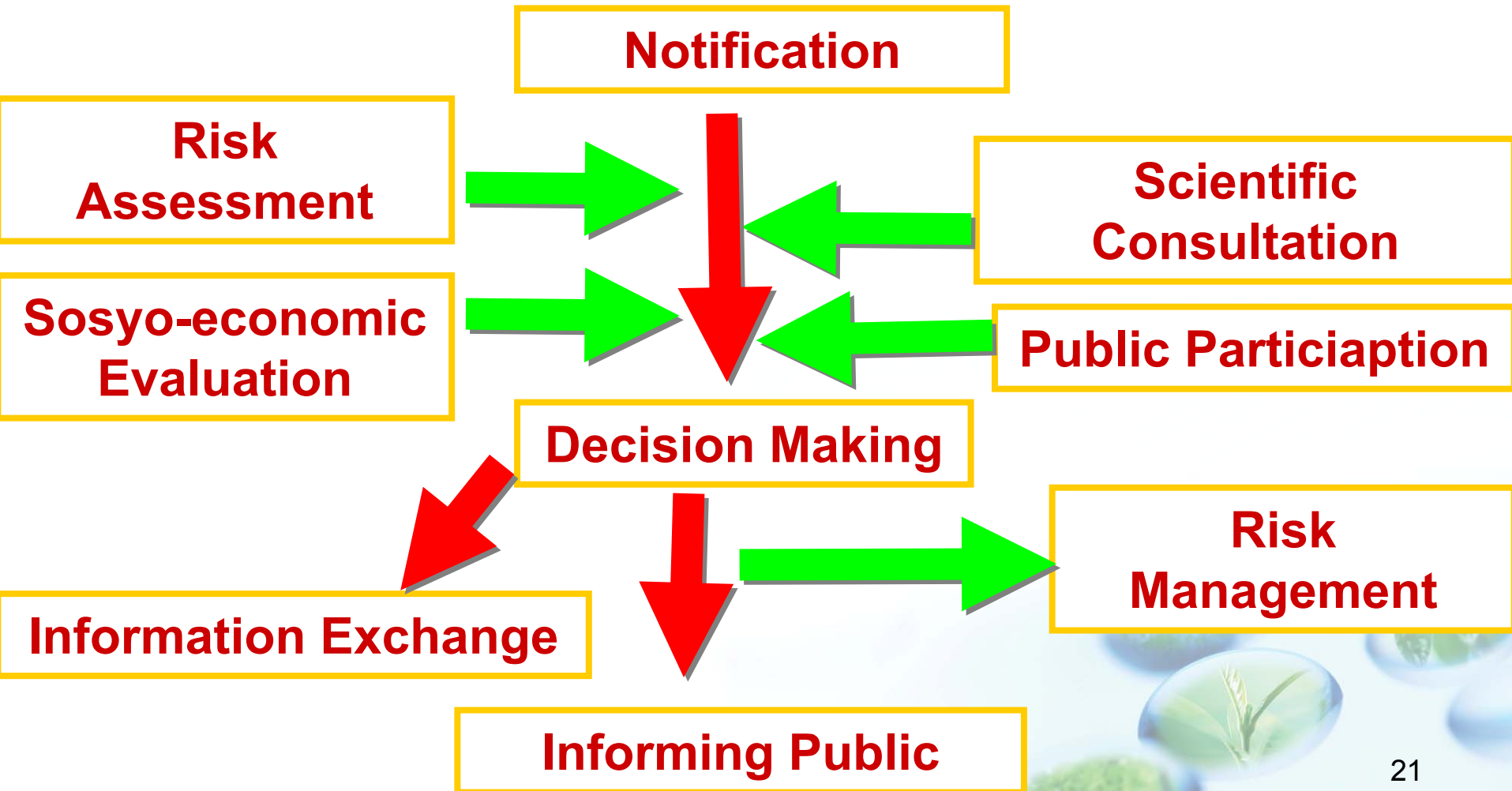
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Committees

- ❑ National Biosafety Committee
 - Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs 4
 - Ministry of Environment and Forestry 2
 - Ministry of Health 1
 - Ministry of Industry and Trade 1
 - Undersecretary of Foreign Trade 1

- ❑ Scientific Advisory Committee
 - Roster of Experts

Implementation of Biosafety Law





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Process of Preparation

- 4 workshops with 85 experts from 55 different institutions
- 25 selected expert among the workshop participants drafted the law
- Review process among the ministries according to the legislation
- Amended and changes in other laws inserted
- EU screening process
- It is in the Prime Ministry



Current Status

- No specific legislation is available on GMOs for food and feed yet
- Import of GMOs for food and feed and products thereof is based on the declarations
- Turkey has not approved any GMO for production in agricultural production yet



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