



# Needs and challenges in the area of Organism of Genetically Modify in Albania

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# Albania GMOs legislation and its approximation with international legislation

- Albania has ratified Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2004;
- Albania has ratified Supplementary Protocol on Liability and redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, on March 2013
- Albania accepted the amendment on genetically modified organisms (GMO amendment) to the Aarhus Convention, on 3 September 2020



# Albanian Legislation

The Albanian legislation about GMO products remains yet very limited, consisting mainly of ratified international conventions and protocols and limited number national laws referring briefly and generally to GMOs products in various articles. The main laws that are currently regulating GMO products are:

## Agriculture

Law on Food Law 9863/2008;

Law on the production, processing, certification and marketing of “bio products”;

## Environment

Law on protection of environmental

Law on protected areas”

Law on environmental impact assessment”



# Albania Institutions involve in OMGs area

The main institutions are:

- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development for planting, food and trade;
- Ministry of Environment for the controlled introduction into the environment, including setting and operation of the notification system (notification) between the States Party to the Protocol of Biosafety;

Other policy making stakeholders are

- Ministry of Health for microorganisms with an impact on human health;
- Ministry of Education and Sports for biotechnology development;
- The General Directorate of Customs responsible for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety regarding trans-boundary movements of GMOs;



# Recent development

The EU project support to food safety, veterinary and plant health standards in Albania (2019- 2023)

Project goals:

Support Albania in modernizing its food safety capacities by:

- Strengthening organizational and human resource capacities of Albanian institutions
- Enhancing public awareness and communication on food safety
- Helping adopt new legislation and regulations in line with EU standards (GMO Law)

The Eu Project provide an expert mission, in January 2020 to assist Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development(MoARD) in drafting GMO law and related work.

- The objectives of the mission were achieved by:
- Presenting an overview of EU legislation governing GMOs to MoARD
- Identifying central/critical parts of EU legislation to be adopted in GMO legislation for Albania
- Assisting MoARD in trying to assess and identify any potential issues regarding implementation of GMO related legislation in Albania.



# Challenges

The key areas to be improved include, but not limited to, five major directions:

- Approximation of the legislation with the EU legislation related to the placing of GM food and feed products in the market (including risk assessment, risk management, authorization and registration, testing procedures, labelling and ensuring the right of customers and farmers to choose, etc.);
- Clarification of roles and responsibilities of various institutions involved in addressing and management of GMO related matters, including a segregation of responsibilities to improve efficiency and avoid conflict and interest and fraud;
- Improvement of professional skills and technical capacities of the responsible institutions, including establishment of reference laboratories and training of staff in application of modern procedures to sampling and testing as well as other important aspects of the risk assessment and risk management;
- Strengthening law enforcement;
- Improving public participation and information.



# Following steps

- Improving its legislative and institutional framework to fully comply with the GMO Amendment;
- Defining roles and responsibilities of various authorities in the information and public participation processes of GMO;
- Building national and local capacities, developing practical experience and national guidelines in application of the GMO amendments in line with the both treaties and relevant EU legislation;
- Raising awareness and common understanding of the benefits of public participation and the consultation of relevant authorities regarding living modified organisms/genetically modified organisms.



**Thank you for your  
attention**