

Public participation regarding living modified organisms in Mexico

GMO Intersecretariat Biosafety Commission Executive Secretary

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CONSEJO NACIONAL DE HUMANIDADES
CIENCIAS Y TECNOLOGÍAS



CIBIOGEM
COMISIÓN INTERSECRETARIAL DE BIOSEGURIDAD
DE LOS ORGANISMOS GENÉTICAMENTE MODIFICADOS



2023
AÑO DE
Francisco
VILLA
EL REVOLUCIONARIO DEL PUEBLO

1. Background

National background

- Intersecretariat Biosafety Commission of Genetically Modified Organisms (Cibiogem) is the body in charge of establishing public biosafety policies in Mexican State.
- The Cibiogem is made up of six ministries and by the National Council of Humanities, Sciences and Technologies (Conahcyt).
- The Executive Secretariat of the Cibiogem serves as the National Focal Point of Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, based on articles 19 of Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and 108 of the National Law on Biosafety of Genetically Modified Organisms.
- Mexican Government signed Cartagena the Cartagena Protocol on May 24, 2000 and it was ratified in 2002.



Legal framework

- The Law on Biosafety of Genetically Modified Organisms (LBOGM) (2005), is the basic regulatory framework for public biosafety policies, which can be aimed at creating capacities in this matter.
- General Law of Humanities, Sciences, Technologies and Innovation (LGHCTI) (2023), which aims to guarantee the exercise of the human right to science in accordance with the principles of universality, interdependence, indivisibility and progressivity, so that everyone can enjoy of the benefits of development. of science and technological innovation, as well as human rights in general.
- The Presidential Decree (February 13, 2023) establishes various actions to avoid the use of glyphosate and genetically modified corn in agricultural crops and direct consumption of transgenic grain.
- Law of the National Institute of Indigenous Peoples, fully recognizes the human rights of indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples and communities.



2. Public Participation Initiatives and Actions

Public Participation and Information Access actions

- The Mexican state has a regulatory system that allows for the prior conditions for accessibility to biosafety information.
- General and Federal Laws of Transparency and Access to Public Information and General Guidelines for the regulation of the accountability procedures of the Federal Public Administration guide the action of state employees.
- National Transparency Platform.
- **National GMO Biosafety Information System (GMO NBIS)¹** and the **National GMO Biosafety Registry²**, whose objective is to organize, update and disseminate biosafety information.
- All this information is available on open access websites for general public.

¹ <https://conahcyt.mx/cibiogem/index.php/sistema-nacional-de-informacion>

² <https://conahcyt.mx/cibiogem/index.php/sistema-nacional-de-informacion/registro-nacional-bioseguridad-ogms>



Public Participation and Information Access actions

- **GMO NBIS** organize, update and disseminate biosafety information as:
 - Applications for GMO environmental release permits
 - GMO import authorizations for human consumption
 - Summaries of GMO risk assessments, as well as relevant information on products derived from GMO
 - Final resolutions regarding the importation or release into the environment of GMOs, as well as the modification of resolutions derived from their review in accordance with LBOGM
 - Socioeconomic effects of GMO, especially on indigenous and local communities
 - Reports and relevant documents resulting from scientific, academic, technical or any other type of work on biosafety
- **GMO Biosafety National Informational Ecosystem¹** is a web application that allows to consult the location of requests for the release of GMOs into the environment that have been approved.

Año de la solicitud

Incluir todos los años

Elige uno o más años de la lista

2020 X 2019 X
2018 X 2017 X
2016 X 2015 X
2014 X 2013 X
2012 X 2011 X
2010 X 2009 X
2008 X 2007 X
2006 X 2005 X

Tipo de liberación

Elige uno o más tipos de liberación

Experimental X

Organismo de la solicitud

Incluir todos los organismos

Elige uno o varios organismos de la solicitud

Algodón X Maíz X
Soya X



¹ <https://conahcyt.mx/cibiogem/EcosistemaBioseguridad>

Public Participation bodies



- **LBOGM** provides for the establishment of mechanisms for the participation of members and representatives of the academic, scientific, technological, social and productive sectors. Some of them:
- **The Scientific Advisory Council** serves as a mandatory consultation body for Cibiogem on technical and scientific aspects of modern biotechnology and GMO biosafety. It's made up 13 experts in important scientific and technical disciplines.
- **The Joint Advisory Council** serves as an optional consultation body that support the Commission through their opinions and observations through an official request. It's made up of representatives of the social, public and private sectors.
- **Specialized subcommittees or working groups** on important biosafety topics as GM cotton in México.
- “Protocol to guarantee self-determination, within the framework of the consultation mechanism for indigenous, Afro-Mexican and comparable peoples and communities, in relation to requests for the release of GMOs into the environment.”

Public Participation Where and When?

- In accordance with the public participation mechanisms designed by Cibiogem, public participation takes place in various spaces:
 - a) In work sessions of consultations Councils and Bodies
 - b) In territory for indigenous consultation
 - c) Online, through the various national and international biosafety forums and the “The GMO Biosafety Social Linkage Platform”
 - d) In peasant and indigenous communities that are part of the Ethnobiological gardens project, through community meetings, workshops on safeguarding biodiversity and participatory biosecurity
 - e) In research projects financed with public resources such “Dialogue of knowledge as a tool against presence of transgenes in native corn in ejidos of the Usumacinta Canyon Flora and Fauna Protection Area, Tenosique, Tabasco”
 - f) Trough Cibiogem social media



Cañón del Usumacinta



3. Recommendations and challenges

- Develop and execute effective mechanisms to ensure the participation of indigenous peoples and communities and the Afro-descendant population in decision-making regarding biosafety.
- Development of information materials in indigenous Mexican languages
- Promote information meetings in the territory
- Increase participation and audience in online outreach events
- Establish and develop a Broad Base Biosafety policy



Thanks

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