



# Public participation in GMO regulation in the Philippines

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## Biosafety regulations are in place prior to the Philippines' signing of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in 2000

**October 16, 1990:** Biosafety regulatory system was established

Operational Guidelines: Philippine Biosafety Guidelines, s1991  
Planned Release Guidelines for GMOs and PHES, 1998

**April 2, 2002:** DA AO#8- Rules and Regulations for Field Testing, Propagation and Direct Use for Food

### Convention on Biological Diversity

*Party since: 1994-01-06*

*By: Ratification*



### Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

*Party since: 2007-01-03*

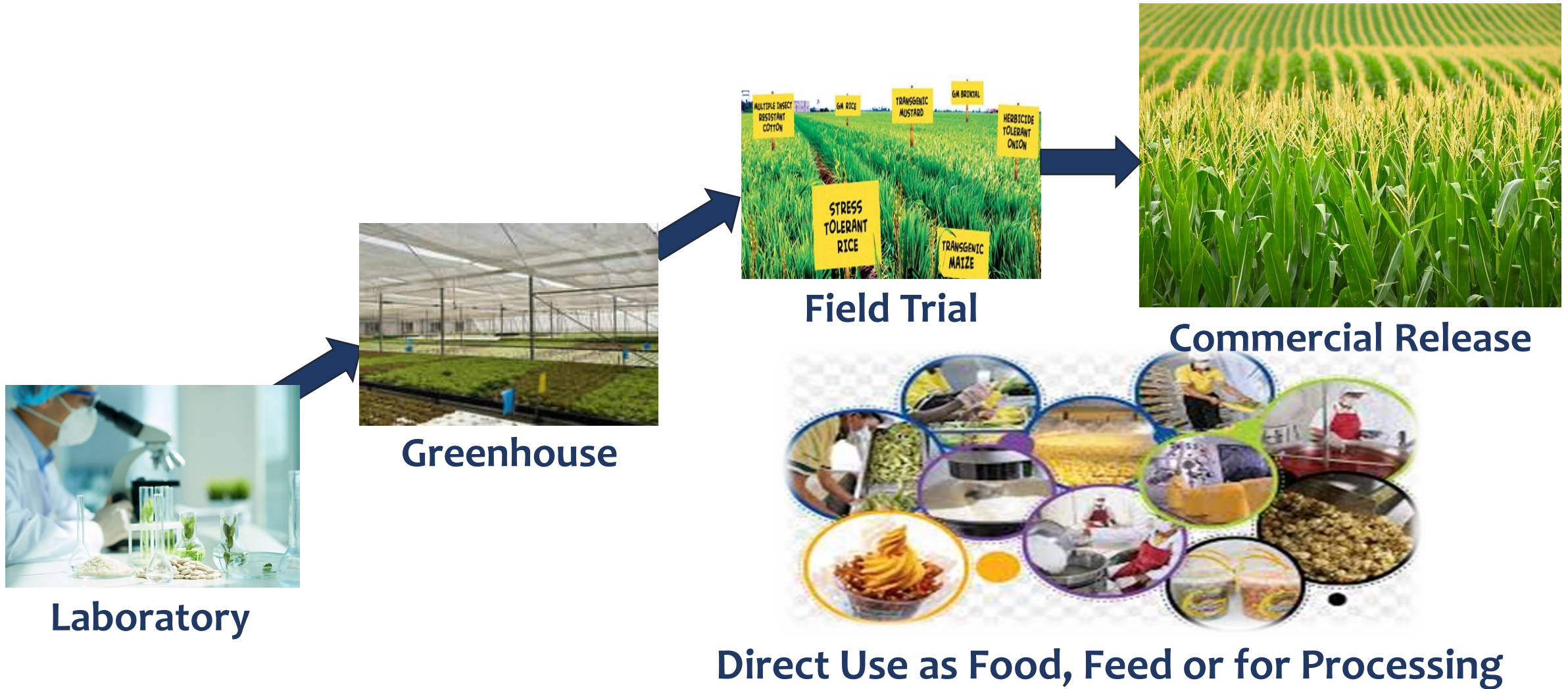
*By: Ratification*



### Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing



# RISK COMMUNICATION

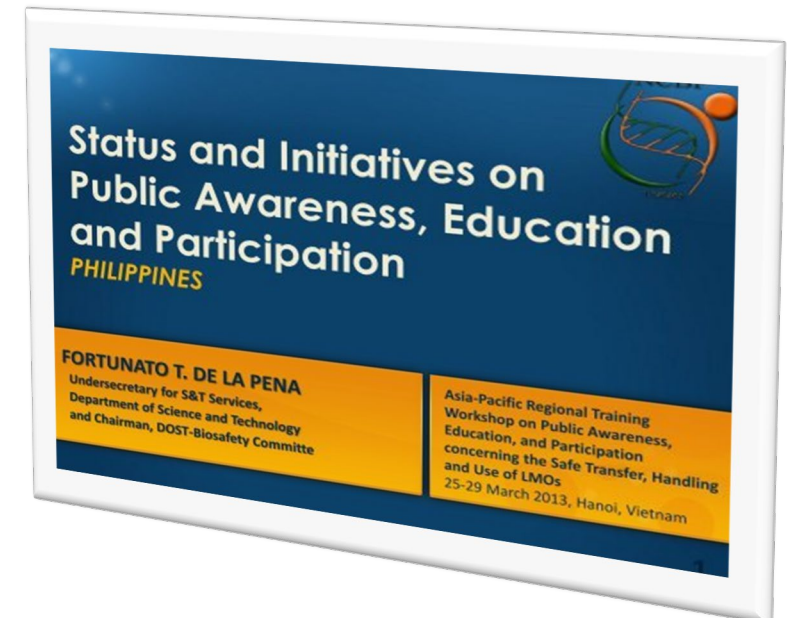


**Activities that need regulatory approval**



# Public Awareness, Education and Participation: Article 23, Section 16

- Right to participation: The right of the people and their organizations to effective and reasonable participation at all levels of social, political and economic decision-making shall not be abridged. The state shall, by law facilitate the establishment of adequate constitutional mechanism.



# Public Participation

**Applies to all stages in the decision-making process.**



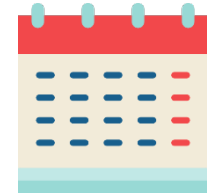
IBC members:  
Elected Local  
government  
officials/community  
representatives



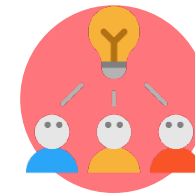
30-days Public  
comment period



Posting of PIS in  
bulletin boards of  
LGUs (field trial);  
publication in  
two newspapers  
of general  
circulation  
(propagation/dir  
ect use)



Public hearing/s prior  
to field trial of LMOs



Consideration of public  
concerns in the decision-  
making process

# ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The right of the public and the relevant stakeholders to information related to biosafety decisions is recognized and shall always be respected. It shall include the following:



Posting of applications in Agency websites



Protection of Confidential Information



Uploading of Decisions and summary of risk assessment in the BCH Central Portal and BCH Pilipinas





# POSTING OF PUBLIC INFORMATION SHEET FIELD TRIAL





# PUBLIC CONSULTATION FIELD TRIAL





# Commercial Propagation & Direct Use

- **Public Information Sheet (PIS) was published in two (2) newspapers of wide circulation**



The background of the slide features a close-up photograph of several network cables plugged into a patch panel. The cables are in various colors: blue, yellow, orange, pink, and red. The red cable in the foreground is in sharp focus, showing its RJ45 connector and the internal wiring. The other cables are blurred, creating a sense of depth. A semi-transparent light blue circle is positioned on the right side of the image, containing the text.

## IEC INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN

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# Regulators Share

- Assures the public that policies are in place to ensure that any product of genetic engineering passes through rigorous safety assessment before it is allowed to be planted in farmers' field or be made available in the market;
- Participated in debates and dialogues related to issues and concerns on biotechnology to provide the details of the assessment and to invoke transparency;
- Creation of Biosafety Clearing House and other government websites

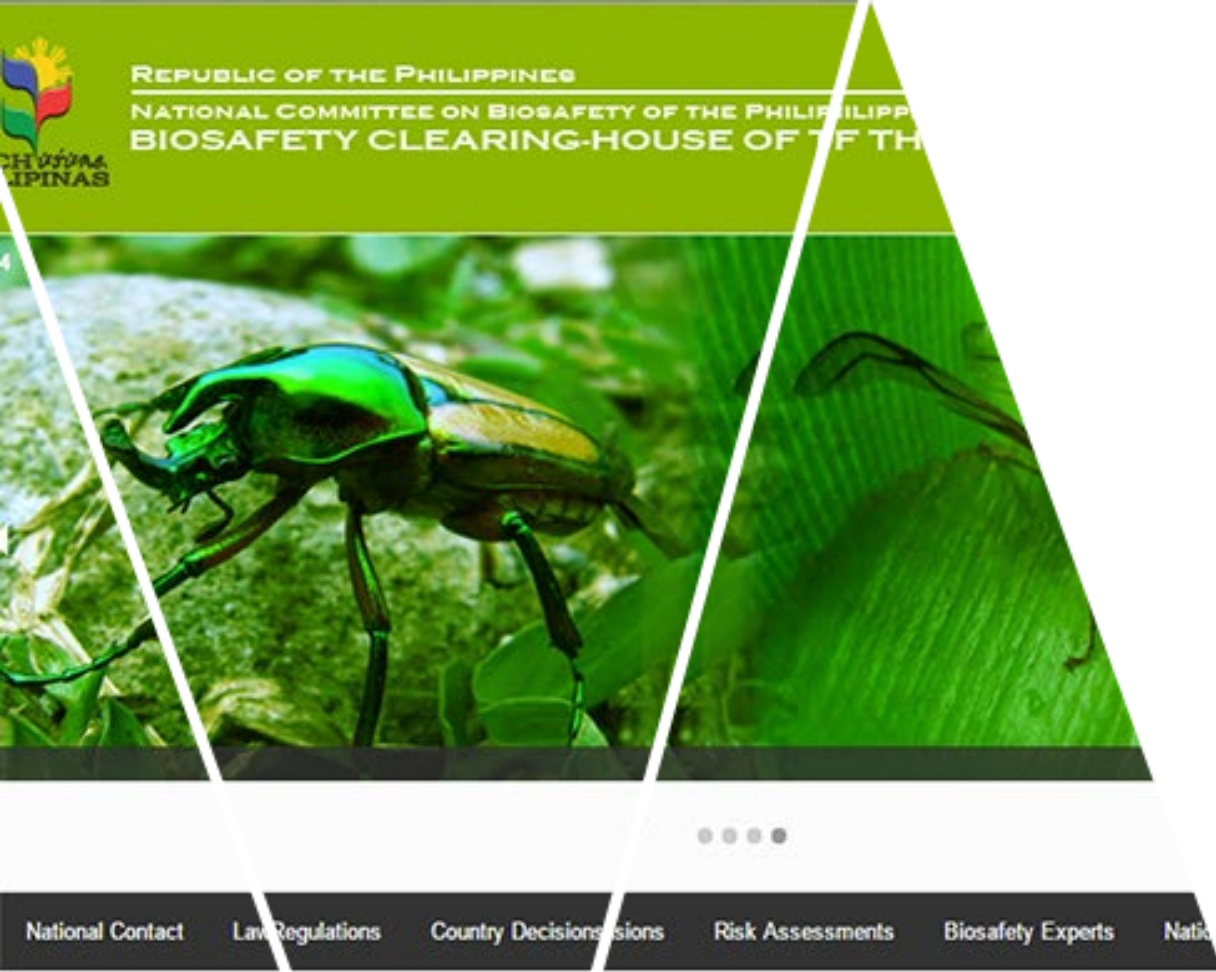




# Multi-sectoral Coalition of Biotech Advocates

- Developed the national capacity building program in biotechnology (e.g., training workshop on National Biosafety Framework and Implementation - series of risk assessment workshops for biotech regulators)
- Organized information, education and communication (IEC) campaigns;
- Country-wide consultations with regard framing the policy that will govern the release of GM crops in the country





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# Biosafety Clearing-House

Convention on Biological Diversity

Home The BCH The Protocol Finding Information Registering Information Resources Help Country Profiles...

## The Cartagena Protocol

What's new  
About the Protocol  
Text of the Cartagena Protocol  
Strategic Plan  
Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress  
Post-2020  
Background  
Global Biodiversity Framework and biosafety  
Implementation Plan for the Protocol  
Action Plan for Capacity Building  
Liaison Group  
Submissions

## Key Protocol Issues

Assessment and Review  
Capacity Building  
Compliance  
Financial Mechanism  
Mainstreaming  
Handling, Transport, Packaging and Identification  
Information sharing  
Monitoring and Reporting  
Public Awareness and Participation  
Risk Assessment  
Risk Management  
Roster of Experts  
Socio-economic Considerations  
Transit and Contained Use  
Unintentional Transboundary Movements

## Parties

List of Parties  
Becoming a Party  
National Contacts  
National Reports

Home | The Cartagena Protocol | Parties | List of Parties | Country Profile

## Country Profile

Profile information and status

Country	Philippines
Date of signature	2000-05-24
Date of ratification	2006-10-05
Date of entry into force	2007-01-03
Profile revision	-
Profile status	Published
Profile last updated on	-

Tweet Recommend 0

Type of document	Number of records	Date of last update
<input type="checkbox"/> Biosafety Expert	8	2018-01-26
<input type="checkbox"/> Capacity Building Needs and Priorities	1	2012-06-08
<input type="checkbox"/> Competent National Authority	5	2018-01-19
<input type="checkbox"/> Country's Decision or any other Communication	85	2019-05-30
<input type="checkbox"/> Law, Regulation or Guideline	24	2019-03-15
<input type="checkbox"/> National Database or Website	3	2017-01-30
<input type="checkbox"/> National Focal Point	3	2018-06-01
<input type="checkbox"/> News	19	2018-09-03
<input type="checkbox"/> Report on Assignment	0	-
<input type="checkbox"/> Risk Assessment	99	2019-05-30
<input type="checkbox"/> Reports on Implementation of the Protocol	3	2016-05-12
<b>Total number of records</b>	<b>250</b>	

## Notes

Link to this country's profile under the FAO GM Foods Platform: <http://www.fao.org/food/food-safety-quality/gm-foods-platform/browse-information-by/country/country-page/en/?cty=PHL>

<http://bch.dost.gov.ph>



## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION = BIOSAFETY COMMUNICATION:**

- **Continuous process;**
- **People-centered;**
- **Involves all stakeholders;**
- **Mix of different media; and**
- **Clear, understandable, complete, honest, reliable & punctual, should build trust and mutual respect and influence final decision**



# Thank you

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# Lessons learned: implications for science communication

Functional science-based and transparent regulatory system prior to commercialization;

Identification/recognition of key stakeholders and their specific roles and expectations;

Inter-institutional involvement in all stages of the evaluation process;

Continuous monitoring of public understanding and knowledge and opinion;

Proactive communication activities to lead to informed debate;

Strengthened capacities of stakeholders in communicating biotechnology so that they can convey messages effectively;

Key messages anchored on the technical soundness of the technology, and the health, environmental, social and economic benefits;

Multi-delivery channels and multi-communication approaches to reach various stakeholders effectively;

Continuing support and funding for biotech communication outreach activities and research from government , NGOs, and other institutions involved in agricultural development;

Strategic partnerships as the way forward in expanding reach and maximizing use of limited resources;

Integration of communication activities as part of the technology/product development framework