

Experience with the Biosafety Clearing-House – Republic of Korea

After the adoption of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in 2000, the Republic of Korea enacted a living modified organisms (LMO) Act, the national transitional corporation in 2001, and has established a subordinate statute of the LMO law for about seven years thereafter. At the same time as the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol for Korea on 1 January 2008, the LMO Act was enacted. Through the biosafety committee, the policy direction of LMO safety management was decided on and implemented as well as 7 government departments now controlling and managing LMOs according to the purpose of using the LMOs.

In order to secure the safe use of LMOs, Korea has paid much attention to risk assessment of LMOs, importation and risk management. To this end, Korea conducts human and environmental risk assessments. In particular, environmental risks are divided into cultivation, natural ecosystems, and fisheries, and consultations between relevant ministries are underway (as of November 2016, 145 events for food use, 135 events were approved for feed use). In addition, LMO for food, feed and processing (LMO-FFP) imports (a total of 10.24 million tons for LMO-FFP in 2015) are subject to inspection and LMO detection. In accordance with the 5-year safety management plan, the environmental monitoring of LMOs depending on the location (e.g. factories, ports, roads) are conducted annually to prevent potential damages or negative effects caused by LMOs.

In order to facilitate smooth policy cooperation among LMO-related government agencies and to collect accurate LMO information, it is necessary to establish trust and effective communication channels between policy makers who are representatives for each relevant central administrative agency.

To this end, Korea actively utilized Korea's Biosafety-Clearing House (KBCH). KBCH conducts periodic meetings attended by representatives from government ministries and researchers to cope with major issues. Meanwhile, KBCH provides information, registration and management through the establishment of standardized forms for sharing and establishing integrated national information network of LMOs. In addition, KBCH works together with seven government ministries to revise the LMO law and to establish the LMO safety management policy, and has various communication methods including briefing sessions and public hearings. Meanwhile, KBCH has set up the integrated information management system to control and share standardized LMO information.

Koreans have a negative perception of LMOs due to misleading information on the Internet. Therefore, KBCH and Ministries are working on correcting the misleading information, maintaining a website and producing publications in order to provide correct information about LMOs.

In particular, KBCH annually publishes major statistics on LMOs, among other things, in the press, periodicals, white papers, reports to provide objective data on LMOs. LMO forum seminars, discussion and debates for high school students are also taking place to listen to and discuss various stories about LMOs.

Korea has been conducting the capacity-building workshop with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) four times since 2008 to share know-how about implementing the law for 10 years with Parties to the Cartagena Protocol including the Asian countries.

In 2014, COP-MOP 7 promised to implement the "Korea Biosafety Capacity Building Initiative" for six years from 2015 in order to develop the capacity of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol to implement the Cartagena Protocol. As a result of these efforts, the Asian BCH Family (ABF) has been voluntarily organized among the Asian countries and is looking for cooperation and ways to improve the level of implementation of the Cartagena Protocol.

自2000年《卡塔赫纳生物安全议定书》通过后，韩国于2001年颁布了一项越境改性活体生物(LMO)行动管理法规，并在此后的七年间建立了下属法令。与此同时，随着卡塔赫纳协定于2008年1月1日在韩国生效，LMO法规也正式启动。为了响应这项法规，生物安全委员会颁布了改性活体生物安全管理和实施办法，并协同其他七个政府部门共同参与控制和管理。

为了保证改性活体生物的安全使用，韩国十分注重改性活体生物的风险评估和进口风险管理。至今，韩国已经进行了相关的人类与环境风险评估，其中，环境风险又被细化为农业，自然生态系统和渔业等分类，对于相关部门的咨询和评估都在进行中（截至到2016年11月，已经进行了145个食物利用评估，135个饲料利用评估已被批准）。除此之外，应用于食物，饲料和处理的改性活体生物（LMO-FFP）需要受到相应的监察和检测。为响应五年安全管理计划，每年会进行基于位置（如工厂、港口或道路）的改性活体生物环境监测以防止改性活体生物可能带来的潜在风险或者负面影响。

为了促进相关政策在不同政府部门的顺利实施以及改性活体生物信息的准确采集，相关部门需要建立高效可信的沟通机制以服务于不同机构决策者。

迄今为止，韩国已经成功的启动了韩国生物安全信息交换机制。该机制要求政府各级各部门定期举行会议沟通并整合相应的改性活体生物信息。与此同时，该机制通过建立标准化形式以实现共享和建立改性活体生物的综合国家信息网络来提供信息、登记和管理。除此之外，该机制还与其他七个政府部门共同修改了改性活体生物管理法规，并建立了改性活体生物安全管理政策，并以会议和听证等方式展开了多样化的沟通与交流。

同时，韩国生物安全信息交换机制也建立了整合信息管理系统用以管理和分享标准化的改性活体生物信息。由于网络信息的误导，韩国民众曾一度对改性活体生物持有消极印象。为了改变这个局面，韩国生物安全信息交换机制正努力更正这种消极印象，建立了官方网站并公开发表相关刊物。

韩国生物安全信息交换机制每年都会发表有关改性活体生物的关键数据，并阶段性的刊印相关的客观信息。同时，为了多方听取采集不同意见，韩国多所高校也组织了关于改性活体生物的研讨会、论坛、演讲和辩论会等。

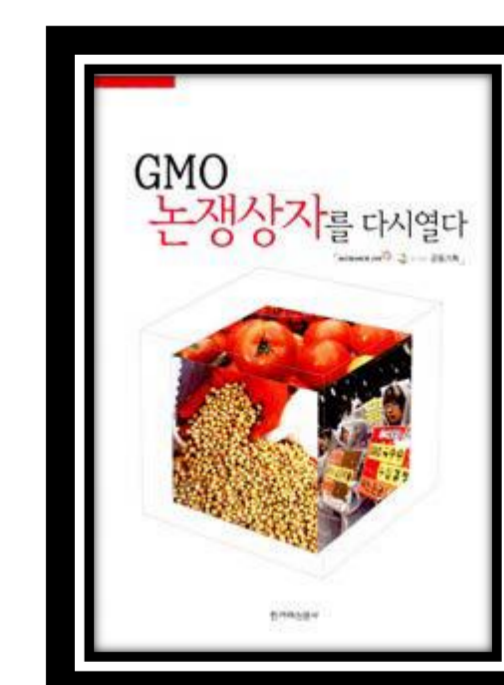
自2008年起，韩国连同联合国环境规划署已共同组织了四次能力建设论坛，并与包括亚洲各国在内的卡塔赫纳协定缔约方共同分享了实施该项法令十年的经验。

为了加强卡塔赫纳缔约国的能力建设，在2014年，第七届缔约国会议决定从2015年起的六年间推行“韩国生物安全能力建设计划”。由于这些努力，亚洲国家自愿发起了亚洲生物安全信息交换机制集团，并且寻求合作和方法来提高卡塔赫纳公约的执行水平。



Korea's BCH (KBCH)

- Records
- Standardized forms
- Awareness surveys
- Guidance materials and publications, including e-learning materials
- Public hearings
- Seminars, forums, workshops and debates



Links and info:

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www.biosafety.or.kr

