

CALL FOR BOOK CHAPTERS

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Tentative title: Risk analysis and governance of GMOs in developing countries - How can current impediments be addressed in support of innovation?

Volume overview

The potential risks associated with the development and use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) continues to generate controversy around the world. In addition, the apparent impasse among the relevant stakeholder groups raises seemingly redundant questions regarding the sustainability of this relatively new technology. Regulatory decisions based on comprehensive risk analysis outcomes are, for example, undermined by this lack of consensus. Therefore, there is need for the continued and thoughtful interpretation and communication of scientific data and for evolving and testing improved methods for sustainability analysis and decision making regarding GMOs, particularly in developing countries.

Science-based risk assessment recommendations are critical in making informed decisions on the health and environmental safety and socio-economic viability of GMOs, i.e. their sustainability. Yet, little has been done to develop integrated, fit-for-purpose decision-making frameworks that could guide the sustainable development, use and regulation of GMOs in developing countries. In fact, many developing countries still lack functioning biosafety systems for the regulation of GMOs (GM Foods Platform, FAO 2013).

The impetus for proposing this particular volume is the current lack of a clear, comprehensive, yet uncomplicated risk analysis framework that would not only help ensure the sustainability of GM products, but also support innovation in developing countries. It will therefore cover all aspects of risk analysis, i.e. risk assessment, risk management and risk communication within defined contexts, based on actual examples and experiences in developing countries. It will include insights on the collection, interpretation and presentation of scientific data and how to incorporate stakeholder views regarding sustainability and decision making in developing countries. Moreover, the volume will provide a platform for authors from various backgrounds

and disciplines, including the natural and social sciences, public administration, NGOs and industry, to address fundamental challenges in the development, use and regulation of GMOs. A multidisciplinary and integrated approach to risk analysis is strongly encouraged.

Objective

The main objective of this volume is to bring stakeholders with novel ideas on the risk analysis of GMOs, which may inform effective decision-making in developing countries, together. Very few publications analyse the critical aspects of risk analysis and the governance of GMOs from a developing country perspective. The book will also apply the proposed methodologies and frameworks to relevant, current GM-technology projects in the developing world to ensure relevance and suitability. The edited volume is intended to target policymakers, non-governmental organisations, academia and scholars from related disciplines.

Proposed chapters

Each chapter must be original work or a review of recent data not the one you have published before. 8,000 words maximum is expected for each chapter (without references, tables, figures, etc.). Authors should avoid endnotes, footnotes and the use of appendices. The case studies, ideas, new concepts or adaptations of existing approaches should be concise and clearly written in British English. Authors are strongly encouraged to ensure their text is non-technical, concise, relevant and accessible to a general audience. Excessive theory without reference to practical applications should be avoided. We expect that all manuscripts will incorporate new ideas on risk analysis and governance of GMOs that will facilitate further research and aid decision making on GMO applications in developing countries. The edited volume is expected to be published by one of top publishing companies and each contributor will receive a free copy.

Tentative volume guidelines

The tentative topics and guidelines below are provided to assist potential contributors write their chapters. They are not the final topics for the book. Authors should be guided by the broad concept and guidelines below to develop their proposal and clearly identify where their manuscript will fit in. Moreover, we encourage authors to identify additional issues and areas that require inclusion and that may not be covered in the guidelines. While we target potential authors from developing countries, authors from developed countries that focus on this important topic are welcome.

Section I: Integrated Risk Analysis Methodology and Decision-making

What makes current methodological approaches deficient for the effective risk analysis of GMOs in developing countries? Discuss relevant, fit-for-purpose and integrated risk analysis

methods that may play an important role in decision-making for the release of varied GM products. For example, based on field study or experimental work, describe relevant methods that could be effectively used to assess the potential health, environmental or socio-economic risks of releasing a GMO. How can the new method be applied in conducting case-by-case risk assessment under different geographical and social conditions? What are the critical elements of this methodology that may facilitate decision making among relevant stakeholder groups such as scientists, policymakers, farmers and environmental activists? How can these elements lead to a consensus for policy implementation?

Section II: Diversification of expertise

What roles and at what levels should diverse scientific expertise such as nutritionists, toxicologists, experts in allergens, environmental scientists and molecular biologists be involved in risk analysis? What indicators or factors should be considered for the inclusiveness of social scientists and other relevant stakeholder groups in the risk-benefit/socio-economic analysis of GMOs? This should be supported by scientific data either through your work or a collection of recent data.

Section III: Risk analysis based regulatory systems

How are current regulatory systems on GMOs undermined by power relationships and socio-political interests? Outline a strategy based on novel risk analysis methods, or a review of existing risk analysis methods, that may improve regulatory decision making on GMO policy development. How should risk analysis be integrated into regulatory frameworks? What minimum processes are required in a regulatory system to ensure accurate decision-making? What have we learnt from past experience that should evolve the current thinking? Are there any specific constraints that can significantly disable regulatory systems?

Potential Contributors

Please write a summary for your proposed chapter (500-1000 words) and attach a short CV/bio (one page maximum) and email these documents to: adenle@unu.edu

Timeline

Each contributor will submit a one page chapter proposal with bullets highlighting the key points. This proposal will be reviewed by an editorial team and authors will be informed whether their chapter will form part of the book. They will have 4-months to complete the first draft once their chapter proposal is accepted. After the completion of blind reviews, the manuscript will be returned back to the authors for revision and must be resubmitted within three-months of receipt. We would ask you not to propose a chapter if you cannot commit enough time and abide by the fixed deadline.

Important dates:

August 30, 2014: Proposal submission

September 30, 2014: Acceptance notification

January 30, 2015: Full Chapter submission

April 30, 2015: Manuscript returned for revision

June 30, 2015: Final deadline for chapter submission