

MINISTÈRE DES ENSEIGNEMENTS
SECONDAIRE, SUPÉRIEUR ET DE
LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE
Justice

SECRÉTARIAT GÉNÉRAL

AGENCE NATIONALE DE BIOSÉCURITÉ

BURKINA FASO

Unité – Progrès –

Determining the genetically modified organisms and specific traits that could have negative impacts on conservation, the sustainable use of biological diversity, and human health in Burkina Faso

1. Background information

The only technology implemented to date in Burkina Faso is **Bt**. Two varieties of Burkinan cotton (FK and STAM) have been transformed through the introduction of genes Cry1Ac and Cry2Ab and authorized by the Agence Nationale de Biosécurité [national biosafety agency]. The various test phases were conclusive and these GM cottons were commercialized in the current 2008-2009 crop year.

Besides *Bt* cotton, no other GM crop has been approved by the Agence Nationale de Biosécurité. A national GM study is currently underway and early results have signalled the presence of certain genetically modified vegetables.

It was reported that GM goods are sold in grocery stores but, to date, no other types of GM produce have been approved. A study whose results should lead to the determination of future GM product trade regulations has been commissioned.

2. Identifying genetically modified organisms

The potential environmental, human and animal health, socioeconomic and ethical impacts of the implementation of a GM crop are examined by the Comité scientifique national de biosécurité (CSBN) [national scientific committee on biosafety] when assessing applications to the Agence Nationale de Biosécurité.

With regards to *Bt* cotton, the environmental risks are closely monitored. Plot-level biosafety measures have been implemented to ensure better risk management (cross-pollination and resistance development).

The Agence Nationale de Biosécurité does not possess a GMO detection system. Rather, it relies on the support of the Institut National de l'Environnement et de la Recherche Agricole [national environment and agricultural research institute]. Proven measures are expected to be implemented in 2010.

The World Bank has extended a loan to the government of Burkina Faso to build a national sub-regional biosafety laboratory. The choice of equipment will be based on the identification methods that are selected. This project is currently underway.

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