

**Information on the needs and priorities for further guidance on specific topics of risk assessment of living modified organisms.**

Due to the expanding list of new LMOs, the National Co-ordination Biosafety Centre at the Institute of Genetics and Cytology, NAS of Belarus (NCBC) strongly supports the development of further Guidance on specific topics of risk assessment of LMOs.

Among the top priorities for the new separate chapters of the Biosafety Clearing-House Guidance on Risk Assessment of LMOs we are considering the development of additional chapters to the existing Guidance on:

Risk assessment of LM fish,

Risk assessment of LMOs, produced through synthetic biology.

NCBC also supports the integration of the following important topics, prioritized by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment and Risk Management under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (UNEP/CBD/BS/RARM/AHTEG/2015/1/4) by adding relevant information boxes or sentences under the relevant sections of the Road Map:

(a) "LMOs introduced in centres of origin and genetic diversity" and "LMOs intended for introduction into unmanaged ecosystems" (to be addressed together);

(b) "LMOs created through use of dsRNA techniques, engineered to produce dsRNA or dsRNA" and "LMOs containing RNAi";

(c) "Integrating of human health into the environmental risk assessment", taking into account the topics "Nutritionally altered living modified plants" and "LMOs that produce pharmaceutical products", as appropriate;

(d) "Synergistic impacts of different herbicides that are part of the technology package that accompanies certain LMOs".

**Existing guidance on specific topics of risk assessment of living modified organisms in Belarus.**

1. In the Republic of Belarus the Guidelines "Procedure for Risk Assessment of Possible Harmful Effects of Genetically Engineered Organisms on Human Health. Instruction for Use" were approved by the Chief State Sanitary Inspector of the Republic of Belarus (August 25, 2006, Registration №076-0806). The document can be found on the Website of the National Co-ordination Biosafety Centre of the Republic of Belarus and is available at the following webpage: <http://biosafety.org.by/sites/default/files/downloads/Regul/res-2006-MinZdr-instr.pdf>.

2. In 2014 the Guidance "Risk assessment of GMO impacts on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking into account risks

to human health" was published. The Guidance was developed for the experts conducting the State Examination of GMO Safety before its release into the environment for field trials, as well as for subsequent commercial release, and for the competent authorities and persons involved in the decision-making process regarding the release of GMOs. The document can be found on the Website of the National Co-ordination Biosafety Centre of the Republic of Belarus and is available at the following webpage: [http://biosafety.org.by/sites/default/files/pdf/risc\\_assessment\\_guidelines.pdf](http://biosafety.org.by/sites/default/files/pdf/risc_assessment_guidelines.pdf).

3. On 10 October 2008 the Treaty, establishing a single customs territory and the formation of the Customs Union of Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation (the Eurasian Economic Community, EurAsEC) entered into force and the Standards and Technical Regulations in the field of GMO safety were adopted (now they act as Rules of EAEU). Article 20 of TR CU 021/2011 states that "methods of examination (testing) and measurement of food products are specified in the List of Standards containing regulations and methods of examination (testing) and measurement, including the rules of sampling required for the application and enforcement of the requirements of these Technical Regulations and implementation of assessment (confirmation) of conformity of food products." For GMOs works the Resolution of the Chief State Sanitary Inspector of RF of 30.11.2007 №80 "On Supervision over the Circulation of Food Products Containing GMOs" (together with "MR 2.3.2.2306-07.23.2. Food Products and Food Supplements. Biomedical Assessment of the Safety of Genetically Modified Organisms of Plant Origin. Methodological Guidelines", "MR 4.2.2304-07. Control Methods and Microbiological Factors. Food Products and Food Supplements. Methods of Identification and Quantification (Quantitative Determination) of Genetically Modified Organisms of Plant Origin. Methodological Guidelines", "MR 4.2.2305-07. 4.2. Control Methods. Biological and Microbiological Factors. Food Products and Food Supplements. Detection of Genetically Modified Microorganisms and Microorganisms Having Genetically Modified Analogues in Food Products by Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Methods and PCR with Electrophoretic Detection. Methodological Guidelines". The Regulation can be found in "Belarus" section on the Website of the Biosafety Clearing-House.

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