

OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS THAT ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF BIOSAFETY OF GMOs

While the CPB addresses those issues governing GMOs that impact on the environment and human health, those relating to safety and nutritional aspects of foods derived from modern biotechnology are already addressed by the Codex Alimentarius (www.codexalimentarius.org), with potential pest risks also already being governed by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC; www.ippc.int). Additionally, biosafety is also addressed by the following World Trade Organisation (WTO) agreements:

- Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS; www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/sps_e.htm) - an agreement on how governments can apply food safety and animal and plant health measures.
- Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT; www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tbt_e/tbt_e.htm) tries to ensure that regulations, standards, testing and certification procedures do not create unnecessary obstacles.
- Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS; www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/trips_e/trips_e.htm) – a comprehensive multilateral agreement on intellectual property

As the 12 Regional Project countries are all members of the Codex Alimentarius, the IPPC, and the WTO, they are compelled to comply with these approaches with respect to all traded goods, regardless of whether or not there are GMO-specific regulations in the region.

