

***CHANGING THE RECIPE:
SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS
IN AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY
REGULATION***

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‘The concept of freedom to farm needs to be given appropriate consideration. We pose the rhetorical question; how far do the rights of organic growers extend before they are able to restrict the ability and freedom of adjacent farmers to make their own decisions in respect of growing non-GM and GM crops in a district.’

Labelling Logic Review

'consumer values' were things not linked to short or long term health risks and instead arose from “consumers’ perceptions of the world, their ethical views and personal values....include country of origin labelling, environmental issues, animal welfare and methods of production”

Article 26.1 Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

1. The Parties, in reaching a decision on import under this Protocol or under its domestic measures implementing the Protocol, may take into account, consistent with their international obligations, socio-economic considerations arising from the impact of living modified organisms on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, especially with regard to the value of biological diversity to indigenous and local communities.

Indonesia - 'This government regulation is based on the precautionary approach to contribute to ensuring environmental safety, food safety and or animal feed safety based on an accurate scientific method by considering **religious, ethic, socio-cultural and esthetic [sic] norms.**'

Philippines - 'The socio-economic, ethical and cultural benefits and risks, of modern biotechnology to the Philippines and its citizens, and in particular on small farmers, indigenous peoples, women, small and medium enterprises and the domestic scientific community, shall be taken into account in implementing the [National Biosafety Framework]'

Norway - 'In deciding whether or not to grant the application, significant emphasis shall also be placed on whether the deliberate release represents a benefit to the community and a contribution to sustainable development'

Nagoya Protocol

Countries granting access to bioresources must ensure their domestic procedures require various things such as:

- prior informed consent by any indigenous / local group holding the genetic resource or traditional knowledge,
- ensure proper records kept of origin and use of genetic resources and benefits obtained from them
- respect customs, traditions, **values** etc of indigenous and local communities

List of SECs

Top 5 -

- Food security
- Health-related impacts
- Coexistence of GM organisms (GMOs)
- Impacts on market access
- Compliance with biosafety measures.

Next 5 drawn from-

- Impacts on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity
- Economic impacts of changes in pest prevalence
- Macroeconomic impacts
- Farmers' rights
- **IPRs**
- Consumer choice
- Economic impacts of changes in use of pesticides and herbicides
- Indigenous and local communities.

Define 'food security'

Diblin et al (2011) say:

'... in debating the prospective contribution of GMOs to food security, it is important to consider dimensions of the concept beyond basic food sufficiency: production must be sustainable, increases in production must be distributed equitably, and the food produced must be affordable and consistent with consumers' perceived needs. Broader understandings of food security thus include questions about access and utilisation as well as simple availability.'

Need to get policy guidelines and methodology for SECs assessment in agricultural biotechnology regulation right because:

- Vulnerable to claims contrary to WTO international free trade rules
- Risk ag biotech regulation become less democratic if strong stakeholders capture the process
- decrease participation in the science because only big players will be able to handle the complexity and cost
- consistent practices will also aid information and data sharing
- any best practice developed under the CPB may become the de facto standard for the purposes of the WTO agreements