

4.31 Sri Lanka



4.31.1 Food Act, No.26 (1980) (amended in 1991)

The Act covers the LMOs for use as food or feed or for processing. The Act and its amendments prohibit the importation, manufacture for commercial purposes, transportation, storage, distribution, sale, or offer for sale of any food, raw or processed, or any ingredient of food or food additive that has been subjected to genetic modification using DNA recombination technology or any food that contains one or more ingredient or additive that has been subjected to genetic manipulation.

Schedule 1 of the Act lists foods that may not be imported without a certificate to the effect that they do not contain any material or ingredient that has been subjected to genetic modification.

4.31.2 The Plant Protection Act (1999)

The Act makes provisions against the introduction into Sri Lanka and the spreading therein of any organism harmful to, or injurious or destructive to plants, and for the sanitation of plants in Sri Lanka. This Act repealed an older Act and includes definitions of GM organisms as well as LMOs that are included in the general definition of "organism".

4.31.3 National Biosafety Framework of Sri Lanka (2005)

The biosafety framework is based on the precautionary approach. The overall objective of Sri Lanka's national biosafety framework is to ensure that the risks likely to be caused by modern biotechnology and its products will be minimized and biodiversity, human health and environment will be protected in a maximum way regulating the transboundary movements through formulation of relevant policies, regulations, technical guidelines and establishment of management bodies and supervisory mechanisms.

4.31.4 National Guidelines for Import and Planned release of Genetically Modified Organisms and Products thereof (2005) (draft)

The Guidelines are aimed at regulating the transboundary movement (import/export) of GMOs.

4.31.5 Guidelines for the Safe Use of Recombinant DNA Technology in the Laboratory (2005) (draft)

The Guidelines are meant for the safe use of rDNA technology under contained conditions.

Other related Regulations

4.31.6 Fauna and Flora (Amendment) Act (1993)

The Act provides for the protection, conservation and preservation of the fauna and flora of Sri Lanka; for the prevention of the commercial exploitation of such fauna and flora; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

4.31.7 Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act (1996)

The Act is aimed to protect the aquatic resources of Sri Lanka, prohibit or regulate the export from, or import into, Sri Lanka of any species of fish including live fish or any eggs, roe or spawn or any products prepared from such fish, eggs, roe or spawn or other aquatic resources for such period of time as may be specified.

4.31.8 Animal Diseases Act (1992)

This Act provides for the control of diseases in animals; for the control of the import and export of animals, animal products and veterinary drugs and veterinary biological products; and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

4.31.9 Food (Labeling & Advertising) Regulation (2005)

The regulation covers labeling of packaged food for consumer awareness, health, safety, and nutrition reasons. Labeling and control of GM products was introduced in the regulation 2007.

Source:

1. *National Biosafety Framework of Sri Lanka (2005) Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Colombo, Sri Lanka.* (Available on <http://www.unep.ch/biosafety/development/countryreports/LKN/BFrep.pdf>; accessed on 6 October 2007)
2. *USDA Foreign Agricultural Service, GAIN Report CE7003 Sri Lanka Biotechnology Annual 2007.* (Available on <http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200707/146291816.pdf>; accessed on 17 October 2007)