

FAO BIOSAFETY CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECTS: STRUCTURE AND COMPONENTS



FAO's commitment in biosafety and biosecurity has to be seen within its wider mandate to eradicate hunger and reduce poverty in developing countries and economies in transition.

Based on this, FAO biosafety activities aim at assisting countries in building human, institutional and policy development capacities within their main regulatory bodies in order to efficiently and effectively handle the products of modern biotechnology, including GMOs and processed products.

Generally, all the FAO biosafety capacity building projects – at national, subregional, regional and global level (Figure 3) – revolve around a common axis: the training programme. Training touches on biosafety aspects of relevance to agricultural biotechnology, and is shaped to meet specific capacity building needs.

Based on countries' requests for assistance, national projects may also include other components on:

- policy development and formulation;
- regulatory aspects;
- GMO detection and monitoring;
- communication, participation and public awareness.



Depending on situations, regional and subregional projects also include national activities (Figure 2). Projects and related activities are briefly described in the next sections, together with key lessons emerging from their execution.

