* 1. **Related studies**

The key players on the NBC-the Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute (MSIRI), now a part of the Mauritius Cane Industry Authority (MCIA) in partnership with the University of Mauritius (UOM), the Food and Agricultural Research Council (FARC), now known as the Food and Agricultural Research Institute (FAREI) and the Mauritius Research Council (MRC) have been previously actively involved in related research. The University of Mauritius has a Research and Development (R&D) programme in biotechnology and gives training in this field to undergraduate and postgraduate students.

* 1. **Support under international projects**

The development of a national biotechnology strategy for Mauritius dates back to 1992. In 1999, under the UNEP/GEF institutional Biosafety Committee, Biosafety guidelines for safe development and introduction of GMOs was drafted by resource persons from the Agricultural Services and the MSIRI. Under the FANRPAN project which started in 2002, stakeholders’ and situational analysis were carried out to assess key stakeholder’s knowledge and appraise the biosafety system pertaining to agricultural biotechnology locally. An evaluation of the existing policies and their impact on the import of GMOs was also done.

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