

South Africa has a rigorous regulatory regime governing various aspects of GMO use, including contained use and research, trial release, commercial release and transboundary movement.









Compliance measures





Regulations around GMOs are strictly enforced by the Executive Council of the GMO Act.



Evaluation





South Africa is one of 170 signatories to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety - an international agreement to ensure the safe handling, transport and use of living modified organisms (LMOs).



South African scientists have to disclose what they would be doing and get a permit before they are even allowed to start doing any research on GMOs.





South Africa has safely used GMOs since 1997 and therefore has significant experience and expertise in the regulation and production of GMOs.



No GMO seed is allowed to be commercially planted in South Africa unless it has undergone rigorous safety research and testing, which takes up to 15 years.



In South Africa, public participation is a legislated requirement in the regulation of GMOs - it's not a secretive process.





Strict risk assessments are done at every stage of GMO product development in South Africa that allow for close evaluation and monitoring long before these products are available on the market.





Not only are strict risk assessments done before and during product development of GMOs, but they are also closely monitored after they have entered use.

