

Management Response: Implementation Plan for Evaluation Recommendations

General Information

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Implementation Plan

No	Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation	Recommendation	Priority level	Type of Recommendation	Responsibility	Proposed Implementation time-frame	Acceptance	Reason if not Accepted or Partially Accepted	Management Action(s) to be taken
1	The need for improvement in handling applications and decision-making has been discussed in Chapter V, Section D (Achievement of Outcomes), regarding Outcome 3 (§ 126, 127, 128 and 139), in section regarding Likelihood of Impact (§ 143), under Socio-political Sustainability (Section H, § 161) and Institutional Sustainability. Conclusions in § 179	The Evaluation recommends that UNEP Project staff strongly communicate the following recommendation to the Department of Environment: to give priority to and improve: Ø the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of the operating procedures of the National Committee on Biosafety (NCB) in handling GMOs applications, risk	Important	Project	Competent National Authority (Department of Environment / DOE)	One year (2021)	Partially Accepted	The National Committee on Biosafety is constituted in accordance with the Bangladesh Biosafety Rules, 2012 promulgated under Environment Conservation Act 1995. The committee used to sit for meetings periodically, as and when, there are notifications/applications for any use of GMOs and any issues on Biosafety to be discussed. The representatives of the relevant ministries,	The National Committee on Biosafety is established and operational per the Bangladesh Biosafety Rules, 2012. Due to the nature of its operations, it is difficult to meet quarterly if there are no issues on the agenda. Plans are being made to constitute a budget for Biodiversity which will include Biosafety support. With that operationalised, the frequency of the meetings of the NCB will be streamlined. The processes for handling and decision making are clearly followed as per the Rules. As indicated more efforts will be

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	and 180 are also addressing the issue. Clear definition of institutional responsibilities and coordination mechanisms needs to be better addressed for Biosafety management at field level, as discussed in Chapter V, section D (namely Outcome 4, §129, 130, 131), in Likelihood of Impact, § 144), in section H (Institutional Sustainability, § 166), and also in Conclusion § 181.	assessment and decision-making. This will entail a more time-efficient functioning of the NCB (regular quarterly meetings, implementation of time-limit for decision-making), open communication and exchange of information between NCB and the Applicants during the assessment process, adoption of knowledge-based and technically sound Risk Assessment practices, as well as clear and transparent decisions made public through appropriate channels of information; Ø the field coordination of Biosafety management in GMOs cultivation (Brinjal) with the relevant stakeholders (Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute/BARI, Department of Agriculture Extension/DAE, the Farmers).						research institutes and NGOs are the members of the NCB. The proceedings of the meeting are distributed among the members. A transparent process is followed in terms of handling the notifications. Towards further enhancement of the decisions to be made much more public, Department of Environment is working for the required decisions to be uploaded in to the Biosafety Clearing House. Bangladesh is working for streamlining nBCH with the central portal of BCH.	put in place to make the processes available on the Biosafety Clearing House and also point applicants to the Ministry's website where the processes are clearly outlined. The field coordination and management of released GMOs are handled by the Field Coordination Committees, and its work is dependent on an application and decisions made. The DoE will continue to work in collaboration with the Field Coordination Committee as and when new applications are made.
2	DOE has so far developed, with the support of the Project, a wide programme of capacity building oriented to the progressive implementation of the National Biosafety Framework, as extensively described in Chapter V, section D – Effectiveness - (Availability of Outputs), which has significantly contributed to the achievement of	The Evaluation recommends that UNEP Project staff communicate the following recommendation to the Department of Environment: to reinforce Biosafety Capacity Building activities through three main programs targeting priority groups as follows: Ø Mainstreaming of biosafety and biodiversity among	Important	Project	Competent National Authority (Department of Environment / DOE)	Two years (but taking into account that capacity building should be a permanent function of the Competent Nat. Authority)	Accepted		Biosafety issues are already incorporated into the National Biotechnology Policy 2012 which is being implemented by the Ministry of the Science and Technology under the leadership of Prime Minister's Office. To be noted that the implementation progress of this policy is periodically being reviewed by the National Executive Committee on Biotechnology under Prime Minister's Office. The Biosafety Guidelines of Bangladesh was approved in 2006 by the National Task Force on Biotechnology headed by

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	<p>Outcomes, as discussed in Achievement of Outcomes. It is important to build upon the results obtained so far and further enhance national capacities on Biosafety as discussed in Section H regarding Institutional Sustainability (§ 167, 168 and 169). Conclusive remarks on capacity Building are also provided in § 177, 182 and 184.</p>	<p>various associated ministries and to high-level policy and decision-makers;</p> <p>Ø Effective use / application of Biosafety rules, regulations, guidelines and procedural mechanisms among scientists, researchers and technical officers associated to Biotechnology and Biosafety programs and activities, with particular reference to newly appointed staff;</p> <p>Ø Strengthening the capacity of DOE Staff at central and decentralised levels with particular reference to Biosafety Monitoring and Enforcement at Field Level (Districts), to the GMO Laboratory staff, and to Projects Management at central level (with a special focus on administrative and financial skills).</p> <p>For the purpose, it is equally recommended that training/capacity building activities and programs outlined above should be part of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and clearly spelled out in the upcoming National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan with a priority basis.</p>							<p>Honourable Prime Minister. A standalone Biosafety policy has been formulated under UNEP-GEF supported Implementation of the NBF project. Government policy on Biosafety is also incorporated in the Eighth Five Year Plan. Biosafety issues will be addressed under the NBSAP to be updated in line with the Post 2020 GBF. Regular training workshop will be organized by the Department of Environment (NCA for CPB) for the newly recruited officials/scientists/researchers working in the public and private sector relevant to Biosafety so that Biosafety Regulatory System will further be in-built in the institutions</p>
3	<p>Though several awareness and public information were developed so far, it</p>	<p>The Evaluation recommends that UNEP Project staff communicate the</p>	<p>Important</p>	<p>Project</p>	<p>Competent National Authority (Department</p>	<p>Two years (but taking into account that public</p>	<p>Accepted</p>		<p>DOE will always pursue its efforts towards enhancing Public Awareness and Participation Component of the</p>

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	<p>has been found that is necessary to match relevant target groups (namely policy and decision-makers, civil society groups and the private sector including the farmers) with a comprehensive awareness and participation strategy (see Chapter V, Section D – Effectiveness, Final remarks in Outcomes achievement, § 140). Section D (Effectiveness) regarding Outcome 5 is also discussing the need of increased transparency and public participation, including mechanisms of consultation, discussion and participatory decision-making regarding GMOs use (see § 133 and 134). The issue is also approached under Socio-political Sustainability (section H – Sustainability. § 161, 162 and 163), and in Conclusion § 183.</p>	<p>following recommendation to the Department of Environment: enhance the Public Awareness and Participation Component of the NBF through the implementation of a Strategy and Action Plan in coordination with UNEP and the support of bilateral/multilateral partners at regional and international level.</p>			<p>of Environment / DOE)</p>	<p>information and participation should be a permanent function of the National Biosafety Framework)</p>			<p>NBF through the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan already outlined in NBF. DOE will further work on this particular issue to be worked in coordination with UNEP and the support of bilateral/multilateral partners at regional and international level. Engagement of public in decision making is given due importance in development of all major policies and rules-regulations related to environment and that of biosafety. For Public Information, we have already posted all the printed and audio-visual materials on biosafety into BCH of Bangladesh. Already the TV Spot prepared under INBF project has already been aired into the national popular TV channels</p>
4	<p>Biosafety Financial Sustainability is key and the mobilisation of resources is a key-assumption to strengthen Biosafety Agenda (see ToC - Chapter IV, Diagram 2). The issue is discussed under Financial Sustainability (§ 165).</p>	<p>The Evaluation recommends that UNEP Project staff communicate the following recommendation to the Department of Environment: prepare and make operational a Strategy of Resource Mobilisation for the implementation of the NBF by taking into account possible resource partners at</p>	Important	Project	<p>Competent National Authority (Department of Environment / DOE)</p>	<p>Two years (but taking into account that public information and participation should be a permanent function of the National Biosafety Framework)</p>	Accepted		<p>Department of Environment will prepare and make operational a Strategy of Resource Mobilisation for the implementation of the NBF by taking into account possible resource partners at national, regional and international level. DOE is now working to establish Biodiversity Fund under Bangladesh Biological Diversity Act 2017. Once that dedicated fund will be in place biosafety activities could be supported from that fund. As Biosafety activities is already</p>

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		national, regional and international level.							in-built in the Department and in the ministry, any activities on biosafety could be supported from the government own budget. Furthermore, DOE will work towards enhancement of collaboration with the development partners at the regional and global level.