

Required Report: Required - Public Distribution

Date: October 21, 2021

Report Number: AG2021-0012

Report Name: Agricultural Biotechnology Annual

Country: Algeria

Post: Algiers

Report Category: Biotechnology and Other New Production Technologies

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Report Highlights:

The Ministry of Agriculture's December 24, 2020, decree prevents agricultural genetically engineered product development, commercialization and import into Algeria. FAS Algiers continues to support biotechnology researchers through the Borlaug scientific exchange program.

Executive Summary:

[The Ministry of Agriculture's decree of December 24, 2000 \(published in the Official Journal on January 7, 2001, in French\)](#), prohibits all import, production, distribution, and commercialization and utilization of genetically engineered plant materials. This decree prevents Algeria from developing, commercializing, or importing genetically engineered (GE) products including live plants or pieces of live plants, including their dormant buds, tendrils, grafts, tubers, rhizomes, cuttings, shoots, or seeds intended for propagation and reproduction). The only exception is for research purposes.

Algeria began developing a biotechnology policy adapted to local needs as early as 1980. Training and research programs were designed in a variety of sectors. Universities and higher education centers focused on life sciences and biotechnology. Plant genomics, genetics and bio-industry were introduced in 1980.

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CHAPTER I: PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY

PART A: PRODUCTION AND TRADE

- a) **PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT:** The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) has legislative responsibility for domestic production of crops. However, the Ministry of Agriculture's decree of December 24, 2000 (published in the Official Journal on January 7, 2001) remains valid. By this decree, the MoA prohibits any biotechnology product development except for research purposes. Algeria does not develop agricultural GE products for commercial purposes in Algeria.

The biotechnology institutions in Algeria promote and carry out applied research in biotechnology to address the needs of Algeria in several fields. These fields include health, environment, bio-industry, food, and agriculture. The centers develop biotech solutions to domestic agricultural concerns and promote food security. In addition, these multidisciplinary biotechnology research institutions ensure continuous training and provide services and expertise in the field of biotechnology. These institutions need more capacity building for their centers and researchers.

- b) **COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION:** There is no genetically engineered plant material commercialized in Algeria.
- c) **EXPORTS:** Algeria does not produce or export products of genetic engineering.
- d) **IMPORTS:** N/A
- e) **FOOD AID:** Algeria is not a recipient of food aid due to its high per capita income and fiscal resources. Algeria collaborates with the World Food Program (WFP), which has been working in Algeria since 1986. The WFP focuses on food assistance and nutrition support to refugees from Western Sahara that have been hosted by Algeria since 1975.
- f) **TRADE BARRIERS:** The Ministry of Agriculture issued a decree in 2000 that prohibits importation, production, distribution, and commercialization as well as utilization of GE plant materials (live plants or pieces of live plants, including their dormant buds, tendrils, grafts, tubers, rhizomes, cuttings, shoots, seeds intended for propagation and reproduction) except for research purposes. The original French version of the decree can be found at: ([Decree of December 24, 2000 \(published in the Official Journal on January 7, 2001\)](#)).

PART B: POLICY

- a) **REGULATORY FRAMEWORK:** The Ministry of Agriculture has legislative responsibility for domestic production of crops and the health and safety aspects of imported agricultural and food products. The Ministry of Commerce also regulates the health, the safety, and the quality of imported products. There is no regulatory framework to approve plant biotechnology products for cultivation or import.

Algeria created the first national committee of biotechnology in 1983. The committee was created to identify economic development needs related to biotechnology applications and implement a national research and development program. The committee was also in charge of developing proposals on policy to regulate biosecurity and bioethics and to coordinate the research among the education, research, and production sectors.

The first biotechnology research program was adopted in 1997 for agribusiness, health, and environment with a focus on biodiversity, bioethics, and food biosecurity. (Source: Presentation of Pr. Abdelhamid Djekoun (2005), University of Constantine).

b) APPROVALS: The Phytosanitary Department of the Ministry of Agriculture is the only authority granting import authorizations under certain conditions to conduct scientific and research activities in biotechnology. FAS Algiers is not aware of any biotechnology authorizations provided to date.

c) STACKED EVENT APPROVALS: N/A

d) FIELD TESTING: N/A

e) INNOVATIVE BIOTECHNOLOGIES: The Government of Algeria (GoA) has not addressed the regulation on genome edited agricultural products.

f) COEXISTENCE: N/A

g) LABELING and TRACABILITY: The Ministry of Commerce, has authority for quality control and fraud prevention, regulates labeling and laboratory inspection. Currently, there are no laws regarding labeling or testing of plant products derived from biotechnology.

h) MONITORING AND TESTING: N/A.

i) LOW LEVEL PRESENCE (LLP) POLICY: N/A

j) ADDITIONAL REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS: N/A

k) INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR): Algeria has been a member of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) since April 1975. No products or services can be used in Algeria without having been subject to registration with the competent authority.

The Law no 05-03 of February 06, 2005 regulates seed and plant variety protection. This Act determines the conditions of approval, production, multiplication and marketing of seeds and seedlings used in plant production as well as plant variety protection. The details can be found in French at:

<https://www.joradp.dz/FTP/jo-francais/2005/F2005011.pdf>.

l) CARTAGENA PROTOCOL RATIFICATION: Algeria signed the Cartagena Protocol in May 2000 and ratified it in June 2004. Algeria was represented at the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol (ICCP) and the Conference of the Parties meetings of the Protocol: COP-MOP 1, Kuala Lumpur, February 2003; COP-MOP 2, Montreal, May 2005; COP-MOP 3, Curitiba, Brazil, March 13-17, 2006; COP-MOP 4, Bonn, Germany, May 12-16, 2008; COP-MOP 8, Cancun-

Mexico, December 4-17, 2016; COP-MOP 9, Sharm El Sheikh 17-29 November, 2018. Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting to the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety 10 was not held in October 2020 in Kunming, China. [The Cartagena Protocol Conference of Parties Website](#) mentions that the meeting is tentatively planned to be opened in October 2021, and negotiations expected to be held in a second meeting in 2022. Post is not aware if Algeria will be represented at this meeting.

m) INTERNATIONAL TREATIES and FORUMS: Algeria has ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Algeria is a member of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Codex. Algeria collaborates and reports regularly to FAO, IPPC, and Codex.

n) RELATED ISSUES: N/A

PART C: MARKETING:

- a) PUBLIC/PRIVATE OPINIONS: Media reports are the main source for consumers' awareness of biotechnology. These media reports are usually unfavorable, especially when it relates to the food and agricultural sectors. Press reports always indicate that retailers and traders are unlikely to buy biotech products. Most retailers would be unwilling to take on the responsibility of introducing biotech products to the market.
- b) MARKET ACCEPTANCE / STUDIES: Algerian agricultural scientists are relatively open to biotechnology and interested in being able to utilize the technology to develop crops suited to the local environment and consumer. The media, however, regularly reports negatively on all GE products.

CHAPTER 2: ANIMAL BIOTECHNOLOGY

PART D: PRODUCTION AND TRADE

Animal cloning is not used in Algeria. FAS Algiers is not aware of any discussions related to regulatory or research policies regarding animal cloning or other animal biotechnology in Algeria.

- a) PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT: N/A
- b) COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION: N/A
- c) EXPORTS: N/A
- d) IMPORTS: N/A
- e) TRADE BARRIERS: N/A.

PART E: POLICY

- a) **REGULATION FRAMEWORK:** The Ministry of Agriculture has legislative responsibility for domestic production of animal products. It is also responsible for the health and safety of imported animals and products of animal origin.
- b) **APPROVALS:** N/A
- c) **INNOVATIVE BIOTECHNOLOGIES:** N/A
- d) **LABELING AND TRACEABILITY:** N/A
- e) **ADDITIONAL REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS:** N/A
- f) **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR):** This policy is the same for Plant Biotechnology
- g) **INTERNATIONAL TREATIES and FORUMS:** Algeria has been a member of the Animal Health World Organization (OIE) since October 8, 1962. Algeria reports regularly to OIE.
- h) **RELATED ISSUES:** N/A

PART F: MARKETING

- a. **PUBLIC/PRIVATE OPINIONS:** Consumer's awareness of biotechnology is mainly through media reports, which are usually unfavorable, especially in the food and agricultural sectors. Algerian media regularly reports negatively on all GE products.
- b. **MARKET ACCEPTANCE/ STUDIES:** N/A

CHAPTER 3: MICROBIAL BIOTECHNOLOGY

PART G: PRODUCTION AND TRADE

FAS Algiers is not aware of any activities related to microbial biotechnology in Algeria.

- a) **COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION:** N/A
- b) **EXPORTS:** N/A
- c) **IMPORTS:** N/A
- d) **TRADE BARRIERS:** N/A. The Ministry of Agriculture decree prohibits importation, production, distribution, commercialization, and utilization of GE plant materials.

PART H: POLICY

- a) **REGULATION FRAMEWORK:** See PART B. Microbial biotech would be regulated the same as GE plant products.
- b) **APPROVALS:** N/A
- c) **LABELING AND TRACEABILITY:** N/A
- d) **MONITORING AND TESTING:** N/A
- e) **ADDITIONAL REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS:** N/A
- f) **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTIEE RIGHTS (IPR):** N/A
- g) **RELATED ISSUES:** N/A

PART I: MARKETING

- a. PUBLIC/PRIVATE OPINIONS: Consumers' awareness of biotechnology is mainly through media reports, which are usually unfavorable, especially in the food and agricultural sectors. Algerian media regularly reports negatively on all GE products.
- b. MARKET ACCEPTANCE/ STUDIES: N/A

Attachments:

No Attachments