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Report Highlights:

Israel has no policy restricting the use of imported genetically engineered (GE) commodities or derivative products. There have been no changes in Israel's policy towards plant, animal biotechnology, and microbial biotechnology since 2022.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Israel has no policy restricting the use of imported genetically engineered (GE) commodities or derivative products. Israel's 2005 "Seed Regulation for Plants and Other GE Organisms" (GE Seed Regulation) states that the sale of GE crops is not permissible without a valid Registration Certificate.

In Israel, GE crop production is allowed for research purposes. Regulations allow GE commodities and products to be imported, sold, and used for food and feed production, as well as for ornamental and pharmaceutical uses. Israel's Kashrut (religious authority) determined that the use of GE ingredients in food does not affect its kosher status as these ingredients are used in "microscopic" proportions.

Currently, the volume of agricultural biotechnology (biotech) product imports to Israel is not quantified and domestic use is limited. Different countries ship grains and oilseeds to Israel, and a sizable percentage are biotech varieties. The only GE crop that is permitted to be grown commercially in Israel is tobacco, which is engineered with five human genes and used by the cosmetic and pharmaceutical industry. All other GE crops that are grown in Israel are only for research and development purposes and are not grown commercially. Some GE plants such as ornamental flowers developed in Israel are grown in foreign markets. No GE animals are produced or imported by Israel.

In October 2013, new draft regulations for novel foods, including food produced using biotechnology, were announced by Israel's Ministry of Health (MOH). It is unclear when the new regulation will be approved. After official approval, the measure will come into effect one year after publication in Israel's official gazette.

Although Israeli scientists are usually supportive of biotechnology, environmental activists have expressed concerns regarding its use. The local media rarely discusses genetic engineering. Most Israelis do not have an opinion regarding the use of GE products and many people do not understand the difference between plant breeding and genetic modifications. There are no known problems with marketing GE crops in Israel.

In March 2017, the National Committee for Transgenic Plants (NCTP) published a decision stating that genome edited plants resulting from only a deletion of nucleotides, and with no insertion of foreign deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA), are not considered to be transgenic and will not be subjected to the GE seed regulation. The applicant must, however, submit data showing that they meet the determined criteria to ensure that foreign DNA sequences were not incorporated into a plant genome. Other genome edited plants where foreign DNA is incorporated, and their progeny, will be subject to regulations and guidelines found in the GE seed regulation.

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CHAPTER 1: PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY

PART A: PRODUCTION AND TRADE

a. **RESEARCH AND PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT:** Israel is an international center for genetic engineering and research, focusing on improving plant resistance to pests, disease, herbicides, salinity, and drought. Israeli universities, governmental institutes, and the private sector all conduct research. Genetic engineering is permitted in Israel for research and development purposes, subject to conditions established by law.

Israel's 2005 "Seed Regulation for Plants and Other GE Organisms" (GE Seed Regulation) stipulates requirements for conducting research with GE propagation material. All trials are approved by a 13-member National Committee for Transgenic Plants (NCTP), chaired by the Ministry of Agriculture's (MOAG) Chief Scientist.

The stages and advances made in GE research are kept as a company proprietary secret until registration. During registration, applicants are required to reveal product details to the National Committee for Transgenic Plants (NCTP). The number of NCTP authorized experiments between the years 2013-2021 is presented in Table 1.

TABLE 1: ISRAEL, National Committee for Transgenic Plants - Authorized Experiments, 2013-2021

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Laboratory	13	44	12	7	21	18	37	33	17
Greenhouse	27	31	20	13	10	24	19	25	16
Field Trail	15	6	8	5	5	5	4	2	2
Total	55	81	40	25	36	47	60	60	35

Source: NCTP (figures for 2023 were not available)

In June 2020, the Israel Innovation Authority approved the establishment of a Genome Editing Consortium, coined CRISPR-IL. The CRISPR-IL consortium was established to develop a generic, artificial intelligence-based solution, with the goal of increasing the efficiency, precision, and safety of gene editing tools to levels that will facilitate their approval for commercial use in the future. This system is intended to be effective for human, plant, and certain animal DNA, and applicable to market segments in pharma, agriculture, and aquaculture.

CRISPR-IL includes companies in the fields of bioinformatics, biotechnology, and agriculture (both animal and vegetable), medical institutions and academia. Participating companies include Evogene, Better Seeds, BTG – Bio-technology General Israel, Colors Farm, FreeZem, Hazera Seeds, NRGene, Pluristem, Rahan Meristem Ltd., and TargetGene.

b. **COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION:** The only crop currently grown commercially is the GE tobacco plant. The plant is grown in confinement for cosmetic and pharmaceutical use. [Note: Genetically engineered tobacco is grown in confinement to isolate it from potential pathogens and vectors.]

c. **EXPORTS:** As the Israeli industry uses imported raw materials that include GE components, it is likely that some fraction of Israeli food products exported to the United States and/or to other countries contains some biotechnology (biotech) content. This is especially likely among those products that rely on imported grain, oilseeds, or cotton as inputs. In these cases, Israeli exporters must follow the importing country's regulations regarding GE labeling. If a product includes a GE component and is shipped to a destination that requires specific labeling, the producers must mark it accordingly.

d. **IMPORTS:** Israel imports all soybeans and corn used in food and feed manufacturing – both of which are mainly genetically engineered. In 2022, Israel imported 331 thousand metric tons (TMT) of soybeans and 2,200 TMT of corn, of which 7.66 TMT and 80 TMT, respectively, came from the United States. Other supplier origins include South America and the Black Sea region. There is no information available specifying the percentage of GE varieties included within these imports.

e. **FOOD AID:** Israel is not a food aid recipient and is not expected to one be in the future. Israel is not a food aid donor.

f. **TRADE BARRIERS:** Currently, there are no trade barriers regarding GE products. If the proposed novel food regulation is approved, imported GE food products would face labeling requirements. The responsibility for labeling will fall to the local importers and distributors. The novel food regulation would also institute a pre-market approval process for GE foods.

PART B: POLICY

a. **REGULATORY FRAMEWORK:** Currently, responsibility for GE research, development, use, and approval is shared primarily between Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and the Ministry of Health (MoH).

Legal term (in official language)	Legal Term (in English)	Laws and Regulations where term is used	Legal Definition (in English)
אורגניזם מהונדס	Genetically Modified Organism	Seed Regulation for Plants and Other GE Organisms	An organism, including a microorganism, a virus, a viroid, and any unicellular or multicellular, which has been modified by way of genetic engineering in relation to the plant's life cycle
צמח מהונדס	Genetically Modified Plant	Plant Protection Law of 1956 (Hebrew) Plant Import Regulation Seed Regulation for Plants and Other GE Organisms	A plant modified by means of genetic engineering
חומר ריבוי מהונדס	Genetically Modified Propagation Material	Seed Regulation for Plants and Other GE Organisms	A genetically engineered plant and all its parts used for propagation and cultivation

Ministry of Agriculture Regulatory Framework

The Ministry of Agriculture's Plant Protection and Inspection Service is the competent national authority for enforcement of the Plant Protection Law of 1956 (Hebrew), which is the existing legal framework for GE plants. The GE seed regulation from 2005 provides specific regulation regarding research activity, sales, export, and import of GE materials.

The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for all trials of genetically engineered plants, as well as those organisms that are directly related to GE plants. These could include pathogens, pollinators, natural enemies, and the like. The Ministry of Agriculture is also responsible for overseeing handling, commercializing, importing, and exporting of GE propagation material.

Within Israel's legal and regulatory framework, there are three bodies that have specific roles:

1. **The National Committee for Transgenic Plants:** The 13-member NCTP is an inter-ministerial committee. Two members are from MOA (the chairperson and deputy), one member from the Ministry of Environment (MOE), one member from the Ministry of Health (MOH), one member from the Ministry of Science (MOS), and eight members from academia and the private sector. This committee exists to formulate guidelines for conducting GE trials, publish procedures and application forms for researchers, and serve as an advisor to government and academia on GE issues.

2. **The Plant Protection and Inspection Service (PPIS) – Field Inspection Teams:** Field inspection teams from the PPIS enforce the NCTP guidance and regulations related to the handling of GE materials.

3. **The Plant Protection and Inspection Service – Laboratory for Molecular Techniques and Transgenic Plants:** The lab manages the identification of GE seeds, vegetative propagation materials, and processed foods. This laboratory uses a "ring test" to determine the presence of GE content in a consignment for import or export.

In March 2017, NCTP published the decision that genome edited plants resulting only in a deletion of nucleotides and with no insertion of foreign DNA, are not considered to be transgenic and will not be subjected to the GE seed regulation. The applicant must, however, submit data showing that they meet the determined criteria to ensure that foreign DNA sequences were not incorporated into a plant genome. Other genome edited plants, where foreign DNA is incorporated and their progeny will be subject to regulations and guidelines found in the GE seed regulation. In March 2019, the NCTP reconfirmed its previous decision that plants which are progeny of plants that underwent "targeted mutagenesis" utilizing genome editing methodology that caused the deletion of nucleotides and which were proven not to contain the insertion and/or incorporation of foreign DNA into the genome of the plant do not fall under the category of transgenic plants.

NCTP Genome Editing Subcommittee Decision Memo, February 2021

1. The NCTP subcommittee reconfirmed its previous decision that the progeny of plants that underwent "targeted mutagenesis," utilizing genome editing methodology causing the deletion of nucleotides, and were proven not to contain the insertion and/or incorporation of foreign DNA into the genome of the plant do not fall under the category of transgenic plants. Therefore, the usage of them for experiments and research is not subject to the GE seed regulation.

2. The development of plants by genome editing is subject to the GE Seed Regulation. The growing of these plant's progeny is not subject to the regulation, given it meets the procedure's requirements.

3. The NCTP subcommittee recommends that the Director of Plant Protection Services accept the recommendation that plants which are progeny of plants that underwent "targeted mutagenesis" genome editing will not be considered transgenic for research and experiments. Therefore, growing them is not subject to the GE Seed Regulation.

4. The NCTP subcommittee recommends that approval will be granted to applicants in the form an exemption from the GE Seed Regulation. To be exempt from the GE Seed Regulation, applicants must show that there is no presence of any transgenes that may have been used in the genome editing

process. According to the opinion of the members of the subcommittee, the removal of complete transgenes also completely removes any risk to mankind and the environment. However, the working procedure on this subject does not allow for the detection of infiltration or removal events of any foreign DNA used in the genomic editing, especially short DNA segments. Therefore, the recommendation is to include a reference to this in the exemption, and to include a requirement that applicants must inform any party with whom they will be in connection with for the sale or commercialization of the plants, that the mutations were created through gene editing and how they were tested for transgenes used in the process.

5. The NCTP subcommittee recommends that the Director of Plant Protection Services approve the proposed work procedure for implementation in the process of obtaining an exemption from transgenic plant regulation. According to the procedure, those seeking to perform PCR-based tests must prove that the DNA sequences of the transgenes used in the process did not penetrate and/or fuse the plant genome in a way that would allow them to be inherited.

6. The NCTP subcommittee recommends continuing the examination of new analytical methods, to develop a method that will provide a more accurate diagnosis regarding the existence of foreign DNA in the plant genome. A survey of the relevant, existing innovations and methods will be conducted, along with an examination of the possibility of implementing them on a technological and budgetary level. The examination will be carried out in consultation with expert scientists, including researchers from the National Center for Genomic Editing in Agriculture. Once there is sufficient and relevant information regarding the advanced methods, the NCTP subcommittee will reconvene and examine updating the exemption approval procedure.

Ministry of Health's Regulatory Framework

The Israeli Ministry of Health is the regulating body for novel foods. Novel foods are regulated by the Israeli Food Control Services' (FCS), which is a part of the Ministry of Health, 2006 procedure guidelines. In October 2013, the FCS notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of the draft regulation on novel food, notification G/TBT/N/ISR/710. The proposed regulation is pending, with further revision expected. The draft regulation entitled "Public Health Regulations Food – Novel Foods 5773 – 2013" key provisions are:

- Registration of novel foods through a risk assessment process.
- Prohibition on processing, importing, storing or selling unregistered novel foods.
- The creation of an official novel food list, which is updated periodically.
- Labeling instruction for food items containing GE ingredients.

In June 2020, the Minister of Health signed the Protection of Public Health Order (Food) (Extension of the validity of guidelines and procedures). The order includes the 2006 Novel Food procedure guidelines.

Novel Food Definition: The scope of the definition "novel food" is limited to food or food ingredients that meet the following requirements:

- Contains a new primary structure at the molecular level or which has been modified in its primary structure at the molecular level and is not yet proven safe for human consumption in Israel.
- Contains a "genetically modified organism" or part of one.
- Contains plants, animals, microorganisms, fungi, or algae or extracted from one of these and does not contain enzymes that are not proven safe for human consumption in Israel.
- Was manufactured in a new process, except for cleaning and disinfecting, and that the process created a change in the formulation of the food or in its ingredients that made a change in its nutritional values, the body metabolism, or the level of unwanted ingredients in the food.
- Not a food additive that was previously approved in the food additive regulation.
- Not a food ingredient that was previously approved in the food ingredient regulation.
- Is not used as a material production aid or a food flavoring.

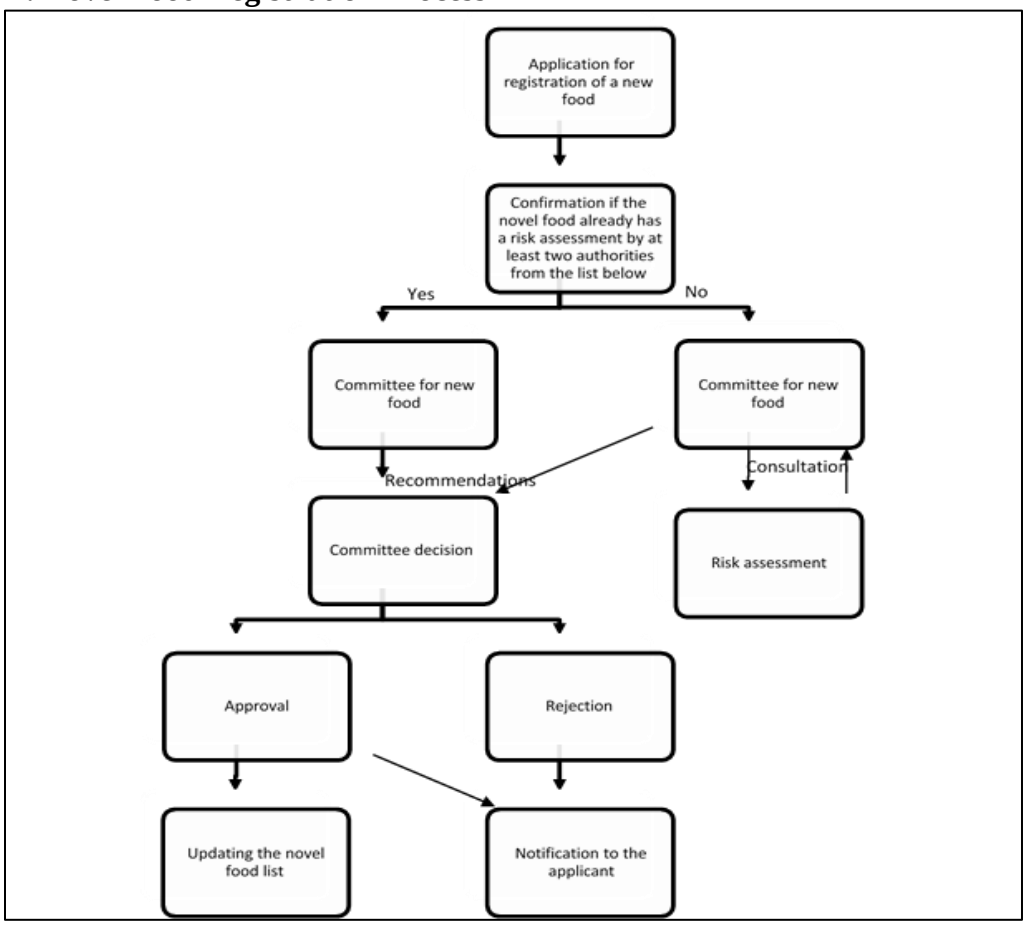
New-to-market products must undergo a risk assessment prior to approval. Once a product is approved, it will be registered and added to the official list of approved products (in Hebrew). The link for registration can be found online (in Hebrew). Only by following these steps can the product be commercialized.

A new risk assessment will not be required for a novel food if it has already been reviewed by at least two of the international associations approved by the head of Food Control Service for risk assessments, which include:

- The European Union – European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)
- United States – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- Canada – Health Canada
- Australia and New Zealand – Australia and New Zealand Food Authority (ANZFA) and Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ)
- Japan – Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare/Department of Food Safety
- Specialist Committees of the *Codex Alimentarius* (including the Food and Agricultural Organization and the World Health Organization)

The approval timeline for novel foods varies according to the risk assessments that have been done. If the food has two or more approvals from the certifiers listed above, the application may be completed in six months. If the product is new-to-market, approval could take up to 12-months. All novel foods are required to undergo the same process, regardless of their final use.

ISRAEL: Novel Food Registration Process



Source: FAS/Tel Aviv office research

Alternative Protein

Israel has made many advances in the development of alternative proteins, primarily cell cultured meat but also milk and honey. Although these products meet the definition of Novel Food, a dedicated work group led by the Risk Management Unit of the FCS was established. The purpose of the group is to examine the products and ensure the advancement of the field, while ensuring public health. The work group was established due to the unique characteristics of the products, the different production technologies, and different types of products, and at the aim of maintaining Israel's position as a leader in the field.

b. **APPROVALS:** To date, only GE tobacco has been approved in Israel. The National Committee for Transgenic Plants has nonetheless granted approvals for field trials of other crops (see Field Testing below). Israel does not currently require event-by-event pre-market approval for GE imports intended for use as food, feed, or processing. However, this could change under the proposed novel foods regulation.

c. **STACKED EVENT APPROVALS**: If a plant is genetically engineered for more than one trait, each trait must be approved separately. After approval, each trait will then be listed separately on the approved list. The current novel food registration process does not address the issue of stacked events.

d. **FIELD TESTING**: Field experiments of plants produced through biotechnology began in Israel some 20 years ago. Experiments must be authorized by the NCTP, based on a complete, detailed application, and consultation with experts. The experiments are under the regulatory supervision of the Plant Protection and Inspection Service.

e. **INNOVATIVE BIOTECHNOLOGIES**: [See Part B: POLICY a) Regulatory Framework] Israel maintains that plants that are the result of targeted mutagenesis using genome editing technologies that do not incorporate any foreign DNA into the genome will not be considered as transgenic. The Commission also confirmed that cucumber plants resistant to viruses, developed with genome editing are not considered transgenic.

f. **COEXISTENCE:** There are no regulations regarding coexistence. The NCTP must approve the application to work with GE products; it will also solicit the opinion of the National Committee for Experiments (NCE). If the NCE has a doubt regarding the experiment or its location (i.e., proximity to other crops), it may ask for external expert opinions prior to approval.

g. **LABELING AND TRACABILITY**: Currently, Israel has no governmental policy on the labeling of GE products, see Israel's 2023 FAIRS report. Under the draft regulation "Public Health Regulations (Food) – Novel Foods 5773 – 2013," mandatory labeling of food items that contain GE ingredients could be implemented. According to the Ministry of Health, mandatory labeling is not a deterrence or warning; it exists to address consumers' rights regarding access to information about food. Under the proposed regulation, the following product categories are exempt from labeling:

- Products not containing foreign DNA or protein.
- Products with less than 0.9 percent of the product being comprised of GE ingredients.

Highly refined foods, such as oils, would not require special labeling since refining removes proteins from the product. When the new labeling regulations are approved, exporters of food items to Israel will have to declare if the products contain ingredients derived from GE crops. Animal feed will be exempt from the labeling requirements. Sellers will also have to place a sign beside GE products that are sold in bulk.

h. **MONITORING AND TESTING:** Israel does not have a system for testing and controlling the entry of GE products into the country; currently, products containing GE components are permissible. Exporters that produce food items from imported raw materials for export would be subject to the destination country's regulations. That would include any labeling and testing requirements.

i. **LOW LEVEL PRESENCE POLICY:** N/A

j. **ADDITIONAL REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS**: Genetically engineered seeds and plants are not commercially planted or grown in Israel for human consumption. Genetically engineered products, such as other novel foods, would face regulatory hurdles. Some novel foods (e.g., red grape cells) are approved for human consumption in Israel under very specific conditions.

k. **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS:** Israel is a signatory of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of International Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) and a member of the International Union for the Protection of New Plant Varieties (UPOV).

l. **CARTAGENA PROTOCOL RATIFICATION:** Israel is not a signatory to the Cartagena Protocol. The Cartagena Protocol National Focal Point is the Plant Protection and Inspection Services (International Relations) of the MoAG.

m. **INTERNATIONAL TREATIES AND FORUMS:** Israel is a member of the WTO, Codex Alimentarius, IPPC and the FAO GM Foods Platform. Israel does not actively participate in discussions related to GE plant or seed varieties with international organizations.

n. **RELATED ISSUSES:** N/A

PART C: MARKETING

a. **PUBLIC/PRIVATE OPINIONS:** In the past, some environmental activists expressed concerns regarding the safety and the potential harm that could result from the use of GE crops. One fear is that GE seeds will "leak" into the wild and cross-pollinate wild plants causing new unwanted varieties. Despite such opinions, Israeli consumers continue to routinely purchase GE content products.

As in other countries, many Israeli scientists and researchers working with GE crops favor the technology. These scientists see the technology as a means of supplying global food markets when faced with shortages, plant disease, and environmental stresses.

b. **MARKET ACCEPTANCE/STUDIES:** Israeli consumer awareness regarding biotechnology is relatively low. There is hardly any reference in the local media to the issue. The Israeli public is currently unconcerned with the issue. FAS/Tel Aviv is not aware of any Israeli marketing studies on GE crops, seeds, or food-related products.

CHAPTER 2: ANIMAL BIOTECHNOLOGY

PART D: PRODUCTION AND TRADE

a. **RESEARCH AND PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT:** There is limited research on animal genetic engineering in Israel using human or animal cells. Most of this work is focused on repairing human tissue. Researchers and companies do not publicize specific information regarding these studies. On June 2020, the Israel Innovation Authority approved the establishment of a Genome Editing Consortium, coined CRISPR-IL [see Chapter 1, Part A: PRODUCTION AND TRADE a) PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT].

b. **COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION:** There is no commercial production of GE animals or cloned animals in Israel, nor is any expected in the near term.

c. **EXPORTS:** Israel does not export GE or cloned animals or related products.

d. **IMPORTS:** Israel has most likely imported semen and embryos from cloned animals or their offspring. The specific quantity of these imports is not available.

e. **TRADE BARRIERS:** Any prospective GE or cloned animals would be subject to the same sanitary requirements as non-GE or cloned animals. There are no existing barriers to trade specifically targeting GE or cloned animals.

PART E: POLICY

a. **REGULATORY FRAMEWORK:** Israel's Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Law (Experiments on Animals) stipulates requirements for experiments on animals. The Ministry of Agriculture's Veterinary Branch is responsible for GE animal production experimentation and regulation. All requests for experiments need to pass through it for evaluation and approval. There is no regulation regarding the import of GE animals, and the new draft regulation avoids the subject.

b. **APPROVALS:** N/A

c. **INNOVATIVE BIOTECHNOLOGIES**: It is unclear on how gene edited animals may be treated in the future.

d. **LABELING AND TRACEABILITY:** There is no policy for the traceability and labeling of GE or cloned animals.

e. **ADDITIONAL REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS:** N/A

f. **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS:** Israel is a signatory of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement.

g. **INTERNATIONAL TREATIES and FORUMS:** Israel is a member of *Codex Alimentarius* and a member of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). However, it does not actively participate in discussions related to animal biotechnologies.

h. **RELATED ISSUES:** Genetically engineered animals are not a topic of concern in Israel, and there is no legislation or regulation related to the development, trials, commercial use, imports or exports of GE or cloned animals. The Ministry of Agriculture's Veterinary Branch is the lead agency.

PART F: MARKETING

a. **PUBLIC/PRIVATE OPINIONS:** Genetically engineered animals are not being discussed by the public or the private sectors. The media rarely reports on the topic; in fact, many Israelis do not actually understand what is a GE animal. There is general knowledge obtained from the international media that cloning exists (e.g., Dolly the sheep), but specific information remains very limited. Future concerns regarding GE animal products will likely focus more on kosher issues than on the source of the animal.

b. **MARKET ACCEPTANCE/STUDIES:** This is not on the public or private sectors' agenda. No time and/or money is being invested in market studies and analysis. FAS/Tel Aviv is unaware of any work in this field.

CHAPTER 3: MICROBIAL BIOTECHNOLOGY

PART G: PRODUCTION AND TRADE

a. **COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION:** According to the Israel Innovation Authority's report, more than forty companies in Israel are active in developing novel ingredients, including alternative proteins, and sugar substitutes. Israel does not commercially produce food ingredients derived from microbial biotechnology. Table 3 presents several Israeli companies active in developing novel foods. In addition, see Israel Good Food Institute's Israel State of Alternative Protein Innovation Report 2021 and Startup Nation Central's database.

TABLE 3: Select Israeli Companies Developing Novel Foods

Category	Company	Website
Chickpea Protein	Innovopro Ltd.	https://www.innovopro.com
Chickpea Protein	Chickp	https://www.chickp-protein.com/
Reduced Sugar Content	Amai Proteins	https://www.amaiproteins.com/
Reduced Sugar Content	DouxMatok	https://www.douxmatok.com/
Reduced Sugar Content	Better Juice	https://www.better-juice.com/
Methods for Preparing Dough	Nextferm Technologies Ltd.	https://www.nextferm.com/
Food Coloring	Phytolon	https://www.phytolon.com/
Food Coloring, and flavor substances	Pigmentum	https://www.pigmentum.co.il/
Clean Meat	Aleph Farms	https://aleph-farms.com/
Clean Meat	Future Meat Technologies	https://future-meat.com/
Clean Meat	SuperMeat The Essence Of Meat Ltd.	https://www.supermeat.com/
Clean Meat	Redefinemeat	https://www.redefinemeat.com/
Clean Meat	SavorEat	https://savor-eat.com/
Lab Grown Dairy	Imagindairy	https://imagindairy.com/
Lab Grown Dairy	Biomilk	https://www.biomilk.com/
Lab Grown Dairy	Remilk	https://www.remilk.com/

Source: FAS/Tel Aviv office research.

b. **EXPORTS:** Israel exports alcoholic beverages, dairy products, and processed products which may contain microbial biotech-derived food ingredients.

c. **IMPORTS:** Israel imports alcoholic beverages, dairy products, and processed products which may contain microbial biotech-derived food ingredients.

d. **TRADE BARRIERS:** Currently, there are no trade barriers regarding food ingredients derived from microbial biotechnology. If the proposed novel food regulation is approved, imported GE food products would face labeling requirements. The responsibility for labeling will fall to the local importers and distributors. The novel food regulation would also institute a pre-market approval process for GE foods.

PART H: POLICY

a. **REGULATORY FRAMEWORK:** Microbial biotech-derived food ingredients are considered novel food which is regulated by the Ministry of Health [see Chapter 1, Part B: POLICY a) REGULATORY FRAMEWORK, Ministry of Health's Regulatory Framework.]

b. **APPROVALS:** See official list of approved products (in Hebrew).

c. **LABELING AND TRACEABILITY:** [see Chapter 1, Part B: POLICY g) LABELING AND TRACABILITY].

d. **MONITORING AND TESTING:** Israel does not actively test for evidence of genetic engineering in imports and exports of processed products.

e. **ADDITIONAL REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS:** N/A

f. **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS:** Israel is a signatory of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of International Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement).

g. **RELATED ISSUES:** N/A

PART I: MARKETING

a. **PUBLIC/PRIVATE OPINIONS:** No research has been done on how the public perceives the use of microbial biotech. The public attitude towards research institutions that use microbial biotech for food ingredient or nutritional purposes seems to be positive.

b. **MARKET ACCEPTANCE/STUDIES:** No market acceptance studies have been conducted. However, based on the success of FoodTech startups to raise funding (ex. Remilk, Imagindairy , and ChickP) there is positive market acceptance. An additional sign of positive acceptance has been shown by Israel's largest food manufacturing companies. Israel's largest food manufacturing companies took the initiative to create, participate, and invest in food technology (FoodTech) incubators and hubs.

Attachments:

No Attachments