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Report Highlights:

Algeria does not develop, commercialize or import genetically engineered products. However, biotechnology institutions in Algeria promote and carry out applied research in biotechnology to address the needs of Algeria in the field of health, environment, bio-industry, food and agriculture.

Section I. Executive Summary:

There is no agricultural genetically engineered product development for commercialization purposes in Algeria. [The Ministry of Agriculture's decree of December 24, 2000 \(published in the Official Journal on January 7, 2001, in French\)](#), prohibits all imports, production, distribution, and commercialization as well as utilization of genetically engineered 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.

Algeria started developing a strategy for the implementation of biotechnology policy adapted to local needs as early as 1980. Training and research programs were designed, and capacities increased in a variety of sectors. Universities and higher education centers introduced programs in life sciences and biotechnology. These centers included also master's degree programs in plant genomics, genetics and bio-industry.

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.

United States food and agricultural exports to Algeria consist mainly of bulk commodities. U.S. Census Bureau Trade Data show that the top U.S. (CY2018) agricultural exports were wheat, tree nuts, corn, planting seeds, dairy products, feed and fodder, as well as forest products, cotton, live animals (day-old turkey chicks) and pulses. In CY2018, U. S. agricultural exports to Algeria were \$125 million.

Challenges for U.S. exporters result from Algeria's geographic proximity to Europe, the lack of direct shipping lines between the United States and North Africa and transshipment of U.S. exports through Europe. These factors significantly increase shipping costs and make U.S. bulk products less price competitive.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1: PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY

PART A: Production and Trade

PART B: Policy

PART C: Marketing

CHAPTER 2: ANIMAL BIOTECHNOLOGY

PART D: Production and Trade

PART E: Policy

PART F: Marketing

CHAPTER I: PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY

PART A: PRODUCTION AND TRADE

- a) **PRODUCTION DEVELOPMENT:** The Ministry of Agriculture has legislative responsibility for domestic production of crops. However, there is no agricultural GE product development for commercialization purposes in Algeria. The Ministry of Agriculture's decree of December 24, 2000 (published in the Official Journal on January 7, 2001), prohibits any biotechnology product development except for research purposes.
- b) **COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION:** There is no commercialization of genetically engineered plant material in Algeria
- c) **EXPORTS:** N/A
- d) **IMPORTS:** N/A
- e) **FOOD AID RECIPIENT COUNTRIES:** Algeria is not a recipient of food aid due to its high per capita income and fiscal resources.
- 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. It is also responsible for the health and safety aspects of imported agricultural and food products along with the Ministry of Commerce, which regulates the quality aspects of imports. There is no regulatory framework to approve plant biotechnology products for cultivation or import.

Algeria created the first national committee of biotechnology in 1983 to identify economic development needs related to biotechnology applications, to implement a national research and

development program, develop proposals on policy to regulate biosecurity and bioethics and coordinate between 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 that can grant import authorizations under certain conditions to conduct scientific and research activities in biotechnology. No biotechnology authorizations have been provided to date.

c) STACKED EVENT APPROVALS: N/A

d) FIELD TESTING: N/A

e) INNOVATIVE BIOTECHNOLOGIES: N/A

f) COEXISTENCE: N/A

g) LABELING: The Ministry of Commerce, which 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. Any brand of products or services cannot 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 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 September, 2018.

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.

n) RELATED ISSUES: N/A

PART C: MARKETING:

- a) PUBLIC/PRIVATE OPINIONS: Most consumers are made aware of biotechnology through media reports, which are usually unfavorable, especially in 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: Most 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. The Ministry of Agriculture decree prohibits importation, production, distribution, and commercialization as well as utilization of GE plant materials.

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 aspects of imported animals and products of animal origin.
- b) APPROVALS: N/A
- c) INNOVATIVE BIOTECHNOLOGIES: N/A
- d) LABELING AND TRACEABILITY: N/A
- e) INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR): Same as Plant Biotechnology
- f) INTERNATIONAL TREATIES and FORUMs: Algeria is member of the Animal Health World organization (OIE) since October 8, 1962
- g) RELATED ISSUES

PART F: MARKETING

- a. PUBLIC/PRIVATE OPINIONS: N/A
- b. MARKET ACCEPTANCE/ STUDIES: N/A

Attachments:

No Attachments