

Required Report: Required - Public Distribution

Date: November 20, 2024

Report Number: AG2024-0010

Report Name: Agricultural Biotechnology Annual

Country: Algeria

Post: Algiers

Report Category: Biotechnology and Other New Production Technologies

Prepared By: Nabila Hales

Approved By: Evgenia Ustinova

Report Highlights:

Algeria does not develop, commercialize or import genetically engineered products. The Ministry of Agriculture's decree of December 24, 2000, prohibits all imports, production, distribution, and commercialization of genetically engineered plant materials.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Algeria does not develop, commercialize or import genetically engineered products, because of a decree that Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) published in 2001. The MOA published a decree prohibiting development of agricultural genetically engineered product for commercialization purposes. [This 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, and seeds intended for propagation and reproduction) except for research purposes.

However, in early 1980's, Algeria began developing a strategy for the implementation of a biotechnology policy adapted to local needs. Universities and higher education centers designed training and research programs in a variety of sectors. Their focus targeted life sciences and biotechnology. Plant genomics, genetics, and bio-industry were introduced during this period.

The biotechnology institutions in Algeria promote and carry out applied research in biotechnology to address the needs of Algeria in several fields, including health, environment, bio-industry, food, and agriculture. The centers develop biotech solutions to domestic agricultural concerns and promote food security. FAS Algiers supported these institutions' biotechnology researchers with capacity building through the scientific exchange programs.

Contents

CHAPTER1: PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY	4
<i>PART A: PRODUCTION AND TRADE</i>	4
<i>PART B: POLICY</i>	4
<i>PART C: MARKETING</i>	7
CHAPTER 2: ANIMAL BIOTECHNOLOGY	7
<i>PART D: PRODUCTION AND TRADE</i>	7
<i>PART E: POLICY</i>	7
<i>PART F: MARKETING</i>	8
CHAPTER 3: MICROBIAL BIOTECHNOLOGY	8
<i>PART G: PRODUCTION AND TRADE</i>	8
<i>PART H: POLICY</i>	8
<i>PART I: MARKETING</i>	9

CHAPTER1: PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY

PART A: PRODUCTION AND TRADE

- a) **RESEARCH AND PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT:** The Ministry of Agriculture MOA has legislative responsibility for the domestic production of crops. However, the MOA still prohibits any biotechnology product development except for research purposes by decree. The [Decree of December 24, 2000 \(published in the Official Journal on January 7, 2001\)](#), remains current. The decree prevents agricultural genetically engineered product development, commercialization, and import into Algeria. By this decree, Algeria does not develop agricultural GE products for commercialization 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.
- 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. The decree prevents imports of GE products.
- e) **FOOD AID:** Algeria has never been a recipient of food aid due to its high per capita income and fiscal resources. Algeria collaborates with World Food Program which has been working in Algeria since 1986, focusing on food assistance and nutrition support to refugees from Western Sahara hosted by Algeria since 1975.
- f) **TRADE BARRIERS:** The Ministry of Agriculture issued a decree in 2000 that prohibits the 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, and seeds intended for propagation and reproduction) except for research purposes. The original French version of the decree can be found here: [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 the domestic production of crops and the health and safety aspects of imported agricultural and food products. The Ministry of Commerce also regulates the health, safety, and quality aspects of imported products. There is no regulatory framework to approve plant biotechnology products for cultivation or import. Algeria identified economic development needs related to

biotechnology applications and implemented a national research and development program in 1983. Algeria created the first national committee of biotechnology in 1983 to implement the research and development program. The committee was also in charge of developing proposals on policy to regulate biosecurity and bioethics and coordinate between the education, research, and production sectors. The first biotechnology research program was adopted in 1997 for agribusiness, health, and the environment with a focus on biodiversity, bioethics, and food biosecurity. (Source: Presentation of Pr. Abdelhamid Djekoun (2005), University of Constantine).

Legal term (in official language)	Legal Term (in English)	Laws and Regulations where term is used	Legal Definition (in English)
Materiel Végétal Génétiquement Modifié	Genetically Modified Plant Material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decree of December 24, 2000 (published in the Official Journal on January 7, 2001). 	The decree prohibits the importation, production, distribution, and commercialization as well as utilization of Genetically Modified plant materials except for research purposes

- b) APPROVALS/AUTHORIZATIONS: 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 OR PYRAMIDED EVENT APPROVALS/AUTHORIZATIONS: N/A
- d) FIELD TESTING: N/A
- e) INNOVATIVE BIOTECHNOLOGIES: The Government of Algeria (GOA) has not addressed the regulation of genome-edited agricultural products.
- f) COEXISTENCE: N/A
- g) LABELING AND TRACEABILITY: The Ministry of Commerce, which has authority for quality control and fraud prevention, regulates labeling and laboratory inspection. Currently, there are no laws regarding the 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. 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 the French language 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. Originally planned for Kunming, China in 2020, COP15 was postponed due to the global COVID-19 pandemic and later split into a two-part event. Part 1 was successfully held on October 15, 2021, in Kunming China. Post is aware Algeria was represented at this meeting through the Algerian official Press [news article \(in French\)](#). The article reported that Algeria's environment minister attended the meeting virtually and called on the international community to establish an ambitious framework to protect biological diversity by providing technical and financial support to developing countries to allow them to achieve the objectives. Biodiversity COP15, chaired by China concluded from December 7-19, 2022, in Montreal, Canada. Governments from around the world came together to agree on a new set of goals to guide global action through 2030 to halt and reverse nature loss. Post is not aware if Algeria was represented in 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. The decree of December 24, 20000 prohibits the importation, production, distribution, and commercialization as well as utilization of Genetically Modified plant materials. Even though the decree does not mention animal material. However, anything genetically modified is restricted. Animal biotechnology would be regulated as GE plant product.

- a) **RESEARCH AND 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) **REGULATORY FRAMEWORK:** The Ministry of Agriculture has legislative responsibility for the domestic production of animal products. It is also responsible for the health and safety aspects of imported animals and products of animal origin.

Legal term (in official language)	Legal Term (in English)	Laws and Regulations where term is used	Legal Definition (in English)
Materiel Génétiquement Modifié	Genetically Modified Material	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• N/A	N/A

- a) **APPROVALS/AUTHORIZATIONS:** N/A
- b) **INNOVATIVE BIOTECHNOLOGIES:** N/A
- c) **LABELING AND TRACEABILITY:** N/A

- d) ADDITIONAL REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS: N/A
- e) INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR): N/A
- b) 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.
- f) RELATED ISSUES: N/A

PART F: 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

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
- a) TRADE BARRIERS: N/A The Ministry of Agriculture decree prohibits the importation, production, distribution, and commercialization, and utilization of GE materials derived from microbial biotechnology.

PART H: POLICY

- a) REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: Microbial biotech would be regulated the same as GE plant products.

Legal term (in official language)	Legal Term (in English)	Laws and Regulations where term is used	Legal Definition (in English)
Materiel Génétiquement Modifié	Genetically Modified Material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	N/A

- b) APPROVALS/AUTHORIZATIONS: N/A
- c) LABELING AND TRACEABILITY: N/A
- d) MONITORING AND TESTING: N/A
- e) ADDITIONAL REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS: N/A
- f) INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY 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.
- a) MARKET ACCEPTANCE/STUDIE: N/A

Attachments:

No Attachments