United States Department of Agriculture
Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN
Global Agricultural Information Network

**Voluntary Report –** Voluntary - Public Distribution **Date:** December 14, 2021

**Report Number:** CH2021-0165

# **Report Name:** Agriculture GMOs Safety Assessment Administrative Measures Notified to the WTO

**Country:** China - People's Republic of

**Post:** Beijing

**Report Category:** Biotechnology - Plants and Animals

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**Report Highlights:**

On December 3, 2021, China notified to the WTO SPS Committee the Decision of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) to Revise the Administrative Measures for the Safety Assessment of Agricultural GMOs as SPS N CHN 1241. The decision changes the nature of biosafety assessment from being on a “crop variety and event” basis to solely on an “event” basis. The change facilitates variety registration of genetically engineered (GE) crop varieties for domestic cultivation and provides for the biosafety assessment of GE crops containing “stacked” traits. The proposed date for adoption of the measures is to be determined and the WTO notification does not provide a comment period.

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

**Summary:**

On December 3, 2021, China notified the *Decision of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) to Revise the Administrative Measures for the Safety Assessment of Agricultural GMOs* (SPS N CHN 1241) to the WTO SPS committee. The notification follows a November 12, 2021, publication of the same measures on the MARA website for domestic comments. The deadline for domestic comments was December 12, 2021.

A translation of the measure was previously provided under USDA GAIN report CH2021-0139 and is attached to this report.

The proposed date for adoption of the measures is to be determined and the notification does not provide a comment period. Interested parties may still submit comments to the National Enquiry Point:

WTO/SPS National Notification and Enquiry Center of the People's Republic of China
Tel: +(86 10) 5795 4645/5795 4642
E-mail: sps@customs.gov.cn

**Attachments:**

20211112-GAIN report CH2021-0139.pdf