

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: MOA Issues Regulation on Genetically Engineered Crops -
Paving Way for Commercial Cultivation

Country: Indonesia

Post: Jakarta

Report Category: Biotechnology and Other New Production Technologies

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Report Highlights:

The Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) has released Regulation No. 50/2020, which for the first time provides post-monitoring guidelines for the commercial cultivation of genetically engineered (GE) crops in Indonesia. Issuance of the monitoring guidelines has been sixteen years in the making, following Indonesia's initial establishment of a regulatory framework for GE crops in 2005.

Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) Regulation 50/2020

The release of MOA Regulation 50/2020 (see attachment) provides the necessary guidelines for establishing a post-monitoring scheme in accordance with Indonesia's regulatory framework for GE crops as established under Regulation 21/2005. According to Regulation 20/2020, applicants or permit holders for GE crops are required to conduct "routine monitoring" of GE crops grown in Indonesia during the first three years of cultivation and to report any impacts on the health of livestock or the environment. The monitoring report includes surveys of farmers, scientific papers, and environmental data and should be conducted by an independent survey agency or university according to the questionnaire guidelines as established in the regulation annex entitled *Questionnaire of Routine Monitoring on Agricultural GEP Plants*. All costs for monitoring are the responsibility of the applicant/permit holder. The quantity of monitoring surveys is dependent upon the geographic scope of GE plantings. Monitoring should be conducted in three regencies/cities if the GE plants are planted in one province, three regencies/cities and two provinces if the GE plants are planted in two provinces, and three provinces if the GE plants are planted in three or more provinces. GE plants which are found to have a negative impact on human/animal health or the environment as part of their surveillance monitoring may be recalled and removed from circulation.

With the guidelines in place, the final step for GE crops to reach commercial cultivation is the establishment of a SOP for GE variety release. The SOP is already under development by MOA's Indonesia Center for Agricultural Biotechnology and Genetic Resources (ICABIOGRAD) and is expected without delay.

Background

Despite having adopted a detailed bio-safety regulatory framework for Genetically Engineered (GE) crops in 2005, Indonesia has struggled to fully implement the necessary guidelines required to achieve commercial cultivation. Although numerous GE products (see [ID2020-0037](#)) have received food, feed, and/or environmental safety approval, achieving the variety releases necessary for commercial cultivation has been stymied by the lack of post-monitoring guidelines. At present, three GE corn varieties and one GE sugarcane variety have undergone all three safety assessments. Additionally, one GE potato variety has completed both food and environmental safety assessments and will not undergo a feed safety assessment since the product is not for animal consumption.

In recent years Indonesia has allowed for the planting of GE drought-resistant sugarcane developed by state-owned sugar plantation company PTPN 11 and Jember University. The cumulative area for planting through 2018 is estimated at 8,100 hectares. However, plantings are limited to PTPN 11 land and the seeds are not freely available to other farmers for planting. PTPN 11 estimates the total planting area could reach 30,000 hectares.

The new monitoring guidelines are expected to open the door to other GE crops capable of reaching commercial cultivation. Industry sources suggest a late-blight resistant potato (SP951) is likely to be the first product to apply for and receive variety release under the new guidelines. The variety was developed by ICABIOGRAD in partnership with Cornell University and University of Wisconsin, with funding from USAID. A separate stacked gene late-blight resistant potato is currently being developed by ICABIOGRAD in partnership with Michigan State University, University of Minnesota, University of Idaho, and the JR Simplot Company, with USAID funding under the Feed the Future Biotechnology Partnership Project.

Attachments:

[MOA Reg No 50 of 2020.pdf](#)