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## **Russian Federation**

### **Agricultural Biotechnology Annual**

#### **Agricultural Biotechnology Annual 2014**

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**Report Highlights:**

Russia continues registration of Genetically Engineered (GE) crops for imports of food and feed in accordance with existing Russian legislature. In September 2013, the Russian Government initiated legislation for the registration of GE crops for cultivation starting July 2014. However, in June 2014 the Government delayed implementation of this legislation by three years, to 2017. Given that the registration process is estimated to take 5-6 years, cultivation of GE crop in Russia cannot be expected before 2013-2024. The Ministry of Agriculture, the main body responsible for any seed registration has been very conservative on the cultivation of GE crops. Labeling and information for consumers on the presence of GE ingredients in food products is regulated by the technical regulations of the Customs Union (CU) on safety and labeling of food products. These regulations require that products sold in CU member states must be labeled if they contain the presence of over 0.9 percent of GE lines in food products. CU technical regulation for feed has not been adopted yet. However, feed sold in Russia is subject to Russian regulations that does not require labeling of GE feed, but does require registration of GE lines for use in feed, and requires registration of feed as GE feed if the presence of registered lines is over 0.9 percent and the presence of non-registered lines is over 0.5 percent.

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## REPORT OUTLINE

### Section I. Executive Summary:

Since July 2013, there have been no actual changes in the legislation or mechanism that regulate Russian agricultural biotechnology. However, this year there have been more heated discussions and proposed regulatory draft documents concerning GE crops, than Russia has seen in the last five years. In 2010, Russia adopted a Federal Law that allowed the federal government to develop a registration procedure for the cultivation of biotech crops via a Resolution of the Government, not through an amendment to the federal law. On September 23, 2013 this Resolution was adopted under No. 839 (see FAS/Moscow GAIN report [Government Resolution on GMO Registration for Environmental Release 9-25-2013.pdf](#)). In accordance with Resolution 839, the development of a mechanism for the registration of GE crops for cultivation should have been completed by July 1, 2014. However, this Resolution immediately stimulated a hot anti-GMO campaign in Russia. By spring 2013, a number of institutions became embroiled in the debate from the agrarian committees of both the lower (Duma) and the upper (Council of Federations), chambers of the Federation Assembly of the Russian Federation, Russia's major legislative body, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation, several public organizations, and authorities of some Russian provinces. Several draft amendments to the Russian legislature on agricultural biotechnology were proposed, ranging from postponing the implementation of Resolution 839 by several years to a complete ban on turnover of genetically engineered crops and products on the territory of Russia, including a ban on imports of such products, and criminal penalties for illegal growth and distribution of genetically engineered crops. The campaign ended in June 2014 with the adoption of a government Resolution that delayed the start of registration of GE crops for environmental release by 3 years, to July 1, 2017. However, this new legislation did not change the requirements for involved ministries and agencies to develop a mechanism for such registration. Given that the registration process is estimated to take 5-6 years, cultivation of GE crop in Russia cannot be expected before 2013-2024. For more information see FAS/Moscow GAIN report: [Registration for Cultivation Postponed 6-27-2014.pdf](#).

“The Comprehensive Program for Development of Biotechnology in the Russian Federation through 2020” (BIO 2020) [For more information see GAIN report [Program on Development of Biotechnology in Russia through 2020](#)] remains Russia's governmental guideline for the development of biotechnology. This Program BIO 2020 authorized different Russian Ministries to develop biotechnology in their appropriate spheres; including development of different branches of agricultural biotechnology, one segment of which is the “development and introduction of genetically modified plants in agriculture.” Following the adoption of “BIO 2020” on April 24, 2012, the Ministry of Agriculture included “development of biotechnology” in its “Agricultural Development Program in 2013,” and left “development of biotechnology” as one of the targets of the Agricultural Development Program in 2013 and through 2020. However, this was for the development of plant protection, development of biotech methods of processing of agricultural products, and not for development of GE crops.

The registration of GE crops/lines/traits for imports for food and feed has continued. Moreover, since July 2013 imports of soybeans and soybean products and ingredients have increased, primarily due to increased imports from the United States. However, this increase has been attributed primarily to a drop in domestic production of soybeans caused by significant flood damage in the Far East (A major

Russian soy production area), and continued high demand of high-protein feeds for the Russian poultry and livestock sectors; rather than due to any change in biotech policy.

Labeling and information for consumers on the presence of GE ingredients in food products is regulated by the technical regulations of the Customs Union (CU) on safety and labeling of food products. These regulations require that in the CU member states products must be labeled if the presence of GE lines is over 0.9 percent. CU technical regulation for feed has not been adopted yet. However, feed sold in Russia is subject to Russian regulations that do not require labeling of GE feed, but do require registration of GE lines for use in feed, and do require registration of feed as GE feed, if the presence of registered lines is over 0.9 percent and the presence of non-registered lines is over 0.5 percent.

**(Note: All Russian legislative and regulatory documents use the term GMO (genetically modified organisms) or GMM (genetically modified microorganisms) instead of genetically engineered (GE) organisms/microorganisms.)**

## **Section II: Plant and Animal Biotechnology**

### **CHAPTER 1: PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY**

#### **PART A: Production and Trade**

##### **a) PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT:**

In Russia, the de-facto ban on genetically engineered (GE) crop cultivation continues. Although Russia does not have an official ban on the cultivation of GE seeds, it also does not have a mechanism for their approval for release into the environment. As a result, according to the Russian Federal Law on Genetic Engineering, without such a mechanism the cultivation of GE seeds and crops is not allowed.

In April 2012, Russia adopted the Comprehensive Program on Development of Biotechnology through 2020 (BIO 2020). The program BIO 2020 envisages development of different branches of biotechnology, including agricultural biotechnology; one segment of which is the “development and introduction of genetically modified plants in agriculture.” However, BIO 2020 did not propose mechanisms for this development. In accordance with the Federal Law of October 2010 that allowed the government to develop a registration procedure for the cultivation of GE crops, the Government of the Russian Federation adopted Resolution No. 839 that ordered the Ministry of Agriculture together with other administrative authorities to develop the mechanism of such registration by July 1, 2014. The Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (VPSS) at the Ministry of Agriculture was appointed the implementer of such registration. However, in June 2014 the date for implementation of Resolution 839 was delayed by 3 years to July 1, 2017. The mechanism for registration of GE crops for release into environment has not been developed.

Russian scientists have continued some laboratory research on GE crops, but the research has not yet reached the stage of field trials. Although field trials are not prohibited, they need special permission from the Variety Testing Commission at the Ministry of Agriculture, which some companies report, is no longer granted. The Commission is responsible for tests of any seed variety, even for small-scale field trials for research purposes. The adoption of the program BIO 2020 fanned expectations of Russian scientists in the field of biotechnology. Also, since more and more agricultural producers have expressed an interest in GE crops, especially drought-resistant crops and crops that are better suited to

minimum and no-till farming, many scientists feel that there is a large potential market in Russia for these crops. Despite this demand, scientists report that they cannot increase research and begin commercializing these crops until Russia implements a mechanism for approval of GE crops for cultivation.

In 2013, the Russian Government merged three Russian Science Academies (Russian Academy of Sciences, Russian Academy of Agricultural Science, and Russian Academy of Medical Science). The major Russian science institute, which conducts research on GE crops, is the Russian Institute of Agricultural Biotechnology in the former Russian Academy of Agricultural Science. It is not clear yet what impact this reorganization will have on this institute's functioning, but it is unlikely that during the transitional period the scientists in this institute will expand their research work or will lobby in favor of registration of GE crops for cultivation.

b) COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION:

Russia does not cultivate any GE crops, including GE seed production.

c) EXPORTS:

None.

d) IMPORTS

Russia imports GE crops, and processed products containing GE ingredients. Imports of GE planting seeds are not allowed since Russia does not allow cultivation of GE crops. Imports of GE processed products is allowed if these crops/products have been tested and registered in Russia for food and/or feed use (See paragraph APPROVALS in PART B of the report).

Russian Customs data does not separate GE products from the non-GE products. However, most corn and soybeans imported into Russia, as well as products produced from corn and soybeans, may contain genetically modified organisms. In accordance with Russian and the CU legislation, imported food products are considered non-GE if the presence of GEs does not exceed levels determined by Russian and the CU legislation: not more than 0.9 percent of registered or non-registered GE lines in food products or ingredients, and not more than 0.9 percent of registered GE lines in feed ingredients. These levels have been fixed under the CU Technical Regulations on safety of food products and, oils and fats, grains, oilseeds, and some other technical regulations. The CU Technical Regulation on Feeds has not been adopted so far, and the Russian requirement for feeds is still in force: for feeds that are declared as non-GE the presence of registered GE lines shall not exceed 0.9 percent, and the presence of non-registered GE lines shall not exceed 0.5 percent. In feeds that are declared as GE, the presence of non-registered GE lines also shall not exceed 0.5 percent (for more information see section Plant Biotechnology Policy).

Russia is increasing its poultry and swine production at large, integrated poultry and swine farms that use compound feeds in the feeding rations. The demand for protein and energy ingredients, such as corn and soybeans/soybean meal is increasing. Russian is trying to increase domestic production of these crops, and in 2013 Russia's corn crop reached the record level of 11.6 million metric tons (MMT). The soybean crop was seriously damaged by severe flood in the Far East, Russia's major soybean producing area. However, Russian farmers have continued to increase area sown to soybean crop. Despite increased domestic production of protein and high energy feeds such as soybeans and corn, Russia

continues to import soybeans, corn, and products processed from these crops. Given that the Customs data for May and June 2014 are not yet available, Table 3 shows yearly imports from June through April in the period 2008 – 2014.

Due to high corn crop in 2013, corn imports decreased from 57,000 MT in June – April 2012/13 to 49,500 MT in June – April 2013/14. Soybean imports, on the contrary, increased driven by both decreased domestic crop and high demand in protein feeds. Russia’s imports of soybeans increased from 593,600 MT in the first eleven months of MY 2012/13 to 1.3 MMT in the same period 2013/14. Imports of soybeans from the U.S. increased from 56,000 MT to over 393,300 MT.

The anti-GMO preference of Russian consumers can still influence imports of corn and soybean and their products, especially soybeans and soybean products. In general, the feed trade does not reflect any strong pro- or anti-biotech bias. However, some regions in the south of European Russia, including Belgorod oblast (Russia’s major meat producer), have declared themselves GMO-free-zones and buy only non-GMO feeds, which are more and more difficult to find in the market. The anti-GMO campaigns in 2008-2011, and the recent one in MY 2013/14, affected food processors’ decisions, and importers of these commodities still prefer certified non-GE products in order to meet consumers’ preferences. Russia’s soybean crop is focused in the Far East, and European Russia (in the West) relies largely on imports to meet demand. Sodruzhestvo, Russia’s major soybean crushing company, maintains separate facilities for GE and non-GE soybeans in Kaliningrad.

Table 1. Russia: Imports of products that may contain GE ingredients, June-May, 2009 – 2013 and June-Apr. 2013/14

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2012/13 (Jun- Apr.)	2013/14 (Jun- Apr.)
<b>Metric Tons</b>							
Corn (1005)	246,570	43,548	101,071	44,261	58,139	56,961	49,496
- from the U.S.	2,790	2,308	3,402	4,969	7,049	6,456	4,418
Corn Groats and Meal (1103 13)	27,849	25,056	22,120	17,214	17,372	16,089	10,705
- from the U.S.	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Corn Starch (1108 12)	17,065	7,803	10,035	12,306	17,067	15,589	12,084
- from the U.S.	1	0	73	253	6	6	0
Soybeans (1201)	680,712	1,027,999	1,025,652	798,742	620,143	593,606	1,301,124
- from the U.S.	25,909	95,968	26,788	30,250	55,964	55,964	393,323
Soybean flour (1208 10)	5,678	2,089	1,651	1,248	1,215	1,164	521
- from the U.S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Soybean Meal (2304)	586,950	399,219	455,142	583,237	482,621	435,938	499,205
- from the U.S.	18,422	52,160	46,023	1,646	18,631	18,631	16,906
Soybean Isolates (from 3504)							
Total group 3504	42,594	46,333	49,620	53,595	55,556	50,923	50,074

- from the U.S.	977	209	559	362	220	219	251
<b>1,000 US Dollars</b>							
Corn (1005)	136,521	51,112	96,017	101,357	139,885	137,367	208,523
- from the U.S.	2,102	1,550	2,428	4,194	6,520	5,888	4,493
Corn Groats and Meal (1103 13)	10,642	7,285	8,134	7,165	7,719	7,120	4,395
- from the U.S.	0	0	6	0	0	0	0
Corn Starch (1108 12)	7,428	2,899	6,068	7,966	11,627	10,570	9,917
- from the U.S.	6	0	90	319	36	36	0
Soybeans (1201)	341,515	480,150	521,271	431,700	414,125	399,033	762,420
- from the U.S.	10,208	42,497	15,836	15,064	35,158	35,158	227,489
Soybean flour (1208 10)	3,665	1,499	1,380	1,152	1,170	1,111	572
- from the U.S.	-	-	-	-	-	0	0
Soybean Meal (2304)	323,844	198,337	213,405	269,802	307,049	278,690	324,576
- from the U.S.	9,246	23,186	20,938	918	12,627	12,627	11,428
Soybean Isolates (from 3504)							
Total group 3504	80,085	108,116	114,410	134,995	146,533	134,442	138,253
- from the U.S.	3,065	811	1,726	1,288	1,113	1,100	1,428
Total all products	903,699	849,398	960,685	954,138	1,028,108	968,333	1,448,656
- from the U.S.	24,627	68,044	41,024	21,784	55,454	54,809	244,838

Source: Global Trade Atlas

In 2013/14 (11 months) the major exporters of corn to Russia were Romania, Hungary, and Ukraine. The major exporters of soybeans were Paraguay (620,505 MT), United States (393,323 MT), and Ukraine (141,731 MT). The major exporters of soybean meal to Russia were Brazil (214,080 MT) and Argentina (209,716 MT), followed by minor suppliers, such as Germany (29,341 MT), Ukraine (20,175 MT), and the U.S. (16,906 MT).

e) **FOOD AID RECIPIENT COUNTRIES:**

Russia is not a recipient of food aid.

**PART B: Policy**

a. **REGULATORY FRAMEWORK:**

i. **RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES**

The following Russian ministries, agencies and services are responsible for development of Russian biotechnology policy, including agricultural biotechnology, and for control and surveillance over use of GE crops and products that are approved for food and/or feed use.

**Federal Service for Surveillance in the Sphere of Human Rights Protection and Human Well-Being (Rospotrebnadzor)** headed by the Chief Sanitary Doctor of the Russian Federation (web-site: <http://rospotrebnadzor.ru/about/>). Rospotrebnadzor has the following functions:

- Conducts survey and control of turnover of GE food products in order to provide for the sanitary-epidemiological well-being of population and protection of consumer rights in accordance with Russian and Customs Union legislation;
- Conducts state registration of new food products containing GE organisms, including those that are imported into Russian for the first time;
- Keeps the state register of GE food products allowed for sale, production and imports on the territory of the Russian Federation;
- Develops legislation on GE food products, which previously was the function of the Ministry of Health and Human Well-Being before the separation of Rospotrebnadzor from the Ministry of Agriculture in 2012;
- Together with the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance and the Federal Service for Surveillance in the Sphere of Human Health monitors the influence of GE crops and products on people and environment.

Since the unified economic space within the Customs Union started on January 1, 2012, valid certificates and permits on the use of biotech food and biotech food ingredients are those that were issued for circulation on the territory of the Customs Union.

**The Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation** (web-site: [www.mcx.ru](http://www.mcx.ru)) participates in the development of agricultural biotechnology policy together with Ministry of Economic Development and Ministry of Science and Education of the Russian Federation. Its functions are the following:

- overall legal regulation in the sphere of veterinary and phytosanitary well-being of Russia aimed at mitigation of any negative effects of GE crops and organisms on agricultural animals, plants, the environment, agricultural raw products, processed food products;
- overall policy development for the use of GE crop and organisms in agriculture, including for cultivation, as prescribed by the Government Resolution 839 that will come to force on July 1, 2014.

**Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (VPSS)** is subordinated to the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation (web-site: <http://fsvps.ru>). With regard to GE approvals, it:

- Surveys the safety of feeds and feed additives derived from GMO at all stages of production and turnover;
- Keeps the state registration of feeds derived from GMO;
- Issues certificates of registration for GE feeds;
- Keeps the state registration of GE plants and animals destined for cultivation and production on the territory of the Russian Federation, as prescribed by the Government Resolution 839 that will come to force on July 1, 2014;
- Together with the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance and the Federal Service for Surveillance in the Sphere of Human Health monitors the influence of GE crops and products on people and environment.

**The Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation** (web-site: <http://www.minpromtorg.gov.ru>) participates in the development of national standards and technical



regulations which set requirements for biological safety of regulated items. This Ministry participates in development of technical regulations of the Customs Union;

**Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation** (web-site: [www.economy.gov.ru](http://www.economy.gov.ru)) since 2012 monitors the implementation of the Comprehensive Program on Development of Biotechnology in the Russian Federation through 2020 (more on the Program see FAS/Moscow GAIN report [Program on Development of Biotechnology in Russia through 2020](#));

**The Customs Union of Kazakhstan, Russia and Belarus (CU)** develops and adopts the common customs and technical regulations for all countries-members of the Customs Union (web-site: <http://www.evrazes.com>).

## ii. LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

The GOR Resolution 839 of September 203, 2013 not only concerned the environmental release of GE crops into environment, but was an attempt to harmonize Russian legislation on biotechnology. However, its postponement to 2017 leaves this legislation as it was. As of July 2014, Russian legislation in the sphere of agricultural and food biotechnology still does not contain a comprehensive harmonized code of laws. Federal laws, government resolutions, technical regulations of the Customs Union and orders of the Chief Sanitary Doctor (the Head of the Federal Service for Surveillance in the Sphere of Human Rights Protection and Human Well-Being - Rospotrebnadzor) listed below regulate Russian agricultural biotech policy at present. These include laws on product registration and consumer information about GE ingredients in food products. Since Russia became a member of the Customs Union (now Euro-Asian Economic Commission – EEC) its trade legislation is subordinated to the legislation of the Customs Union. As of July 2012, the Customs Union adopted several technical regulations that concern agricultural biotechnology and consumer labeling, and on July 1, 2013, these technical regulations came to force. These are the following Technical Regulations of the Customs Union: Technical Regulation on Food Safety, Technical Regulation on Food Labeling, and Technical Regulation on the Safety of Grain. Another Custom Union Technical Regulation that will be important from the point of view of imports and turnover of GE feeds is the Technical Regulation on Feeds. However, this CU Technical Regulation is still under discussion.

Summary of current Russian laws and regulations that influence agricultural biotechnology:

### **Federal laws**

- Federal Law No. 86-FZ of June 5, 1996, "On the State Regulation in the Sphere of Genetic Engineering Activities" with amendments made in 2000 and in 2010. This is a foundational federal law on genetic engineering in Russia, but the law does not determine instruments for implementation. In 2010, an amendment authorized the Government to develop and adopt procedures for the release of the genetically modified organisms into the environment (Federal Law No 262-FZ of October 4, 2010, "On Amendments to the Federal Law "On the State Regulation in the Field of Genetic Engineering".);
- Federal Law No 52-FZ of March 30, 1999, "On the Sanitary-Epidemiological Well-being of the Population";
- Federal Law No. 29-FZ of January 2, 2000, "On the Quality and Safety of Food Products with

- amendments made in 2001 – 2008;
- Federal Law No. 2300-1 of February 7, 1992, On the Protection of Consumers Rights with amendments. The amendment of October 25, 2007 sets the threshold for mandatory labeling of food ingredients made from biotech material at 0.9 percent. Prior to this amendment, trace amounts of biotech food ingredients required labeling;
- The Federal Law No. 7-FZ of January 10, 2002, On Environmental Protection, as amended by January 1, 2011. Article 50.1 Environmental Protection from Negative Biological Impact of Federal Law No. 7-FZ of January 10, 2002. The Article states: “it is prohibited to produce, grow and use plants, animals and other organisms not typical for natural ecological systems, or created artificially, without developing effective measures to prevent their uncontrolled reproduction, obtaining a positive state ecological expert’s conclusion, and permission from the federal bodies of executive power that conduct the state management of environment, and other federal bodies of executive power in accordance with their competence and legislature of the Russian Federation.”

### **Resolutions of the Russian Government**

- Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 988 of December 21, 2000, On State Registration of New Food Products, Materials, and Goods with amendments. The resolution authorizes registration of GE foods;
- Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 120 of February 16, 2001, On State Registration of Genetically Modified Organisms and Registration Regulation. This Resolution enforced the state registration of GE organisms;
- Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation No 26 of January 18, 2002, On the State Registration of GMO Feeds;
- Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 422 of July 14, 2006 which transferred testing and registration of biotech feeds from the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation to the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (VPSS) at the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation.
- Resolution of the Russian Government No. 839 of September 23, 2013, “On the State Registration of Genetically-Engineered-Modified Organisms Intended for Release into the Environment as well as Products Derived from the Use of Such Organisms or Containing Such Organisms” . The Resolution approved the rules of registration of genetically engineered organisms and orders ministries and federal bodies to update or develop procedures for the beginning of registration;
- Resolution of the Russian Government No. 548 of June 16, 2014, “On the Amendments to the Resolution No. 839 of September 23, 2013” postpones the implementation of Resolution 839 from July 1, 2013 to July 1, 2017;
- Resolution of the Russian Government No. 717 of July 14, 2012, “On the State Program for Development of Agriculture and Regulation of Agricultural and Food Markets in 2013-2020”. The program outlines the main directions of development of agricultural science, including biotechnology, although agricultural biotechnology is not a priority.

### **Normative acts of government bodies**

- Resolution of the Chief Sanitary Doctor of the Russian Federation (No 14 of November 8, 2011), On the Procedures of Sanitary-Epidemiological Expertise of Food Products from Genetically Modified Sources;
- Hygienic Requirements for Safety and Nutrition Value of Food Products. These norms, SanPiNs,

- are developed and approved by the Rospotrebnadzor;
- Methodological directives on norms and methods for testing, identification and analyses of genetically modified foods, organisms and microorganisms. State standards for food products. These methods and standards may be developed by different organizations, but are usually approved by Federal Agency on Technical Regulation and Metrology of the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation;
- Order of the Ministry of Agriculture on approval of regulations for VPSS on the State Registration of Feeds Derived from Genetic-Engineered-Modifieds Organisms. Order No. 466 of October 6, 2009: <http://www.fsvps.ru/fsvps-docs/ru/laws/projects/gmo.pdf>.

### Decisions of the Customs Union

Since July 2010 the Customs Union adopted several technical regulations that will influence agricultural and food biotechnology. These technical regulations came to force on July 1, 2013, and all regulations require marking the presence of GMOs on labels, and informing consumers in cases when food products are processed from or with the use of GMO even if there is no DNA's or proteins of GMO components in the marketed food products. For the unofficial translations of the CU technical regulations that cover food safety and labeling issues and that came to force on July 1, 2013 please see GAIN reports:

- [RS1233 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Food Safety](#)
- [RS1250 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Safety of Grain](#)
- [RSATO1211 Customs Union Technical Regulations on Food Products Labeling](#)
- [RS1326 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Fat and Oil Products](#)
- [RS1334 Customs Union Technical Regulation on Juice](#)

CU Technical Regulation No 021/2011 on Safety of Food Products (adopted in December 2011, came to force on July 1, 2013). The definition of GMO in this technical regulation is - “**genetically modified (genetically engineered, transgenic) organisms**” is “an organism or several organisms, any noncellular, unicellular or multicellular formations able for reproduction or transfer of genetic material differing from natural organisms obtained with the use of genetic engineering methods and (or) containing genetically engineered material including genes, their fragments or gene combinations.” This Technical Regulation states the following:

- Food products can be processed only from GMO/GMM registered in the CU (Paragraph 9 of Chapter 2);
- If the producer did not use GMOs at processing of food products, the presence of 0.9 percent and less of GMOs is considered an adventitious, unavoidable presence, and products is not GE (Paragraph 9, Chapter 2);
- The use of GMO in baby food and in food for pregnant and nursing women is not allowed (Paragraph 1 of Article 8).

The testing and examination of presence of GMO in food products is based on the following state standards (GOSTs) and guidelines: GOST R 52173-2003 “Food Raw Material and Food Products. Methods for detection of genetically modified organisms (GMO) of plant origin”, GOST R 52174-2003 “Biological Safety. Raw materials and food products. Methods for detection of genetically modified organisms (GMO) of plant origin by using biological microchips” and MUK (methodological guidelines) 4.2.2304-007 “On surveillance over circulation of food containing GMO.”

CU Technical Regulation No 022/2011 on Food Labeling (adopted in December 2011 and came to force on July 1, 2013). This technical regulation requires that food products with GMO shall be labeled, and determines the format of this labeling. The presence of 0.9 percent and less of GMO shall not be labeled, and the product is not considered as a genetically modified (GM) products. Labeling of food products as non-GMO is voluntary and the absence of GMO shall be proved and documented. For packaged food products requirements the labels shall contain information on the presence of food product ingredients obtained with the use of genetically modified organisms. The GMO ingredient is not excused from being listed in the compound ingredients of food products in cases when the mass of the compound ingredient is not more than 2 percent of the mass of the product (Paragraph 4.10). The information about the specific characteristics of food products, including absence of components obtained from GMO (or) with the use of GMO, shall be confirmed by proofs. Organizations or individual entrepreneurs releasing such food products for circulation in the unified customs area of the CU shall keep the documents with proofs of presence of specific characteristics of food products. The Technical Regulation on Food Labeling also has a special paragraph (4.11.) "Requirements for Specification of Information on Presence of Ingredients Obtained with the Use of Genetically Modified Organisms in Food Products in Food Products Labeling." The paragraph reads as following:

1. For food products obtained with the use of GMO, including those not containing deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) and proteins, the following information shall be specified: "Genetically modified products" or "Products obtained from genetically modified organisms", or "The product contains components of genetically modified organisms". If the manufacturer did not use genetically modified organisms in the process of manufacturing food products, the content of GMOs of 0.9 percent or less is an accidental or technically irremovable impurity, and such food products shall not be referred to as food products containing GMOs. When labeling such food products, GMO presence shall not be stated;
2. The indication of the following information is obligatory for food products obtained from genetically modified microorganisms or with the use thereof (bacteria, yeast and filamentous fungi, the genetic material of which was modified with the help of genetic engineering methods) (hereinafter referred to as the GMM): a) For products containing living GMM - "The product contains living genetically modified microorganisms"; b) For products containing unviable GMM - "The product was obtained with the help of genetically modified microorganisms"; 3) For products freed from engineered GMM or for products produced with the help of components freed from engineered GMM - "The product contains components obtained with the help of genetically modified microorganisms";
3. Labeling of food products shall not contain information on GMO presence with respect to the used processing aids, produced from or with the help of genetically modified organisms.

CU Technical Regulation No 015/2001 on the Safety of Grain (adopted in December 2011, came to force on July 1, 2013). The Technical Regulation determines requirements for information on grain/oilseeds during transportation either in bulk or in consumer packs (for feed purposes). Article 4 (Safety Requirements, paragraph 16) stipulates that grain transported unpackaged should be accompanied by shipping documents that ensure its traceability and provide information on GMOs if presence of GMOs is higher than 0.9 percent. ...For the grain obtained with the use of GMOs the information should be given: "Genetically modified grain" or "grain obtained from the use of genetically modified organisms" or "grain contains components of genetically modified organisms", indicating the unique identifier of the transformation event. In addition, in the sanitary requirements for grain/oilseeds (MRLs of toxic elements, micotoxins, pesticides, radionuclide and pests) the technical regulation stipulates that grain/oilseeds (both for food and for feed use) may contain only registered

GMO lines (registered in accordance with the legislation of the states, members of the CU), and in the GM grain presence of non-registered lines shall not exceed 0.9 percent “Grain may contain only those GMO lines that are registered in accordance with the legislation of member states of the Customs Union. In grain that contains a GMO presence of not more than 0.9 percent of non-registered GMO lines is allowed.” The same state standards (GOSTs) as in Technical Regulation 021/2011 shall be applied (GOST R 52173-2003 and GOST R 52174-2003).

CU Technical Regulation No. 024/2011 on Fat and Oil Products (adopted December 2011, which came to force on July 1, 2013) replaced Russian Federal Law “Technical Regulation on Oil and Fat Products” (FL #90 of June 24, 2008). This technical regulation requires labeling of oil and fat products released into circulation for human consumption, and labels shall include information on the presence of GMOs;

CU Technical Regulation No 023/2011 “On Fruit and Vegetable Juices and Their Products” came to force on July 1, 2013. It replaced the Russian Federal Law “Technical Regulation on Fruit and Vegetable Juices and Their Products” FL #178 of October 27, 2009. The CU Technical Regulation on Juices and their products bans the use of GMOs in baby food (fruit and vegetable juice products for babies) and requires state registration of any product that was processed using methods of genetic modification.

### iii. **GE CROPS/LINES REGISTRATION FOR FOOD AND FEED USE**

#### Registration for Food Use (procedure)

Rospotrebnadzor registers biotech crops and ingredients for food use for Russia and for the Customs Union. The registration process remains the same as was stated in the Annual Biotechnology GAIN reports 2011 and 2012:

- The applicant submits an application and dossier to Rospotrebnadzor;
- Rospotrebnadzor assigns a safety assessment studies to the Institute of Nutrition of the Academy of Medical Sciences;
- The applicant concludes an agreement for the food safety assessment with this Institute; and
- Based on the Institute’s assessment, Rospotrebnadzor issues a certificate of registration and registers the product.

It takes 12 months to conduct laboratory tests required for the safety assessment and an additional two to three months to organize and prepare documents for the new GE crops. Registering food products and ingredients requires less time. However, registration is only granted if the biotech product contains biotech events that have already been registered. It is necessary to provide a copy of the event registration certificate in the application documents when registering food products or ingredients. Only those companies with registered crops for food-use in Russia can provide a copy of the crop registration certificate.

Since 2006, Rospotrebnadzor has registered food-use crops for an unlimited time period. Information on GE crops registered for food-use for food products or an ingredient containing registered biotech ingredients is available on Rospotrebnadzor’s website: <http://fp.crc.ru/gosregfr/>. The list of registered products contains all new food products, not only biotech products or products with biotech ingredients. There are several hundred different products and names. To find permitted food products for a specific

crop, search for the name of the crop and the words “genetically modified.”

The institutes that conduct biotech crop and food product research remain the same as last year, namely:

- Institute of Nutrition and Food Safety Assessment (medical and biological studies) at the Russian Academy of Sciences (before the merger of Academies – Russian Academy of Medical Sciences);
- The Russia Academy of Sciences – Center of Bioengineering of (genetic studies);
- The Moscow State University of Applied Biotechnology (technological assessment).

#### Registration for Feed Use

Plant-origin feed imports no longer require a veterinary certificate but still require a letter stating that the feed is biotech free. Feed may be classified as biotech-free if presence of each non-registered biotech line in feeds does not exceed 0.5 percent and if the presence of each registered biotech line in the feed does not exceed 0.9 percent. In this case, “registered” refers to products registered in Russia and “non-registered” refers to products not registered in Russia. The presence of genetic alterations in feed components is calculated separately and not comprehensively. For example, if two registered components in feed contain 0.6 percent of genetic alterations in each, then the feed is considered to be non-biotech, although together the sum is 1.2 percent. The pre-export identification of feed as non-GMO is not required. It is up to the producer/exporter to declare the feed as non-GMO, but VPSS regardless examines the products for the presence of GE components.

If the feed contains GE ingredients, and is not declared as biotech free, the shipment must include a copy of the certificate indicating that the biotech components in the feed are registered with the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (VPSS). The imports must also have a phytosanitary quarantine certificate, although this requirement is unrelated to biotechnology. Any biotech components in feed must be appropriately registered. Presence of each non-registered biotech line shall not exceed 0.5 percent. The Custom Union’s Technical Regulation on Feeds has not been adopted yet, but the draft has the same 0.5 percent norm of non-registered biotech lines as in the current regulations. However, the adopted Technical Regulation on Safety of Grain stipulates that feed grain/oilseeds is considered non-GMO if the presence of each non-registered biotech lines does not exceed 0.9 percent. The Technical Regulation on Safety of Grain came into to force on July 1, 2013.

The responsibilities of VPSS in feed registration was confirmed by the Order of the Russian Ministry of Agriculture No. 466 of October 6, 2009 that approved the regulations for registration. The Regulation states that the registration is issued for 5 years. The regulation covers “products of plant, animal and microbiological origin, and their components, used for feeding animals, and which contain animal health non-harmful digestible nutrients.” The Regulation does not allow the registration of several types of GM feeds under one name, or to register the same GM feed several times under one or under several different names. The applicant must submit the following documents:

1. application for the state registration of GE feed;
2. materials that contain information on the following
  - information on the origin of GE feed,
  - evaluation of the potential danger of use of GE feed (compared with the initial basic feed), and recommendation of the applicant on the risk reduction,
  - information on the supposed use of the GE feed, and on the registration and the use of this feed

- abroad,
- information about the technology of growing the modified variety of the plant that is used for production of GE feed,
  - data on the technology of production of GE feed,
  - draft of the instruction on the use of GE feed
3. if the modified plant variety, which is used for feed is viable and is meant for biomass or fodder growing, the certificate from the Russian State Register of Selection Achievements must be attached.

All documents shall be in Russian or shall have a certified translation into Russian. Copies of document shall be certified by a notary. VPSS will make a decision on the registration of a GMO feed based on the Conclusion of the Experts Council on the safety (non-safety) of the GMO feed. The procedure and necessary documents for registration of feed containing GMOs is on the VPSS's web-site: <http://www.fsvps.ru/fsvps/regLicensing>. List of registered GE feeds (193 named at present) is here: <https://irena.vetrfr.ru/irena-gmo/operatoruigmo? action=clearRegList>

To register formula feeds, VPSS issues feed-registration certificates to a specific applicant for an individual shipment during a certain period of time. VPSS only issues certificates for feeds produced using registered GE crops. The certificates cannot be transferred to different importers. This registration is conducted by VPSS.

The research of crops for feed use and the research of biotech formula feeds before the approval is conducted by the Federal State Organization "All-Russian Center of Quality and Standardization of Animal Pharmaceuticals and Feeds – VGNKI, subordinated to VPSS.

#### Fees for registration of biotech events:

Rospotrebnadzor's charges for all examinations and related services, including comprehensive studies required to register for food use biotech events. The fee varies, depending on the range of examinations and studies, but averages around \$100,000 for the approval of new events for an unlimited period. The option to register for an unlimited period began in 2006. The fee for re-examination and re-approval of events that were registered before 2006 is approximately \$10,000. Registration of food products that contain a previously registered biotech event is 20,000 rubles (\$580).

For registration of biotech events for feed use, VPSS usually registers events only after it has been approved for food-use. However, the registration fee is usually higher and the process is more complex. The registration fee is not fixed, and depends on the range of examination and studies. In average, the charge for examination and a 5 year event registration for feed use is approximately \$100,000. The charge is the same for registration for the first time and for re-registration every five years. Companies that import formula feeds with registered biotech components also need to register these feeds as biotech feeds. The registration is given to the company that imports this feed and VPSS requires that each feed that contains a registered GM event also be registered.

#### iv. **RECENT ACTIVITIES OF RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES IN REGARDS TO GE CROPS**

In the fall 2013, the Russia government issued Resolution No. 839 on initiating the process of registration of GE crops for cultivation (see FAS/Moscow GAIN report [Resolution on GMO](#))

[Registration for Environmental Release 9-25-2013.pdf](#)). In accordance with this Resolution, the development of a mechanism for such registration should have been completed by July 1, 2014. The Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (VPSS) at the Ministry of Agriculture was appointed to implement the registration procedures. However, the Resolution immediately stimulated an anti-GMO campaign in Russia, and in June 2014 the Government postponed the date of implementation of Resolution No. 839 from July 1, 2014 to July 1, 2017. Although the Resolution 839 ordered different ministries and government bodies to develop a mechanism of registration of GE crops for cultivation before July 1, 2014, nothing has been done in this field, and postponement of implementation of this Resolution by 3 years will postpone the development of such mechanism as well. By mid-July 2014, ministries have drafted the following regulatory documents on the mechanism of registration, but none has been adopted so far:

- Ministry of Science and Education of the Russian Federation drafted the "Russian National Classifier of transformational events (genetic engineering)" that is designed to encode information about GE organisms. According to the document, the system is a digital code that encrypts information about the transforming DNA and the recipient organism. The code consists of five numeric fields indicating the type of organism (animals, plants, microorganisms), the source and type of introduced DNA, information about selective symptoms, information about localization of products of transgenic DNA, as well as the degree of mobility of introduced nucleic acid sequences. The classifier will not cover conventional hybrid plants, crossed animals and other products of selection. The Classifier has not been approved yet;
- The Ministry of Health drafted the Procedure of monitoring the unified register of GE organisms and products containing such organisms or derived from them. The document has not been adopted yet;
- Ministry of Agriculture drafted amendments to the status of the Ministry that will allow the Ministry to regulate processing of waste of agricultural production using different, including biotechnology, methods. However, the use of biotechnology methods in processing does not concern cultivation of GE crop;
- Ministry of Agriculture submitted for public comments (text is not available) the draft of Administrative Order "On approval of methodological guidelines for evaluation of risks and for risk management at the use (issuance) of genetic-engineered modified plants in/into the open systems". The Order has been drafted in accordance with the GOR Resolution No. 839. <http://svpressa.ru/society/article/87761/>
- The Russian Federal Service for Surveillance in the Sphere of Consumer Rights Protection and Well-Being of Population drafted amendments to the Customs Union (CU) Technical Regulation (TR) on Food Products Labeling. The draft amendments concern labeling of products containing GE ingredients, and propose a requirement that information on GMOs cover not less than 20 percent of the food composition and ingredients label area. It also proposed to make it mandatory to state the percentage of each GMO ingredient in the product. (FAS/Moscow GAIN report [Draft Amendments to GMO information in CU TR on Food Labeling 3-14-2014.pdf](#)). These amendments were drafted before the postponement of implementation of Resolution 839, and were in response to the anti-GE campaign rather than health concerns. There is no information on the status of these amendments. Moreover, since amendments concern CU TR, for further movement they should be considered by the EuroAsian Economic Commission (EEC) with participation of experts from all country –members of the CU.
- The Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (VPSS-Rosselkhoznadzor) confirmed that sowing of genetically engineered (GE) crops in Russia is illegal and decided to



conduct an un-scheduled investigation of possible violations in the sowing practices in Russia. The VPSS posted on its web-site the clarification on GE crops cultivation in Russia as a response to the information that appeared in the Russian mass media and in some industry sources that cultivation of GE crop in Russia has begun (The Russian text and the link to the site is below). VPSS made it clear that the start of registration of GE crops has been postponed by the Russian Government to July 2017, and it will take several years from the beginning of the process of registration to the approval of a GE crop for cultivation. So far even the methods of research of biosafety of individual GE crops for the cultivation have not been adopted in Russia. Given all this, the VPSS decided to conduct the un-scheduled investigations of the seed industry in order to identify the violations and, in case GE crops are grown somewhere in Russia, to bring offenders to justice.

b) APPROVALS:

Since July 2013, Russia registered the following three new lines:

- Corn 5307 (Syngenta) was registered for food and feed,
- BT soybean MON 87701 (Monsanto) was registered for feed (for food this line was registered in 2013);
- Soybean SYHT0H2 (Syngenta) was registered for feed in April 2014. Submitted for registration for food, and this registration is expected in the end of 2015.

Besides, Corn MON 89034 (Monsanto) line is expected to be registered for food use in summer 2014. For feed this line was registered in March 2013.

In addition, Russia re-registered three crops/lines for feed use (Roundup Ready® corn NK 603, Corn MON 88017 (CCR), and Liberty Link® soybeans A2704-12). One line of soybeans (Soybeans FG72, tolerant to isoxaflutole and glyphosate) is under review for food registration since December 2013, and for feed registration since January 2014.

Since the beginning of registrations of biotech lines for food use in 1999, Russia has approved and registered 26 lines of GE crops. However, 3 lines such as Sugar beet line GTSB77 resistant to glyphosate, Potato RBBT02-06 resistant to Colorado beetle, and Potato SPBT02-5 resistant to Colorado beetle, were not re-registered because of the closure of the projects. Thus, as of July 1, 2014, Russia has 21 lines of biotech crops that can be legally imported to Russia for food use, and one additional line expects registration for food use in summer 2014. There are twelve lines of corn, six soybean lines, one sugar beet line, one rice line, and two lines of potato. Of these total 22 crops, 17 are also registered for feed use, including 11 lines of corn and 6 lines of soybeans. Besides, Soybean line SYHT0H2 was also registered so far only for feed use, thus making the total of 18 lines registered for feeds. One line of corn (Bt corn MON 863 - registration for feed expired in August 2013), has not been submitted for re-registration because this line is not produced any more. The list of registered crops is in the Table 2. Monsanto, Bayer, Syngenta and BASF were the only four companies to have their biotech crops registered in Russia, and BASF started registering its crops only in 2012/13. One registered sugar beet variety belongs to Monsanto and KWS.

Since 2007 food registration is given for unlimited period; however, the certificate of registration can be recalled if negative incidents occur. Feed registrations are granted for five years.

Table 2. Russia: Approved and Registered Biotech Crops, 1999-2014

	Crop/line/event/trait	Applicant	Year and period of Registration	
			For Food Use	For Feed Use
1	Bt corn MON 810, resistant to European corn borer <i>Ostrinia nubilalis</i>	Monsanto	2000 – 2003, 2003 – 2008 Mar. 2009 – for unlimited period	2003 – 2008 Sep. 2008 – Aug. 2013 Aug. 2013 – Sep. 2018
2	Roundup Ready® corn NK 603, tolerant to glyphosate	Monsanto	2002 – 2007; Feb. 2008 – for unlimited period	2003 – 2008 Sep. 2008 – Aug. 2013 Aug. 2013 – Sep. 2018
3	Bt corn MON 863, resistant to corn root worm ( <i>Diabrotica spp.</i> )	Monsanto	2003 – 2008 Aug. 2008 – for unlimited period	1
4	Corn Bt 11, tolerant to gluphosinate and resistant to corn borer <i>Ostrinia nubilalis</i>	Syngenta	2003 – 2008 Sep. 2008 – for unlimited period	Dec. 2006 – Dec. 2011, Dec. 2011 – Dec. 2016
5	LL Corn T25, tolerant to gluphosinate	Bayer Crop Sciences	2001 – 2006, Feb. 2007 – for unlimited period	Dec. 2006 – Dec. 2011; Dec. 2011 – Dec. 2016
6	Roundup Ready ® corn GA 21, tolerant to glyphosate*	Syngenta	2007 – for unlimited period	Nov. 2007 – Nov. 2012; Nov. 2012 – Nov. 2017
7	Corn MIR 604, resistant to corn root worm ( <i>Diabrotica spp.</i> )	Syngenta	Jul. 2007 – for unlimited period	May 2008 – May 2013; May 2013 – May 2018
8	Corn 3272 with $\alpha$ -amylase enzyme to break starch during ethanol production	Syngenta	April 2010 – for unlimited period	Oct. 2010 – Oct. 2015
9	Corn MON 88017 (CCR), tolerant to glyphosate and resistant to corn root worm ( <i>Diabrotica spp.</i> )	Monsanto	May 2007 – for unlimited period	Sep. 2008 – Aug. 2013; Sep. 2013 – Sep. 2018

<sup>1</sup> Registarion for feed ended in August 2013, and Monsanto did not renew the registration for feeds because discontinued production of these seeds. The registration for food remains because these seeds may still be under circulation in some countries, and traces of this corn may be found in commercial shipments.

10	Corn MON 89034, resistant to Lepidoptera pest	Monsanto	<i>Under review, (from 2010), expected in summer 2014</i>	Mar. 2013 – Mar. 2018
11	Corn MIR162, resistant to Broad Lepidoptera spp.	Syngenta	Apr. 2011 - for unlimited period	March 2012 – March 2017
12	Corn 5307, resistant to corn root worm ( <i>Diabrotica II, Coleoptera</i> )	Syngenta	Apr. 2014 – for unlimited period	Apr. 2014 – Apr. 2019
13	Roundup Ready® soybeans 40-3-2, tolerant to glyphosate	Monsanto	1999 – 2002, 2002 – 2007, Dec. 2007 - for unlimited period	2003 – 2008, May 2008 – May 2013 May 2013 – May 2018
14	Bt soybeans, MON 87701, resistant to Lepidoptera pests	Monsanto	May 2013 – for unlimited period	Jul. 2013 – Jul. 2018
15	Liberty Link® Soybeans A2704-12, tolerant to gluphosinate	Bayer Crop Sciences	2002 – 2007 2008 – for unlimited period	Nov. 2007 – Nov. 2012 Nov. 2012 – Nov. 2017
16	Liberty Link® Soybeans A5547-127, tolerant to gluphosinate ammonium	Bayer Crop Sciences	2002 – 2007 Feb. 2008 – for unlimited period	Nov. 2007 – Nov. 2012 Nov. 2013 – Nov. 2017
17	Soybean MON 89788 (RRS2Y), tolerant to glyphosate + yield gain	Monsanto	Jan. 2010 – for unlimited period	May 2010 – May 2015
18	Soybeans BPS-CV-127-9, imidazolinone	BASF	Dec. 2012 – for unlimited period	Sep. 2012 – Sep. 2017
19	Soybeans SYHT0H2, herbicide HPPD* + glufosinate	Syngenta (Producers Syngenta /Bayer)	<i>Submitted in April 2013; registration expected in 2015</i>	Apr. 2013 – Apr. 2019
20	Rice LL62, tolerant to gluphosinate ammonium	Bayer Crop Sciences	2003 – 2008 Jan. 2009 – for unlimited period	
21	Roundup Ready ® Sugar beet H7-1, tolerant to glyphosate	Monsanto/ KWS	May 2006 – for unlimited period	
22	Bt potato “Elizaveta” (resistant to Colorado potato beetle)	Center “Bio-engineering”, Russia	Dec. 2005 – for unlimited period*	
23	Bt potato “Lugovskoy” (resistant to Colorado potato beetle)	Center “Bio-engineering”	Jul. 2006 – for unlimited period	

\*HPPD – herbicides that inhibit the enzyme hydroxy-phenyl-pyruvate-dioxygenase

It is expected that one new corn line and two soybean lines will be submitted for approval in 2015 (Table 3).

Table 3. Russia: Biotech Crops Awaiting Approval

	Crop/line/event/trait	Applicant	Date of Submission for Approval	
			For Food Use	For Feed Use
Biotech crops awaiting approval				
1.	Soybeans FG72, tolerant to isoxaflutole and glyphosate	Bayer	Under review, submitted in Dec. 2013	Under review, submitted in Jan. 2014
Crop that are planned to be submitted later in 2014 –2015				
1	Soybeans MON 87708, (Dicamba)	Monsanto	Preliminary plans for submission in 2015	Preliminary plans for submission in 2015
2	Soybeans MON 87705 (Omni), improved fatty acid profile to enhance the suitability of soybean oil for food and industrial uses	Monsanto	Preliminary plans for submission in 2015	Preliminary plans for submission in 2015
3	Corn Mon 87460, Draught Single	Monsanto	Preliminary plans for submission in 2015	Preliminary plans for submission in 2015

In accordance with the CU Agreement on sanitary measures, since July 1, 2010, Rospotrebnadzor is registering food products produced on the basis of or with use of GMO and/or GMM for the whole Customs Union (per Part II of the Unified List of Products Subject to sanitary-epidemiological surveillance on the customs territory and customs border of the CU, Decision of the CU Commission #299 of May 28, 2010.)

For feeds VPSS registers feeds and additives only for 5 years. VPSS continues registration only for Russia. It is still not clear, when and how VPSS is planning to begin issuing certificates for biotech feed products valid on the territory of the whole Customs Union. The CU Technical Regulation on Feeds is still under discussion, and has not been adopted.

c) FIELD TESTING

Not applicable. Since there are no legislation and mechanisms for release of GE crops into the environment, Russian researchers do not conduct wide scale field tests of GE crops.

d) STACKED EVENT APPROVALS

Russia approved stacked events for food and for feed use, but required registration of every trait separately. Thus, if the stacked event has three traits, the applicant shall submit documents for every trait, and shall register each trait and then the stacked event. So far Russia issued approvals for three stacked events: Corn Mon 88017 (CCR) approved for food and for feed use, RR soybeans Mon 89788 (RRS2Y) approved for food and feed use, and Corn BT 11, approved for food and feed use. One stacked event, Soybean HPPD is awaiting approval both food and feed use.

e) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

None

f) COEXISTANCE:

Not applicable since there is no mechanism and legislation for cultivation of GE crops.

g) LABELING

Food labeling: In accordance with the Technical Regulations of the Customs Union that came to force on July 1, 2013, all organizations that import, produce, or trade food products to/in the country-members of the Customs Union (at present Kazakhstan, Russia and Belarus) must inform consumers about the presence of biotech components in food products if each individual biotech event does not exceed 0.9 percent. The methods that should be used to test for biotech presence in food are also specified in the Attachments to the CU Technical Regulations on Food Safety and Food Labeling, and are the same that were used in Russia by Rospotrebnadzor before the CU Technical Regulations on Food labeling and Food Safety came into force. For food products imported to Russia, Rospotrebnadzor has the right to conduct sample tests to detect the presence of biotech components. In order to verify the biotech-free claim, the producer or exporter may conduct its own tests at independent laboratories (it may be an IP system or PCR test), but the results of these tests are not accepted by the Russian Rospotrebnadzor. These pre-export tests are voluntary for producers and exporters. If a producer/exporter claims that its products are not genetically altered, Rospotrebnadzor still has the right to examine these products. Furthermore, if the presence of genetic alteration in the products is more than 0.9 percent, a claim for fraud may be lodged on that company. Usually Rospotrebnadzor pays special attention to products containing soybean or corn ingredients. For more information on the CU's food labeling requirements please see section **Decisions of the Customs Union** above. In March 2014, Rospotrebnadzor proposed amendments to the CU TR on food labeling, but these amendments have not been adopted, and even have not been discussed by the members of the CU. For more information please see section **Recent Activities of Russian Authorities in Regards to GE Crops**

Feed labeling: Information on composition of feeds, including presence of biotech components is in the shipping documents, but so far Russia has not required labeling of presence of GMOs in feeds on consumer packs of feeds. The CU Technical Regulation on Feeds is still under discussion, and has not been adopted. The requirements for information on GMO in shipping documents for grain and oilseeds and their products are in the CU's Technical Regulation on Safety of Grain. For more information please see section **Decisions of the Customs Union** above.

h) TRADE BARRIERS

Russia has a de-facto ban on cultivation of GE crops, and this impedes the U.S. exports of planting seeds of crops, such as soybeans, rapeseed, sugar beets and corn. Russia's demand for efficient, drought-resistant varieties and hybrids of planting seeds of these crops is very high, but there is no open market for these seeds.

i) INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR):

Not applicable so far since there is no official information on the presence of GE crops in the fields of Russian farmers. However, this may become a serious issue if the illegal presence of GE crops is detected in Russian fields.

j) **CARTAGENA PROTOCOL RATIFICATION:**

Russian scientists understand the necessity to monitor biotechnology at the international level, including through measures envisaged by the Cartagena Protocol. However, Russia is the only member of the Customs Union which has not ratified this Protocol. Both Belarus and Kazakhstan have ratified it. Some Russian scientists have opinion that the delay in ratification of Cartagena Protocol may leave Russia without the acknowledged mechanism to defend its own national policy in the field of biotechnology after WTO accession.

k) **INTERNATIONAL TREATIES/FORA:**

Russian participates in the APEC High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural biotechnology, in the meetings of the CODEX Alimentarius (Codex), and in the meetings of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). Russia participated in the Global LLP Initiative in Rosario, Brazil, in September 2012, and also in some LLP events in 2013.

l) **RELATED ISSUES:**

Not applicable

m) **MONITORING AND TESTING**

In Russia, Rospotrebnadzor monitors/tests GE food products and VPSS monitors/test grains, oilseeds for animal consumption and feeds and feed additives and ingredients (for more information see paragraph above on the role of different ministries and agencies).

n) **LOW LEVEL PRESENCE POLICY**

According to the CU Technical Regulations on safety of food products, grains and oilseeds, and on labeling requirements for food products, the present of GE lines, components in food and feeds shall be labeled or reported in accompanying shipping documents only if it exceeds 0.9 percent for food products and feeds (for registered lines in feeds), and 0.5 percent for non-registered lines in feeds. However, these threshold levels do not mean that Russia has adopted or follow any coordinated LLP policy (for more information please see section of this report on CU Technical Regulations.)

**PART C: Marketing:**

a) **MARKET ACCEPTANCE:**

Labeling requirements increase the price of food containing GE ingredients. The price of examining products for the presence (or absence) of biotech components is high because the approved methods of testing are extensive. It is rare to find a GMO label in Russia, though non-GMO labels can be seen on dairy, eggs and poultry products. Since the Moscow city government stopped requiring non-GMO labeling in 2012 (see FAS/Moscow GAIN [Moscow Government Stops Requiring GMO-Free Labeling of Food Products](#)), many food processors in Moscow have discontinued these special tests on absence of GMOs, and fewer products are sold with the special “Does not contain GMO” label. However, food processors still prefer purchasing non-GE products, especially soybeans and soybean products.

b) **PUBLIC/PRIVATE OPINIONS:**

There are no active pro-GE organizations, with the exception of a few select farmers’ organizations and unions that are interested in increasing Russia’s grain and oilseeds production. On the other hand, Russian Greenpeace and the Alliance of the CIS Countries “For Biosafety” (<http://biosafety.ru>) are very

active in the anti-GMO campaigns. Following the adoption of the Government Resolution No 839 in September 2013, the new wave of anti-GE campaign was launched, and Ministry of Agriculture, Russian major legislative bodies, and even some government top-officials joined this campaign. Public opinion in general reflects a negative attitude to GMOs. However, this negative opinion is seldom reflected in purchasing priorities of the Russian population, which are based on the price of products.

c) **MARKETING STUDIES:**

Not known.

**PART D: Capacity Building and Outreach:**

In the fall 2013 and all through spring 2014, following the adoption of the Government Resolution on registration of GE crops for release into environment the activities of anti-biotech groups increased and the anti-biotech campaign intensified. The penetration of agricultural biotechnology to Russia is presented as not only as a threat for public health, but as a threat to Russia's domestic agricultural production. Pro-biotech groups have not received new funds in spite of a declared support of innovations and advanced technologies by the Russian Government. The new program BIO 2020 envisages government advocacy of positive aspects and advantages of biotechnology, including agricultural biotechnology, but does not envisage any special funding for these activities.

**CHAPTER 2: ANIMAL BIOTECHNOLOGY:**

**PART E: Production and Trade**

- a. **BIOTECHNOLOGY PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT:** Research on GE animals was conducted in Russia under the guidance of Professor Lev Ernst, Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences (he died in April 2012) in the cloning and genetic modification of animals immune to infection diseases. However, during the last two years there has been no information on the continuation of this research.
- b. **COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION:** Increased cattle production is one of the priorities of the Russian Government and it supports low interest rates on loans to livestock producers, including loans for importing pedigree breeding animals, semen and embryos. This support does not include any research on GE animals or clones.
- c. **BIOTECHNOLOGY EXPORTS:** Russia does not export any GE animals or livestock clones.
- d. **BIOTECHNOLOGY IMPORTS:** There is no information on any official restrictions on imports of GE animals or livestock clones. And there are no known facts of any imports of such products, even for research.

**PART F: Policy**

- a. **REGULATION:** Russia's Program BIO 2020 states that **Agricultural biotechnology** is a "section of biotechnology dealing with issues of theory, methodology and implementation of its achievements in plant and livestock production." However, in the recently adopted State Program for Development of Russian agriculture in 2013 the development of biotechnology in animal and feeds production envisages development of bio-additives for improvement of quality of feeds – amino-acids, feed protein, ferments, vitamins probiotics. But it includes no mention

on GE animals or cloning.

- b. LABELING AND TRACEABILITY: Not applicable.
- c. TRADE BARRIERS: None
- d. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS: Not applicable
- e. INTERNATIONAL TREATIES/FORA: Not applicable

**PART G: Marketing**

- a. MARKET ACCEPTANCE: Not applicable
- b. PUBLIC/PRIVATE OPINIONS: Not applicable
- c. MARKET STUDIES: There are no known market studies on the marketing of animal biotechnology products in Russia.

**PART H: Capacity Building and Outreach**

- a. ACTIVITIES: None of the biotechnology-related capacity building activities with Russia had any component on animal biotechnology.

STRATEGIES AND NEEDS: Currently none.