

Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH)

BIOSAFETY VIRTUAL LIBRARY RESOURCES (VLR)

BCH-VLR-SCBD-48404-6

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General Information

Title

Problem Formulation and Options Assessment Handbook

EN

Type of resource

Capacity-building related

FAQs

Guide

Manual

Technical guide

Tutorial

Catalogues

Dictionary

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EN

Reference to the authoring organization(s)

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Publisher

GMO Era Project

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Methodologies

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Access to the resource(s)

Link to the resource(s)

? [Problem formulation and Options Assessment Handbook](#) (*English*)

? [pfoa_handbook_b&w_printing.pdf](#) (*English*)

? [pfoa_handbook_color_printing.pdf](#) (*English*)

Information on the content of the resource

Summary, abstract or table of contents

The Problem Formulation and Options Assessment (PFOA) provides a framework for identifying the crucial societal needs that could be satisfied by introducing a GM crop into an agricultural system, and comparing the GM crop to other possible alternatives for meeting that critical societal need. To this end, a PFOA relies upon being transparent, inclusive of all appropriate stakeholders, and rationally informed by the best available science. To make this process tool accessible to interested users, we have developed the PFOA Handbook.

The purpose of the handbook is to:

- Introduce and explain the substance, theory, and practice of the PFOA methodology
- Provide guidance about the integration of a PFOA into a country's environmental risk assessment (ERA) procedures for genetically modified organisms (GMO)
- Examine considerations, techniques, and resources that can assist in designing, implementing, and conducting a country-specific PFOA

The handbook was designed to accommodate and account for users around the world, recognizing that each country has particular contexts (e.g. ecosystems, laws and regulations, political infrastructures, culture) and faces distinct challenges when trying to customize a PFOA process. The primary audiences are the government agencies and personnel responsible for conducting ERAs of GMOs within a particular country. This includes those already committed to using the PFOA methodology in their ERAs and those who are considering doing so. The secondary audience is anyone who would participate in a PFOA process or seek to include it in the governance of GMOs.

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Keywords for facilitating searching for information in the clearing-houses

Biosafety Thematic Areas

Scientific and technical issues
Risk assessment
Socio-economic and trade issues

Social and/or economic assessments

Would you like to recommend this document as background material for the “Guidance on Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms”?

https://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/ra_guidance_references.shtml

Yes

Author affiliation

Section(s) of the "Guidance on Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms" this background material is relevant to

1. Roadmap for risk assessment of living modified organisms
 - 1.4. Planning phase of the risk assessment
 - 1.4.1. Establishing the context and scope

Does this resource address one or more specific LMOs?

No

Does this resource address one or more specific organisms?

No

Does this resource address one or more specific genetic elements?

No

Additional Information

Identifier (ISBN, ISSN, etc.)

Format

252-page handbook PDF

EN

[BCH-VLR-SCBD-48404-6](#)

Further Information

Questions about the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety or the operation of the Biosafety Clearing-House may be directed to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

**Secretariat of the Convention
on Biological Diversity**

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