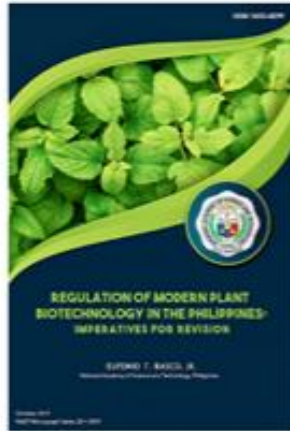


Biotechnology application and regulation in the Philippines: Issues and Prospects

Comments by

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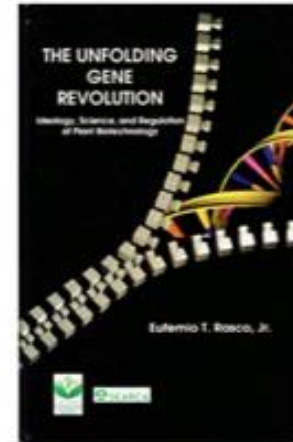


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Hindrances to communicating modern biotechnology to policy makers

Persistent misinformation and negative views being peddled by a determined and well-funded international lobby group

Other issues, some of which are equally important to policy makers, that compete for their attention

Policy makers today may not be the same people who were already aware and interested in biotechnology yesterday.

Guide to labeling

1. Any form of labeling should avoid using the terms being used by the anti-gmo lobby
2. Be sure what the label and its purpose should be.
Example for Bt eggplant:
 - Contains Cry1Ac protein, for Bt eggplant
 - Does not contain Cry1Ac protein, for non Bt eggplant
3. Labeling law must be enforced

Fundamental
assumption of
current modern
biotechnology
regulations

Modern biotechnology is inherently risky

Why the basic
assumption
about the risk of
modern
biotechnology
should be
discarded

- transfer of DNA across taxonomic barriers is not new
- transfer of DNA may have negative consequences, but this is eliminated by natural (and artificial) selection
- genomes are so adaptable that they tolerate biological, physical and chemical processes that tend to disrupt their structure
- the risks to the environment and human health associated with introduction of foreign DNA is not any higher using modern biotechnology compared to conventional plant breeding methods

Science-based risk assessment of modern biotechnology

1. The gene being used and the donor organism
2. The host organism and the way it will be used
3. The environment under which the host organism will be grown

Conclusions



It is not enough that the existing regulatory regime for modern biotechnology be modified



It should be repudiated together with the Cartagena Protocol that dictated its terms