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## 1.0 PREAMBLE AND INTRODUCTION

There is limited public awareness and widespread misinformation on the techniques, basic applications, opportunities, utility and safe use of modern biotechnology. The knowledge and science of the technology as well as its full implications is still very much limited to a few advanced scientists in the biological sciences in academic or research and development ( R&D) life science institutions. The little awareness and the focus of the scientific discourse has been confined to genetically modified food/feed. This is, but only one component of the application of modern biotechnology. The application of modern biotechnology in an integrated multi-disciplinary approach can be a valuable “tool” for addressing the several challenges of Nigeria in food production, genetic improvement of living systems (crops and animals) as well as health and environment. Consequently, Nigeria has adopted a National Biotechnology Policy designed to take advantage of the potential benefit impact in agriculture, industry, health care delivery and the environment.

The potential benefits, notwithstanding, there are indications that the products of modern biotechnology could have adverse effects on human, plant and animal health, biological diversity and the environment. Also there are several important socio-economic, cultural and ethical issues to be considered in the adoption and use of the products of modern biotechnology.

Nigeria is a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its first spawned protocol (the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety - CPB) which advocates regulation of transboundary movement of LMOs. The Nigerian legal system is currently inadequate for the regulation of modern biotechnology.

The “International” CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (The Cartegena Protocol on Biosafety) was negotiated between 1998 and 2000. It was adopted in Nairobi, Kenya in 2000, ratified by the requisite number of member states and came into force on September 11, 2003. It is now an intentionally binding legal instrument. Nigeria, having signed and ratified the protocol is now under obligation to implement it.

This policy instrument is proposed to give authority to the National Executive Organization to establish the necessary legal instrument, and procedure to guide the implementation of the protocol, based on sound scientific, economic, social, cultural and ethical considerations.

Consequently:

- Recognizing the central role of the Federal Government of Nigeria in the protection of national biodiversity in order to promote its sustainable use, ensure access and equitable sharing of benefits.
- Recognizing the potential human, health and environmental risks that may occur from the unregulated exploitation, development, use, transboundary movement or trade in modern biotechnology products for agriculture, health, waste management, food, feed and other purposes.
- Recognizing the need for the development of National capacity essential for biosafety and modern biotechnology practice through research and development.
- Recognizing that it is the responsibility of the Government of Nigeria to ensure the safety of her citizens and environment from the risks arising from the use of the products of modern biotechnology.
- Whereas it is important to enhance the capacity of Nigerians (scientists, policy makers, government operatives, regulators, civil society and other stakeholders) to cope with the nature and scale of the known and potential risks associated with the products of modern biotechnology.
- Reaffirming Nigeria's commitment to the Principles of the Declaration on Environment and Development, especially in Rio de Janeiro (1992).
  - Liability and redress as well as compensation for damage, including that occasioned by transboundary movements, incidents and processes (Principle 13) and
  - The Precautionary Principle, which stipulates that "lack of reasonable scientific certainty about environmental and human risks shall not be used to justify avoiding or postponing cost-effective measures to prevent these risks (principle 15)
- Reaffirming Nigeria's Commitment to the Principles of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreements, especially those related to Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)

- Reaffirming Nigeria’s commitment to the principles, goals and objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), especially:
  - Article 3 (Principle of Sovereign Rights and Responsibilities)
  - Article 8g (control of risks associated with Genetically Modified Organisms – GMOs)
  - Article 14 (assessment and minimization of environmental impact)
  - Article 15 (access to genetic resources)
  - Article 16 (access and transfer of technology)
  - Article 19 (handling of technology and distribution of benefits)

Hereby enunciates the following national policy enabling the safe use of modern biotechnology.

## 2.0 FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF POLICY

This policy is informed by the essential and fundamental principles that:

- Nigeria has inalienable sovereign rights over all natural resources (including genetic resources) in its territorial area of jurisdiction, and the authority to regulate access to such resources and activities which might have adverse effect on such resources.
- As a party to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), Nigeria is under obligation to regulate the transboundary movement of LMOs, which may cause harm to its biodiversity or human health.
- Nigeria shall endeavour to maintain an appropriate balance between the use of modern biotechnology as a tool for development and its regulation in a sustainable manner to enhance meaningful growth of its economy and to the welfare of its people.
- The import, use, export, sale (trade), transboundary movement, etc. of modern biotechnology products and practices must fully conform to existing national laws where they are relevant.
- The regulation to ensure the safe use of modern biotechnology and its products shall be by a National Biosafety Agency advised by National Biosafety Council (NBC), whose decision-making process is

transparent, scientifically sound and fully cognisant of environmental, public health, socio-economic and cultural considerations.

- Applies the precautionary principle and approach.
- Modern biotechnology applications and inventions derived from or inspired by traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of local communities or individuals in Nigeria shall be subject to appropriate national legislation related to community or individual intellectual property rights, and shall include contractual agreement on benefit sharing (financial or otherwise) arising from such application and invention with the concerned community and/or individuals. The State shall provide the desired assistance and advise to ensure equitable negotiation and conclusion of such a contractual agreement.
- Nigeria shall endeavour to cooperate with other States in the sub-region and Africa to ensure the safe use of modern biotechnology, its applications and products within its borders.
- Nigeria shall not allow/permit the importation and transboundary movement and/or use of modern biotechnology products and procedures which do not meet minimum safety standards as identified by the National Biosafety Agency and specified in this policy document and other established legislation. Nigeria shall undertake trials and risk assessment as appropriate..

As a general principle, pending the outcome of global and regional assessment of the potential severe socio-economic, ethical, environmental risks posed by “Genetic Use Restriction Technologies, (GURTs)”, Nigeria shall impose a renewable moratorium on the import, export, transboundary movement, sale or use of genetic materials such as seeds, other planting materials, altered by these technologies such as “Terminator Technology” and related processes and procedures. Such a moratorium shall take effect on the adoption of this policy by Cabinet. A public, transparent review of this moratorium shall be conducted by the National Biosafety Agency (NBA) every two years.

### 3.0 POLICY STATEMENT

In compliance with Nigeria’s adoption of a “National Biotechnology Policy” and ratification of the “Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity” this policy sets out the essential pre-requisites for regulating the practice and products of modern biotechnology while accessing its potential benefits

## 4.0 OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of this policy is to provide a regulatory regime and guidance for the sustainable development of the science of modern biotechnology, its application and safe use of its products without prejudice and risk to public health, environmental health, national sovereignty, human dignity and fundamental human rights.

The Specific objectives will include:

- Regulation of modern biotechnology practice and procedures to ensure the safe use of its products.
- Guide the development of appropriate legislation and implementation mechanism established through a transparent participatory process.
- Develop the necessary human and infrastructural capacity to effectively manage the regulatory system
- Ensure effective control of transboundary movement of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and products thereof resulting from modern biotechnology, through information exchange and a science-based, transparent system of advanced information agreement.
- Provide for the establishment of a comprehensive, coordinated central monitoring and oversight system for all modern biotechnology research and development activities in Nigeria.
- Provide an institutional framework for national decision making and linkage with the international community on biosafety issues.
- Institute public enlightenment campaign on biosafety

## 4.1 MISSION

The mission of this policy instrument is to promote the basic tenets of biosafety as enunciated in the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity and facilitate the development, enactment and implementation of a regulatory regime (legislation) that ensures the safe application and use of the products of Modern Biotechnology.

## 4.2

## 4.3 6.0 VISION

The vision embedded in this policy is to ensure that the practice, processes and procedures of Modern Biotechnology is undertaken within the limits of a regulatory system that guarantees its safe use, protects Nigeria's

biodiversity and provides minimum risk to human health and the environment.

## 7.0 POLICY FRAMEWORK

### 6.1 7.1 Scope

This policy covers all GMOs and the products of modern biotechnology including all living organisms and germplasms,

It covers:

- Laboratory and field applications of modern biotechnology, currently known to science as well as those that may be developed in future.
- Current and future applications of modern biotechnology in agriculture, human and veterinary medicine, food/feed and beverage production, industry, environmental management, bioremediation, industrial and domestic waste management etc.
- Regulatory regime including:
  - Notification
  - Information transfer and review
  - Risk assessment, including socio-economic impact and ethical consideration
  - Monitoring and enforcement measures relevant to import, export, transboundary movement of the products of modern biotechnology, laboratory and field testing/use of modern biotechnology including handling, containment, disposal, control, monitoring and release
  - Ensuring that any GMOs that might be eaten by humans and/ or animals are safe to eat
- Research and development in modern biotechnology including applications in academic, agricultural, industrial and other categories of research.
- Occupational safety in the workplace where modern biotechnology procedures are used or products handled
- Labeling of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) in food/feed produced locally, sold domestically or imported.

- Any other measures that may be required to safe use of modern biotechnology while protecting human health, the environment and national biodiversity.
- Promotion of public awareness on biosafety involving policy makers, legislators, administrators, the organized private sector, industry and the rural community.
- Development and establishment of a comprehensive and up-to-date scientific database and infrastructure for information exchange to enable risk assessment and evaluation of products and provide a mechanism for effecting advance informed agreement.

## 8.0 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

This policy seeks to facilitate the establishment and development of national capacity to assess and manage potential risks associated with modern biotechnology practice and products. The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, shall, therefore, as provided for in this policy establish well-coordinated, funded and sustainable mechanisms and institutional structures for the effective implementation of the Biosafety Policy. The structure shall comprise, but not limited to:

- National Focal Point (National Biosafety Agency) (NBA) under Federal Ministry of Environment
- Competent National Authority (same as National Biosafety Agency) (NBA)
- National Biosafety Council (NBC) and Technical Sub-Committee(s) – NBTS
- Institutional Biosafety Committee(s) - IBC
- Biosafety Officer(s) - BO
- Principal Investigator (PI)

## 9.0 NATIONAL FOCAL POINT

The National Focal Point shall be the National Biosafety Agency (NBA). It shall be responsible for liaison with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), for the administrative functions required under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

## 7.1 10.0 COMPETENT NATIONAL AUTHORITY

National Biosafety Agency (NBA) shall be instituted as an Agency under the Federal Ministry of Environment and shall also serve as the Competent National Authority for Biosafety in Nigeria.

The National Biosafety Agency shall be responsible for the safe management of modern biotechnology activities, including research, development, introduction and the use of the products of modern biotechnology (GMOs)..

The NBA shall:

- serve as secretariat of NBC,
- oversee the implementation of the National Biosafety Policy and Law
- approve applications and issue permits for use of products of modern biotechnology
- be responsible for all correspondence with importers, exporters, and applicant related to applications for the use of products of modern biotechnology
- Consult with relevant government agencies and other organizations as appropriate,
- Maintain an inventory of laboratories with physical and human capacities to conduct research in rDNA, undertake risk assessment and create a database of experiences in the releases of GMOs in the country,
- Monitor and validate information provided to it by the applicant.

### **10.1 National Biosafety Council.(NBC)**

A NBC shall be established to advise the NBA on matters relating to the safe practice of modern biotechnology and the handling, transfer and use of products of modern biotechnology.

Sub-committees shall be established by the NBC for sectoral interests such as agriculture, health, industry and environment.

**i Membership:**

Table 1: Membership of NBC shall comprise the following:

<i>Federal Ministries/Agencies</i>	<i>Number</i>
Federal Ministry of Environment	(1)
Federal Ministry of Agriculture	(1)
Federal Ministry of Science & Tech.	(1)
Federal Ministry of Industry	(1)
Federal Ministry of Health /NAFDAC	(1)
Federal Ministry of Justice	(1)
Federal Ministry of Commerce	(1)
Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs	(1)
Nigerian Custom Service	(1)
NACCIMA/ Organized private sector	(1)
Biologist	(1)
Physical Scientist	(1)
Social Scientist	(1)
A Representative of Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) distinguished in environmental matters and biodiversity conservation	(1)

**ii Secretariat and Chairman**

The NBA shall provide the Secretariat of the National Biosafety Committee whose chairman shall be appointed from among the members. The Secretary of the NBC shall be the Registrar of the NBA .

**iii Appointment**

Each relevant Ministry shall appoint one individual as its Representative, whose appointment shall be for a term of not less than four continuous years.

#### **iv Tenure**

Non-civil servant members of the NBC shall be appointed by the Minister of Environment on advice of the NBA.. Each shall serve for four years in the first instance and are eligible for reappointment for a second term only.

#### **v Functions of the NBC**

NBC shall provide advice on biosafety to the NBA.

It Shall:

- a) Be responsible for reviewing the risk assessment and proposing risk management measures for individual applications
- b) Provide advice and review, as necessary, on regulations, guidelines and policies relating to all matters regarding modern biotechnology, including but not limited to physical and biological containment and/or control procedures appropriate to the level of assessed risk involved in relevant research, development and application activities. as appropriate.
- c) Advise, where appropriate, on the training of personnel with regard to safety procedures.
- d) Submit an annual report of its activities to the Honourable Minister of Environment through the NBA.

#### **7.2 10.2 NATIONAL BIOSAFETY TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE:**

National Biosafety Technical Sub-committee(s) shall be established by the NBC:

- i. One each for the various disciplines (e.g. agriculture, health, industry environment) to support the work of the NBC.
- ii. Review proposals for research and recommend the conditions under which experiments should be conducted.
- iii. Provide technical advice to the NBC and contribute to its functions in relation to contained use, field trials, and or commercial release

#### **7.3 10.3 INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE(S) (IBC)**

All institutions in Nigeria, both private and public (e.g. research institutes, universities and polytechnics, international research centers, industrial research and development units which plan to undertake modern

biotechnology research and/or development), shall each establish an Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), which will be responsible to, and co-operate with the NBC.

**i Membership of Institutional Biosafety Committee(s)**

Membership of the institutional biosafety committee(s) shall include:

- a) Five members from the respective institution, including the Biosafety Officer.
- b) Two other members not affiliated with the institution .but knowledgeable in modern biotechnology or related fields, and representing the interests of the community, such as:
  - I. Members of government's public health or environmental agencies;
  - II. Persons active in human, plant or animal health concerns and,
  - III. Persons or NGOs active in environmental concerns.
- c) The IBC may invite any Principal Investigator (PI) or representative of NBC or any other person to its meetings.

**ii. Functions of the Institutional Biosafety Committee(s)**

The IBC shall perform the following functions:

- a. Consult with the NBA on procedures and policies relating to biosafety;
- b. Help to ensure that the PI Implement the requirements of the NBA ;
- c. Create and maintain a central reference file and library of catalogues, books, articles, newsletters and other communications as a source of advice and reference, including such items as the availability of safety equipment, the availability and level of biological containment for various host-vector systems, suitable training of personnel and data on the potential biohazards associated with certain technologies;
- d. Facilitate within the institution the exchange of scientific, technical, environmental and legal information on, and experience with GMOs and other products of modern biotechnology;
- e. Develop a safety and operation manual and assist PIs in required staff training;

- f. Ensure the safety of facilities, procedures and practices as well as the level of training and experts of the personnel;
- g. Review and monitor all modern biotechnology research conducted and sponsored by the institution to ensure compliance with established law;
- h. Maintain a list of PIs and project supervisors, who are competent to perform supervisory duties for particular modern biotechnology projects;
- i. Maintain records and files of each modern biotechnology research project;
- j. Investigate and report promptly to the NBA all accidents related to the modern biotechnology projects;
- k. Submit an annual report to the NBA.

#### 7.4 10.4 BIOSAFETY OFFICER (BO)

The institution's authorities shall appoint a Biosafety Officer. It is expected that the biosafety officer will be familiar with biosafety requirements for rDNA work. In addition he should be sufficiently independent to exercise some authority as related to responsibilities of this office.

#### **Functions of the Biosafety Officer:**

The Biosafety Officer shall:

- Undertake checks and provide advise on biosafety issues within the institution;
- Ensure that biosafety is not compromised by any other considerations;
- Serve as Chairman of the IBC;
- Be responsible for IBC annual report.
- Report to the NBC on the results of his biosafety duties within the institution.

#### 7.5 10.5 PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (PI)

The PI is responsible for conducting modern biotechnology research in an institution. The PI is accountable to the IBC and complies with the appropriate research guidelines and all applicable laws related to biosafety.

## **10.6 Functions of the Principal Investigator:**

The PI shall perform the following functions:

- Ensure that experiments, for which the PI is responsible, are undertaken in strict compliance with relevant laws, regulations, and guidelines.;
- Ensure that safety procedures and practices are complied with;
- Report promptly to the IBC on any significant problems with respect to the implementation of relevant laws, regulations and guidelines;
- Notify the IBC promptly of any research-related accidents that have resulted or could result in human illness, in unanticipated plant or animal disease, or in the escape of organisms under study from an intended confinement;
- Obtain written endorsement of the IBC before embarking on, or modifying biotechnology research projects;
- Ensure compliance with applicable shipping requirements regarding human, plant and animal health protection policies, permit requirements and containment conditions for possession of certain organisms.

## **11.0 REGULATORY AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES**

This policy seeks to facilitate the establishment and development of national capacity to assess and manage potential risks associated with modern biotechnology practice and products. This requires the establishment of appropriate regulatory mechanisms and administrative procedures for the effective implementation of the policy.

## **12.0 LEGAL AND REGULATORY SYSTEM**

The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria shall establish the requisite legal and regulatory regime with emphasis on biosafety, but without prejudice to the potential benefits of modern biotechnology. Such legislation shall conform to the country's obligation to international law without undermining local and national development objectives and opportunities.

### 13.0 ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

In order to effectively implement the legal regime and the regulation of safety in modern biotechnology practice, the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria shall establish and institute administrative procedures, which include:

- Notification
- Information transfer and review
- Acknowledgement of notification
- Risk assessment
- Approval or refusal
- Risk management including monitoring and enforcement measures pertaining to laboratory use, research and development activities or field release procedures – handling, containment, monitoring, agreed disposal or destruction procedures, contingency plans for spillage or accidental release. In order to trace GMOs at port of entry of imports, existing sectoral legislation on import control may require review and amendment.
- Liability and redress.

### 14.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

Modern biotechnology is an expensive and specialized technology to develop. The implementation of its regulatory regime is also expensive. Both modern biotechnology and biosafety require huge investments in infrastructure, equipment and specialist training. The regulation and monitoring of modern biotechnology is costly.

To be successful, Government shall endeavour to allocate adequate funds to support the activities of the National Competent Authority, the implementation of the biosafety policy and enforcement of the ensuing legislation (law).

### 15.0 PUBLIC AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION

The Government through the relevant institutions shall promote and facilitate public awareness and participation on the assessment of risks and benefits of modern biotechnology and its products. It shall ensure, through

the NBA that GMOs sold in Nigeria are appropriately labeled and the consumer provided with a choice.

## 16.0 BIO – ETHICS

Government shall ensure that appropriate mechanisms are established to ensure that the practice of modern biotechnology and the development of products are undertaken in accordance with acceptable societal norms and code of ethics.

## 17.0 Transparency and protection of CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

The Ministry of Environment and the NBA shall make information about GMOs available to the public, including the applications, the decisions, the policies, and guidance. If confidential information is provided by the applicant, it will be kept confidential if it meets the requirements in the Biosafety Law.

## 18.0 POLICY LINKAGES

This National Policy on Biosafety focuses on a specialized technology. However, modern biotechnology as the technology which biosafety portends to regulate is gaining increasing global relevance and importance in agriculture ,public health, mining, trade, waste management etc., hence policies in these areas need to be recognized in the implementation of the National Biosafety Policy.

Important related national Policies Include:

- National Policy on Biotechnology
- National Policy on Environment
- National Policy on Agriculture
- National Policy on Health
- National Policy on Science and Technology
- National Policy on Trade etc.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Acknowledgement:** means response indicating receipt of application to import .

**Advance Inform Agreement (AIA):** Entails notification by an applicant, to acknowledgement of receipt of notification to final approval for import of GMO/products.

**Bio-Ethics:** Means conformity of practice of modern biotechnology with societal norms and code of ethics.

**Biosafety:** Is a range of measures, policies and procedures for minimizing potential risks that modern biotechnology may pose to the environment and human health.

**Biosafety Officer:** Means a person who is familiar with biosafety, appointed by an institution that is engaged in modern biotechnology activities to ensure that biosafety is not compromised and provides reports to NBC,

**Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety:** Is an international Protocol which came into existence in 2000 and ratified on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September 2003 as an internationally binding legal instrument to ensure an adequate level of protection in the field of the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effect on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health and specifically focusing on transboundary movements.

**Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):** Is an international Convention which came into existence in 1992 .It provides a comprehensive and holistic approach to the Conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of natural resources and fair and equitable sharing of benefits deriving from the use of genetic resources.

**Export:** Means intentional transboundary movement from one country to another country of GMO.

**Genetically modified Organism (GMO):** Means any organism that possesses a novel combination of genetic materials obtained through the use of modern biotechnology.

**Import:** Means intentional transboundary movement into one country from another country of GMO.

**Institution Biosafety Committee (IBC):** Means committee established by any institution which plans to undertake modern biotechnology research and/or development to guide the institute on biosafety in line with existing rules and regulations.

**Labelling:** means any inscription, logo or mark to indicate the presence of GMO in products on whole GMO.

**Liability:** It entails that any person who carries out any activity in relation to GMO of products thereof shall be strictly liable to any harm, injury or loss caused directly or indirectly by such GMO or products thereof or any activity in relations to them.

**Modern Biotechnology:** Means the application of:

- a) In-vitro nucleic acid techniques, including recombinant deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) and direct injection of nucleic acid into the **cells** or organelles:  
or
- b) Fusion of cells beyond the taxonomic family that overcomes natural physiological reproductive or combination barriers and that are not techniques used in traditional breeding and selection.

**National Biosafety Council (NBC) :** Means the National Biosafety Council (NBC) that shall advise the NFP on matters relating to GMOs, including research, development, introduction and use of the products of modern biotechnology (GMOs).

**National Biosafety Technical Sub-Committee (NBTS):** Means sub technical committees of the National Biosafety Committee for sectoral interests such as Agriculture, health, industry and Environment, to support work of NBC, in proposals for research and provide technical advise to NBC in relation to contained use, field trials, release and placement into the market.

**National Focal Point (NFP):** Means the National Biosafety Agency responsible for liaison with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) for the administrative functions required under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, it is also responsible for all correspondence with importers, exporters and applications on movement on introduction of products of modern biotechnology into the environment and field or confined testing.

**Notification:** Means prior information to intentionally introduce GMO/Products into the market, field or carry out research on modern biotechnology made to a country by an applicant.

**Notifier :** Means applicant seeking permit to develop GMO, release into the environment, import/export or use GMO products or place on the market.

**Principal Investigator (PI):** means an agent of an institution who is responsible for conducting modern biotechnology research. He is accountable to IBC and leads research efforts in a safe manner and in compliance with appropriate research guidelines and all applicable laws.

**Protective Disclosure:** It means notwithstanding the provisions of any other law no person is civilly or criminally liable or may be dismissed, discipline prejudiced or harassed on account of having disclosed any information, if the person in good faith reasonably believed at the time of disclosure that he/she was disclosing evidence of any risks posed by GMO or products thereof to human or animal health, the environment or biodiversity in accordance with relevant section of the biosafety law.

**Risk Assessment:** Means the scientific identification and evaluation of potential adverse effects that GMO may have on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and to human health in the receiving environments.

**Risk Management:** Means management, control of any risks that may be identified by risk assessment, it entails monitoring.

**Transboundary Movement:** Means the movement of a GMO from one country to another country.

**Unintentional Release:** Means accidental release of GMO into the environment

**“contained use”** means any operation undertaken within a facility, installation, or other physical structure, such as a laboratory or green house.

**“field trial”** means a small scale experimental release into the environment conducted under physical and biological confinement conditions that limit the GMO’s persistence in the environment after the experiment is completed.

**“commercial release”** means the release of a GMO into market as a product that can be purchased and used by any individual.

**“food and feed products”** means GMOs or their products that are primarily used for food, feed or processing and are meant to be eaten by humans or animals.

**DRAFT**

**NIGERIA NATIONAL BIOSAFETY POLICY**

**FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT**

**2006**