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Comparative Analysis of the National Frameworks for Living Modified Organisms(LMOs)

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In order to protect human health and biodiversity from the potential risks of LMOs' transboundary movements, many countries make efforts to prepare LMOs related policies, legal frameworks, and risk assessment methods and techniques according to entering into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety(Protocol) from September 11th, 2003. For implementation of the Protocol, the Republic of Korea(ROK) set up and promulgated the national law, 「Transboundary Movements of Living Modified Organisms Act」 (Act). The Act and subordinates shall be put into effect from the day of the Protocol, thus entering into force in the ROK.

In this present project, we investigated current status of national evaluation system for reducing risks on LMOs and methods for effective implementation of the Protocol on the basis of administrative coordinating systems, regulatory frameworks, and operating characteristics of evaluation systems of foreign

countries(USA, Canada, Japan, UK, Australia, Argentina, Mexico, India, China, and Republic of South Africa). We investigated evaluation systems on LMOs of other countries in 2 fields such as human health and natural environment. Each country has constructed distinct LMOs evaluation system for protecting its biodiversity.

The results of comparative analysis on LMOs evaluation systems between the ROK and other countries indicate that following precedent conditions should be improved for increasing effectiveness of LMOs safety management systems of the ROK. These include, (i) national legislation system for control safety management of LMOs and device of harmonization with international law such as WTO agreement; (ii) establishment of administrative system of related government bureaus, supervising organizations, management committees and so on; (iii) preparation of standard guidelines for safety assessment and evaluation procedures ; (iv) preparation of method for public awareness and participation.