

Invitation to a Learning Event:

Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) in Agriculture: Facts, risks and risk reduction measures

11 October 2021 09h-16h
Swiss Red Cross, Rainmattstrasse 10, 3011 Berne

The Swiss NGO DRR Platform invites for a Learning Event with a focus on Disaster Risk reduction (DRR) to enhance capacities of practitioners with respect to Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) in Agriculture through:

- Conceptual introduction on basic mechanisms, facts, regulations, risks and risk reduction measures
- Practical examples from target countries and exercises for the field
- Interactive discussions with experts, exchange of experiences, good practices and options

Registration and contact:

Online registration: [Swiss NGO DRR Platform website](#)

Further information: Schoenenberger@innovabridge.org



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Outline and objectives

Since the first commercial planting of a Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) in 1996, biotech crop cultivation has increased dramatically worldwide. Today, almost 200 million hectares of biotech crops are planted yearly. Ethical, political, legal, environmental, economic and social concerns are debated. Concerns arise related to workers exposed to toxic compounds, reliance on agricultural chemicals, power constellations of the seed industry, resistances against weeds and pests, loss of biodiversity etc.

This event shall provide an overview of basic mechanisms, facts, risks and risk reduction measures of GMOs in agriculture, focusing on contexts which are typical for the audience.

Audience

NGO practitioners and SDC staff involved in the planning, steering and implementation of development and humanitarian aid projects related to Agriculture, Food Security and environment. Anyone interested in the topic is welcome to join. No prior knowledge in DRR, biotechnology or GMO-science is required.

Program

- Overview of the present situation of GMO technology and its applications, the scientific background of environmental risk assessment, regulatory frameworks, environmental, social and economic implications (by external contributors from academia)
- Case studies highlighting the relevance from their point of view providing a complementary perspective (from Platform member organisations)
- Discussions on risks and risk reduction measures in the context of agriculture projects
- Practical exercise to learn to detect GMOs in a reliable way, through a method that can be replicated by non-specialists in the field.

Presenters and facilitators

- Angelika Hilbeck, ETH Zürich
- Bernadette Oehen, FiBL / ETH Zürich.
- Georg Felber / Jens Soth, Helvetas
- Tina Goethe, Bread for All
- Nicola Schoenenberger, INNOVABRIDGE
- Anton Jöhr, Swiss Red Cross

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- Registration on the [Swiss NGO DRR Platform website](https://www.innovabridge.org).
- Further information: Schoenenberger@innovabridge.org