

Study on use of genetically-modified microorganisms in Thai industry

Singapore, July 06, 2011: BIOTEC, premier research institute in Thailand and Asia, has been commissioned by the Department of Industrial Works to conduct a study on the use of genetically-modified (GM) microorganisms in Thai industry.

The study will review the current status and trend of the use of GM microorganisms in various types of industry. The report will also provide recommendations on the management and regulation framework to ensure safety to the environment and human health. The study will be completed in September 2011, and will be useful to further develop biosafety guidelines for each type of industry.

Over the past 40 years, GM microorganisms have been widely used in various industries such as pharmaceuticals, vaccines, specialty chemicals, textiles, food and feed, pulp and paper. In 1986, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) published "Recombinant DNA Safety Considerations", also known as the "Blue Book", one of the first intergovernmental documents that addressed the environmental safety of transgenic organisms.

The guidelines have been adopted and applied in many countries. Some countries, such as Australia and Japan, now have Biosafety Law to regulate GMOs. The draft Thailand National Biosafety Act is currently being reviewed at the Office of the Council of State Information on GMOs in Thailand.