

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	10813
Project Name:	Implementation of the National Biosafety Mechanism in the Kyrgyz Republic in accordance with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
Countr(ies):	Kyrgyz Republic
Implementing Agency:	FAO

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Implementation of the National Biosafety Mechanism in the Kyrgyz Republic in accordance with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Country

Kyrgyz Republic

GEF ID

10813

Implementing Agency

FAO

Executing Entity

Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

MSP

PIR Submission

9/5/2025

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2025 , 2nd PIR

Objective

To provide technical guidance and assistance for the implementation of the regulatory framework on biosafety at the national level, including the establishment of administrative systems and institutional arrangements, such as laboratories for LMO detection and human resource capacities

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress

Satisfactory

Development Objective

Satisfactory

Overall risk

Low Risk

Project Financing

1,645,250.00

Cumulative Disbursement

1,347,539.24

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

6/9/2022

Agency Approval

3/30/2022

Implementation Start 8/1/2022	First Disbursement 3/27/2023
Expected MTR 4/30/2024	Actual MTR
Expected Completion 2/1/2027	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities

In the period of August 2024 to June 2025, several important documents were prepared and signed in support of the ongoing biosafety initiatives in the Kyrgyz Republic:

- 1) Law on Biological Safety in the Kyrgyz Republic. On 25 January 2025, the President of the Kyrgyz Republic approved the Law on Biological Safety, which incorporates key provisions from the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. However, the current law does not yet address all aspects stipulated in the Protocol. To bridge these gaps, CAREC is working on developing additional regulations to ensure comprehensive alignment with the Cartagena Protocol's requirements.
- 2) Letter of Agreement (LoA) with Kyrgyzstandard. An LoA was signed with Kyrgyzstandard on 22 August 2024. Initially, this agreement was intended to be concluded with the Ministry of Water Resources, Agriculture, and Processing Industry, under whose authority two key laboratories were planned to be equipped with GMO detection and identification materials as part of the project. Unfortunately, the Ministry indicated that it was not possible for them to take on this responsibility. Consequently, Kyrgyzstandard was selected as a partner due to its existing capacity, including qualified staff and laboratory infrastructure, making it a suitable institution to implement Component 2 of the project.
- 2) LoA with CAREC. The LoA was signed with CAREC on 27 November 2024. Under this agreement, the FAO project team was transferred to CAREC to continue project implementation. However, as stipulated in the LoA provisions, FAO specialists cannot be subsequently employed by the executing agency to avoid conflicts of interest. A lengthy discussion and justification process ensued to demonstrate that the project was highly specialized and that no equivalent expertise existed in-country to replace the FAO staff. Following this justification, the previous FAO project team was officially transferred to CAREC, ensuring the continuity of project activities.
- 3) LoA with the Biotechnology Institute of NAS KR. An LoA was signed with the Biotechnology Institute on 27 November 2024. Nevertheless, project activities under this agreement have experienced delays. Currently, work is underway to prepare an additional agreement to extend the duration of the LoA and enable completion of the pending activities.
- 4) UN2UN Agreement with UNOPS. A UN2UN agreement was signed with UNOPS on 12 March 2025, following approval from the Project Steering Committee on 22 July 2024. The agreement was finalized with the signature of Deputy Minister Amangeldiev, representing the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology, and Technical Supervision.

Together, these legal and institutional arrangements establish a solid framework for implementing biosafety measures in the Kyrgyz Republic, supporting the country's commitments under the Cartagena Protocol and enhancing national capacities for GMO detection, regulation, and risk management.

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

One of the principal challenges hindering the effective and timely implementation of project activities has been the recurrent restructuring within the government. These frequent organizational and administrative changes, particularly the repeated reshuffling of executive leadership across all ministries, have significantly disrupted continuity, delayed decision-making processes, and impeded the consistent execution of project plans. The resulting institutional instability has made it difficult to maintain the stable process, align priorities, and ensure sustained collaboration among key stakeholders throughout the current project activities

C. Stakeholder Engagement

Profile	Stakeholder name	Type of partnership	Progress, results & Challenges on Stakeholder's Engagement
Government Institutions	Ministry of Natural resources, ecology and technical supervision of the KR	MNRETS is the authorised state executive body responsible for the development and implementation of state policy and coordination in the areas of environmental protection, ecology and climate, geology and subsoil use, use and protection of natural resources, including bioresources, subsoil and water resources, except for irrigation and reclamation infrastructure, exercising state control and supervision over compliance. MNRETS is the competent authority for implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	MNRETS actively takes part in project design and lead the process. Also, as a Chair of the PSC, they control project task execution. Organization and control of project task execution (project design and consultations). Co-chairing of the Project Steering Committee.
Government Institutions	Ministry of Water resources, agriculture and processing industry of the KR (MWRAPI)	It is an authorized state body of executive authority implementing the state policy in the agro-industrial complex, including livestock breeding, fish farming (aquaculture), crop production, plant quarantine, land melioration, land, water resources, irrigation and melioration infrastructure, food and processing products	The MWRAPI and specifically, the Department for Agriculture Crop Expertise and Department of Organic Agriculture, are involved in the training, legal framework and overall project activities.
Government Institutions	Including: Department for Agriculture Crop Expertise of the MWRAPI	Control over variety and sowing qualities of seeds and planting material of agricultural and other plants.	
Government Institutions	and Department of Organic Agriculture, MWRAPI	Field inspection of seed sowings and plantings, ground control of seed batches.	
		Control over the quality of production of agricultural producers' agricultural organic products and increase their exports to near and far abroad.	
Government Institutions	Center for Veterinary Diagnostics and Expertise in the Northern Region of KR	It is an analytical laboratory that performs standardised and harmonized testing activities related to animal epidemiological surveillance, among other diagnostics activities according to the State Plan	They will also host practical training sessions in the laboratory under Component 2.
Government Institutions	Center for registration and certification of veterinary medicines, animal feed and feed additives under the MWRAPI	The Center's main objective is to ensure the quality, efficiency and safety of veterinary medicines, animal feed and feed additives. To achieve the objective, the Center performs state regulation of the production, export, and import of veterinary medicines, animal feed and feed additives, as well carries out certification, registration and maintenance of a state register of the above mentioned goods.	They take part in training activities under Components 1 and 2 of the project.
Government Institutions	Kyrgyz Accreditation Center under the Ministry of Economy and Commerce of the Kyrgyz Republic	It is the central body of executive authority, which carries out functions on development and implementation of the state policy in the macroeconomic, anti-monopoly, tariff, licensing, investment, foreign economic, fiscal policy, policy in the public-private partnership, state material reserves, economic and regional development, state property management, technical regulation and metrology, as well as in the development of Halal industry, trade, business development and optimization of the regulatory legal framework for business regulation, development of free economic zones.	They help address the issues with the accreditation of laboratories where GMO analyses will be conducted.
Government Institutions	Ministry of Finance of the KR (MoF)	MoF is an authorised state executive body monitoring the fulfilment of obligations by the state bodies for the preparation and implementation of projects financed by international financial institutions and donor organizations.	It works on policy issues related to LMO/biosafety issues, project management and knowledge sharing
Government Institutions	State Customs Services under the Ministry of Finance of the KR	It is the state administration body for customs affairs on the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic, managing the activities of customs institutions of the republic in accordance with the customs legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic, agreements on this matter with member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States, as well as other states.	It is involved in addressing issues in the project related to LMO customs and border control issues, and be part of training activities
Government Institutions	Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES) of the Kyrgyz Republic	MES is an authorised state executive body responsible for the implementation of the policy and regulation of relations in the environmental protection, ensuring environmental safety and environmental management, as well as hunting, and protected natural areas.	It will work on regulations and requirements in relation to GMO/biosafety issues.
Government Institutions	State Intellectual Property and Innovation Service under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic	The State Intellectual Property and Innovation Service (Kyrgyzpatent) is an authorized state executive body implementing a unified state policy in the field of intellectual property protection and innovation development.	Discussion on any issues in the project relating to intellectual property issues
Government Institutions	Department of Disease Prevention and State Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance under the Ministry of Healthcare of the KR	It is a government entity subordinate department under the Ministry of Healthcare of the Kyrgyz Republic, which aims to organize and implement preventive and anti-epidemic activities to combat infectious, parasitic and priority noninfectious diseases to ensure sanitary and epidemiological well-being, to assess the effectiveness of implemented programs and projects in public health, to provide supervision in sanitary and	GMO analysis and control. It maintains control over ensuring biosafety and bio-protection in laboratories of microbiological, and molecular genetic testing, as well as performs molecular genetic and sanitary and epidemiological expertise.

D. Gender Equality

Category	Yes/No	Briefly describe progress and results achieved during this reporting period.
a. Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources	Yes	A gender-responsive public awareness campaign has been partly implemented to ensure that both women and men have equitable access to information and the capacity to make informed decisions regarding the production, processing, handling, and consumption of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs). The campaign has been tailored to address gender-specific knowledge gaps, communication preferences, and access barriers, particularly in rural communities. Efforts have been made to engage women and men equally in outreach activities, using inclusive language and diverse communication channels such as community radio, social media, local workshops, and printed materials in relevant local languages. The campaign not only to promote biosafety awareness but also empower women as key stakeholders in environmental decision-making processes. Furthermore, the inclusion of potential benefits to gender equality will be incorporated as a criterion in the assessment of LMOs, ensuring that gender impacts are systematically considered in risk assessment and decision-making processes. This approach supports both national gender policy objectives and international commitments under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.
b. Improving women's participation and decision making	Yes	Gender-responsive public awareness campaign to ensure women and men can make informed choices about LMO production/ processing or handling/ consumption. Gender-responsive policy and regulations formulation: - Review this GAP at the start of project implementation with key stakeholders to ensure relevance/ update as needed; - Include government bodies with a gender mandate, gender experts, and CSO with a gender focus in policy formulation, supported by related capacity-building; - Biosafety legislation to reflect women's/ men's different needs and priorities and address their different risks.
c. generating socio-economic benefits or services for women	Yes	In addition to awareness-raising, there were integrations of gender considerations into the LMO assessment process. Specifically, the potential of LMOs to generate socio-economic benefits or services for women—such as improving access to climate-resilient crops, reducing labor burdens, or creating new livelihood opportunities is included as a formal assessment criterion. This approach will help ensure that decisions on LMO development and use contribute not only to biosafety objectives but also to national gender equality goals by actively promoting women's participation in and benefit from biotechnology innovations.
Any other good practices on gender		

E. Knowledge Management

Knowledge management and Learning (KML): Does the project have a KML strategy?	Yes
If YES, what is the implementation progress? In your answer, please describe how the project is fostering knowledge sharing and learning among stakeholders at national and sub-national level.	A series of capacity-building trainings and technical workshops were conducted in reporting period, targeting all relevant and interested stakeholders, including government agencies, local authorities, civil society organizations, community representatives, and private sector partners. These sessions focused on key thematic areas such as biodiversity conservation, GMO/LMO, etc.), and were designed to enhance stakeholder understanding, foster collaboration, and support the implementation of project activities. Participant feedback was gathered to inform future engagement and ensure continued relevance and inclusivity.
If NO, how does the project identify, collect and document good practices?	
Please list good practices, including key-technical and/or institutional innovations, from the project thus far.	As part of the activities under the Letter of Agreement (LoA), representatives from Kyrgyzstan conducted an official visit to Belarus (Minsk) to exchange knowledge and good practices related to environmental standards, monitoring systems, and sustainable development frameworks. The visit aimed to strengthen institutional capacity through peer-to-peer learning, foster regional cooperation, and identify practical approaches that could be adapted and applied in the Kyrgyz Republic. Discussions included best practices in standardization, laboratory accreditation, and environmental policy implementation. The mission provided valuable insights that will inform ongoing national efforts to align with international environmental and sustainability standards.
Communication strategy: Does the project have a communication strategy?	Yes
Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this fiscal year.	All information on the project implementation is posted on CBD, FAO in Kyrgyzstan facebook https://www.carececo.org/en/main/news/zasedanie-mezhvedomstvennoy-rabochey-gruppy-proekta-fao-gef-realizatsiya-natsionalnogo-mekhanizma-bi/ https://www.carececo.org/main/news/zasedanie-mezhvedomstvennoy-rabochey-gruppy-proekta-fao-gef-realizatsiya-natsionalnogo-mekhanizma-bi/ https://x.com/FAOKyrgyzstan/status/1907353730481013102 https://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/news-archive/detail-news/en/c/1736074/ https://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/news-archive/detail-news/ru/c/1736075/ kyrgyzstane/ https://www.carececo.org/main/news/zasedanie-koordinatsionnogo-soveta-po-realizatsii-prirodokhrannykh-proektov-v-kyrgyzskoy-respublike/ kyrgyzstane/ https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1AX51TLmjB/ https://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/news-archive/detail-news/en/c/1739546/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=Yjl4cTl6anphNnc2 Video: https://www.facebook.com/share/v/15oMddEDAZ/ https://bch.cbd.int/ru/database/BCHN%7D/BCH-BCHN-SCBD-279879-1 https://bch.cbd.int/ru/database/BCHN%7D/BCH-BCHN-SCBD-279878-1 https://bch.cbd.int/ru/database/BCHN%7D/BCH-BCHN-SCBD-279877-1 https://bch.cbd.int/ru/database/BCHN%7D/BCH-BCHN-SCBD-279904-3 https://bch.cbd.int/ru/database/BCHN/BCH-BCHN-SCBD-279905-1
Human-interest story:	N/A

III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	
Components and Cost	
Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	
Financial Management	
Implementation Schedule	
Executing Entity	
Executing Entity Category	
Minor Project Objective Change	
Safeguards	
Risk Analysis	
Increase of GEF Financing up to 5%	
Co-Financing	
Location of Project Activity	
others	

IV: Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	42.882004	74.582748	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Osh, Kyrgyzstan	40.513996	72.816101	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category	Title
M and E Document	GEFID10813_2025PIR_FAO_KyrgyzRepublic