



TARGET 17



What is Target 17?

Strengthen Biosafety and
Distribute the Benefits of
Biotechnology

Establish, strengthen capacity for, and implement in all countries **biosafety measures** as set out in Article 8(g) of the Convention on Biological Diversity and measures for the **handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits** as set out in Article 19 of the Convention.





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Why is this Target important?

Biosafety measures are indispensable for ensuring that living modified organisms resulting from biotechnology are handled and used with the necessary safety precautions. Living modified organisms resulting from biotechnologies provide opportunities, but their use and release requires regulation, management and control of potential associated risks. New biotechnological developments are providing ever more promising opportunities, however the concerns over these technologies and the living modified organisms resulting from them are also increasing.





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Participation in biotechnological research by those Parties, especially developing country Parties, providing the genetic resources for such research would help empower them to address their own research needs. In addition, equitable access by Parties, in particular developing country Parties, to the results and benefits of biotechnologies based on genetic resources provided by these Parties would enable countries to benefit from technological advances based on genetic resources, providing a powerful incentive for conservation.





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How is this Target significant for a gender-responsive implementation of the KM-GBF?

Case Study: Gender Lens in Genetically Engineered (GE) Crop Adoption – Empowering Women Farmers and Enhancing Research

Research by International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and others shows that Genetically Engineered (GE) crops can have positive but variable economic impacts on smallholder farmers. However, significant knowledge gaps exist regarding broader social concerns, particularly gender and food security issues.





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IFPRI initiated a project to examine gender and biotechnology in developing countries focusing on The Philippines and Burkina Faso, aiming to address the perceived gender adoption knowledge gap. The technical report advocates that integrating gender considerations into traditionally male-dominated crop systems like cotton, and using mixed research methods, can lead to more robust findings. Targeting women as technology clients can benefit businesses, families, and society. Currently, gender and health issues are underrepresented in socio-economic assessments, despite their impact on technology adoption. Applying a gender lens to GE crop adoption can empower women farmers and their communities in the studied countries, while paving the way for future in-depth research on these topics.

Source: Falck-Zepeda, J. B., Zambrano, P., & Biermayr-Jenzano, P. (2023). Gender Impacts of Genetically Engineered Crops in Developing Countries: FINAL TECHNICAL REPORT (IDRC Project Number: 106160-001). International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).
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