The Philippines in 2002 established a regulatory system for GM crops that provided access by small corn farmers to the GM corn technology earning them additional income of US$107.8 million in the first nine years after introduction (Brookes & Barfoot, 2011). This paper describes the system, management and processes of Philippine GM crop regulation. It mentions the problems encountered and solutions adopted. Information and data were gathered from the Bureau of Plant Industry, the Office of Policy and Planning, Department of Agriculture, Biotechnology Coalition of the Philippines and relevant websites. In 10 years, there were 2 changes in national leadership, 4 Philippine Congresses, 5 changes of department leadership, 5 changes in leadership at the Bureau of Plant Industry and various changes in local leadership with local elections occurring every 3 years. Demands to ban GMOs and field trials or reverse decisions are made now and then from these offices and a court case has also been brought against the system. Nevertheless, with minimum resources, the regulatory system continued to process applications on time except the application delayed by the court case. It has stabilized due to clear implementable policies brought about by a close working relationship between policy making and implementation (actual regulation), support from affected sectors, the continuity in office of key individuals in the system, science-based decisions and manageability. The policies and practices ensure transparency and predictability. Policy making is responsive to issues that arise during implementation and to trade issues. In policy and in practice, the system is participatory and socio-culturally sound. Compared with the benefits currently enjoyed by Filipino corn farmers, government investment in establishing and maintaining the system is very minimal.

Keywords: functional, regulatory, system, transgenics