As a developing country, China was one of the first countries in the world to introduce GM crops commercially. It has been ranked as the sixth largest producer of biotech crops based on total acreage (3.9 million hectares) in 2011 according to ISAAA, and is currently the largest producer of GM cotton (Bt-cotton) in the world according to Reuters. This paper explores the recent development and cultivation of GMOs in China, including domestic legislation of bio-safety management of GMOs. Faced with the challenges of a huge population, limited arable land, and a deteriorating environment, Chinese scientists have been motivated to develop new technologies to help secure the national food supply and improve the people's quality of life. With the help of several national R&D programs, China has made significant progress on GM technology since 1996. The Chinese government has also been attempting to establish a sound regulatory framework for GMOs. The State Council promulgated the Regulation on Safety Administration of Agricultural GMOs in 2001. The Ministry of Agriculture issued three supporting Measures to facilitate the State Council's Regulation and established a bio-safety management system for agricultural GMOs. However, this paper finds that an improvement on transparency to the current Chinese GMOs regulatory framework is needed. The Chinese government should disclose more information to increase public awareness and knowledge about the safety assessment of GMOs, procedures of authorizing GMOs bio-safety certifications, and approvals of commercialization of approved GMOs. Moreover, the Chinese media, scientists, and the government should work together to ensure that communication about GMOs is accurate and balanced. The transparency of GMO regulation and the science communication of GMOs to the public will be two main challenges to China's future development on GMOs.

Keywords: GMOs, Transparency, Science Communication, Biosafety Management Regulatory Framework