Implementation of the national biosafety framework for GMO in Mexico: Initial trends and challenges.
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Mexico is part of the international community that has ratified and implements among other international regulations the Convention of Biological Diversity (1992) as well as the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CBD, 2000). As a Party to the Protocol, Mexico has chosen to develop the National Administrative procedures to comply and implement the provisions contained in this international treaty. Part of this endeavor is now reflected in the development of a comprehensive regulatory framework that started five years ago with the publication of the Biosafety Law for Genetically Modified Organisms (BLGMO), which is now accompanied by complementary regulations for the safe use of products of modern biotechnology. This legislative framework is relatively recent in comparison to the period that Mexico has been developing, using, and regulating Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO), particularly GM crop plants.

In this work we present a preliminary description and analysis of the trends and effects that the implementation of the BLGMO and its complementary regulations, which comprises the Mexican Biosafety Regulatory Framework (MBRF), have had during the past years of its implementation. To analyze the observed trends we compare specific indicators before and after the implementation of the MBRF and identify some of the specific challenges that Mexico in now facing in relation to the safe use of biotech products.

Keywords: Cartagena Protocol, public research institutions, decision making process, investment in applied research