

National Bio-safety Centre

- Sponsoring Agency: Ministry of Environment
- Executing Agency: Pak-EPA
- Cost: Rs. 39.600 Million
- Duration: 5 years
- Project Coverage: All Pakistan

- **Development Objective:**

The development objective is to establish the National Biosafety Centre, which will serve as the secretariat of the National Biosafety Committee. The National Biosafety Centre will provide the requisite set-up for the implementation of the Biosafety Rules and Biosafety Guidelines.

- **Objectives:**

Under the proposed Project, the National Biosafety Centre will be established. The Centre will serve as the secretariat for the NBC, which is the apex body to control the GMOs in the country, and the TAC, which will provide the technical support to the NBC. The Centre will ensure the implementation of the Biosafety Guidelines and the Biosafety Rules.

- **Key Activities:**

- Prepare an action plan for the Centre
- Hold NBC and TAC meetings as and when required and follow up implementation.
- Prepare draft standards and procedures for risk assessment and labelling of GMOs.
- Review applications for import, export, or commercial release of GMOs
- Coordinate in developing linkages with foreign Biosafety committees and relevant agencies to ensure that genetic manipulation practices in Pakistan
- Facilitate NBC in cooperation with relevant national/provincial authorities
- Coordinate facilitation in all levels of supervision of genetic manipulation work by assisting other regulatory bodies in establishing pertinent codes disciplines and guidelines for the appraisal of biohazards and the management of bio-safeguards.
- Inform and educate the public on Biosafety issues and on proposed national policies.
- Assist NBC in ensuring that the laboratory work, field work and commercial release of GMOs conform to the Guidelines.
- Disseminate information to the various institutions engaged in the genetic manipulation work about new developments in Biosafety
- Facilitate development of annual reports for the Centre