

Getting the right stamp

For a genetically modified crop to be grown in Australia, it must first be approved by the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator. This involves a risk assessment and public consultation process.

Once a GM crop is grown, no food product containing it can be legally sold in Australia unless it is properly approved by Food Standards Australia New Zealand.

At the end of this activity you will:

- know who approves foods for sale in Australia
- be aware of the type of research performed on food products before they are approved.

The problem:

You have designed a new GM food crop: a type of cocoa that is resistant to the cocoa weevil.

You are also involved in producing a new food that is made from chocolate (using your GM cocoa), ground peanuts, honey, and soy milk powder imported from the USA. You have called this new food Nufud. It tastes great on fresh bread.

You need to get it approved so that production can start. What is the process?

You will need:

- access to the internet

What to do:

1. Read the information pages:
 - 'Genetically modified food labelling' from Biotechnology Online.
 - Evaluation process and flow chart for intentional release licence applications from the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator
<http://www.ogtr.gov.au/internet/ogtr/publishing.nsf/Content/dirclass-2>
 - Process for assessing applications:
http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/_srcfiles/GM%20Foods_text_pp_final.pdf

Biotechnology Online School Resource

2. Decide what is likely to happen to your application for approval to grow GM cocoa and market Nufud in Australia. Arrange this information in a series of steps. You will eventually make it into a flow chart.
3. Look around the rest of the OGTR and FSANZ web sites. Make a list of the people involved in the approval of new GM crops and foods and what each of them does.

What to do with your information:

Make a flow chart showing all the possible steps in the process that will decide the fate of both your GM cocoa and Nufud. This is a start:

