

Biosafety Regulatory Environment in Uganda: Research Perspectives

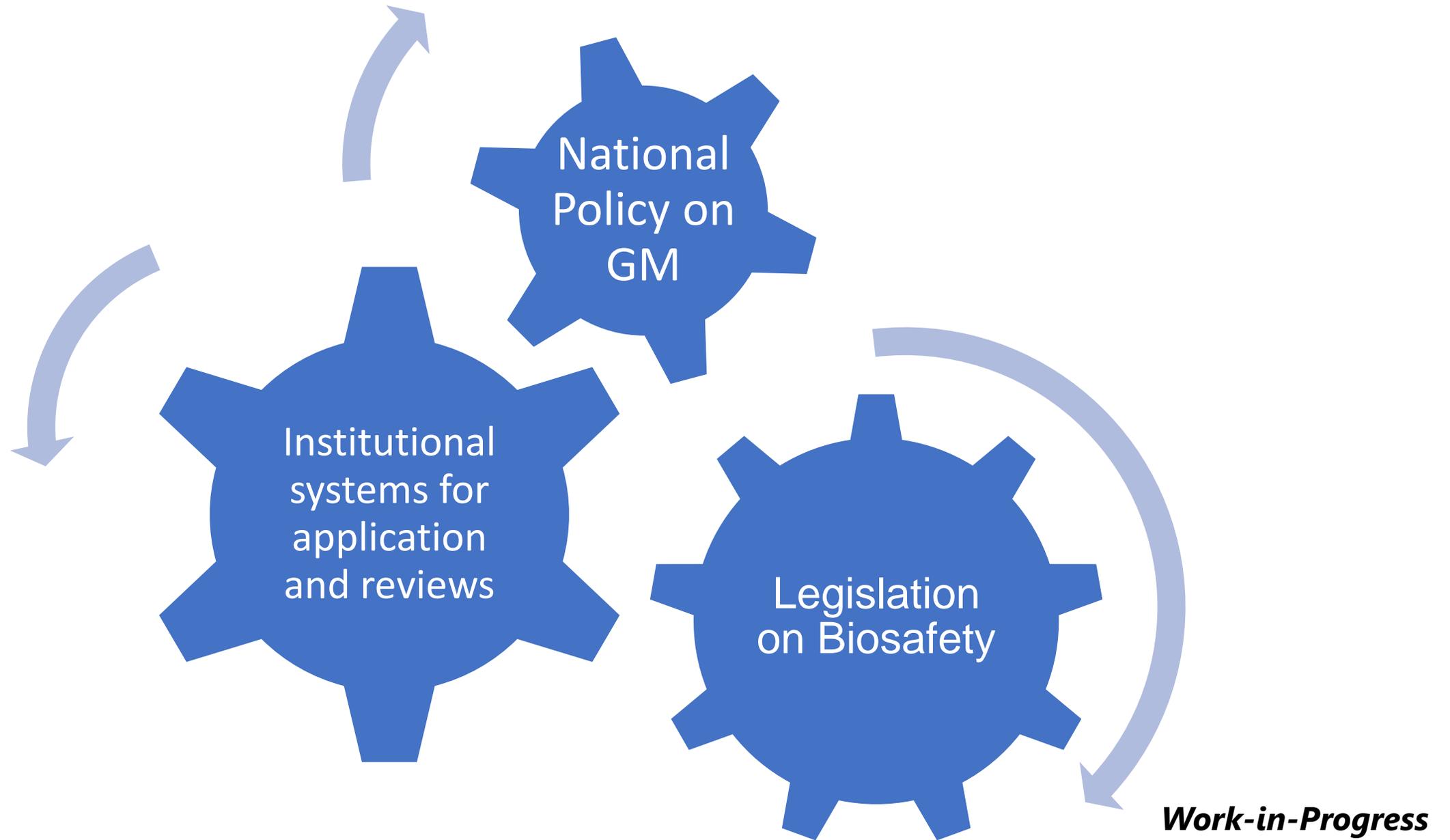
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Crop R&D Status in Uganda

Crop	Trait	Key partners	Period of Research
Banana	Bacterial wilt resistance	NARO; AATF	2010 to date
	Resistance to weevils and nematodes	NARO	2012 to date
	Pro-Vitamin A enhancement	NARO, QUT	2011 to date
Maize	Drought tolerance and insect resistance stack	NARO, AATF	2010 to 2019
Cassava	Brown streak disease resistance	NARO, DDPSC	2010 to date
Potato	Late blight resistance	NARO, CIP	2015 to date
Rice	Nutrient and water efficiency	AATF, NARO	2012 to date
Soybean	Herbicide tolerance	Makerere University	2016 to date

A Functional National Biosafety System



Legislative Biosafety Environment and Spectrum in 20 years

Permissive
Approvals made on case-by-case based on risk assessment considerations

Pre-cautionary
Approvals based on pre-cautionary considerations

Prohibitive
GM technology perceived as risky; hence countries impose bans, moratoria & other restrictive practices

2012



2018

Act Genetic Engineering Regulatory Act 2018

THE GENETIC ENGINEERING REGULATORY ACT, 2018.

An Act to regulate genetic engineering activities and facilitate safe development, transfer, application and utilisation of genetically engineered materials; to designate a National Focal Point, and establish a Competent Authority; to establish the Inter-Ministerial Policy Committee on Genetic Engineering; to establish a National Genetic Engineering Committee; to provide for the establishment of institutional genetic engineering committees; to provide mechanisms to regulate research, development and general release of genetically engineered materials and for related matters.

DATE OF ASSENT:

Date of Commencement:

BE IT ENACTED by Parliament as follows:

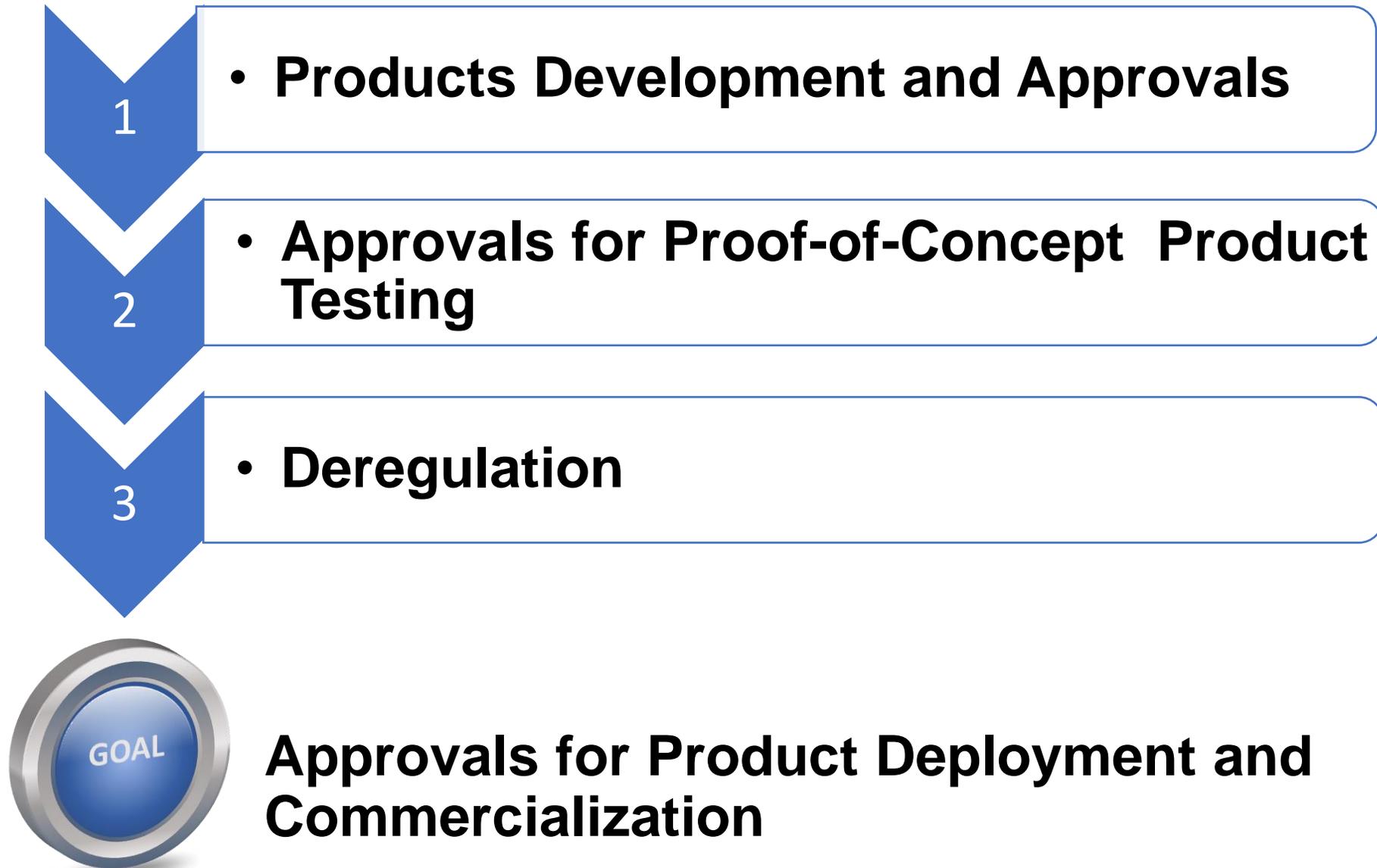
PART I—PRELIMINARY

1. Application.
(1) This Act applies to research and general release of a GEM.

(2) For the avoidance of doubt matters related to genetically engineered drugs shall be dealt with under the National Drug Policy and Authority Act.

3

Stage-gate approvals



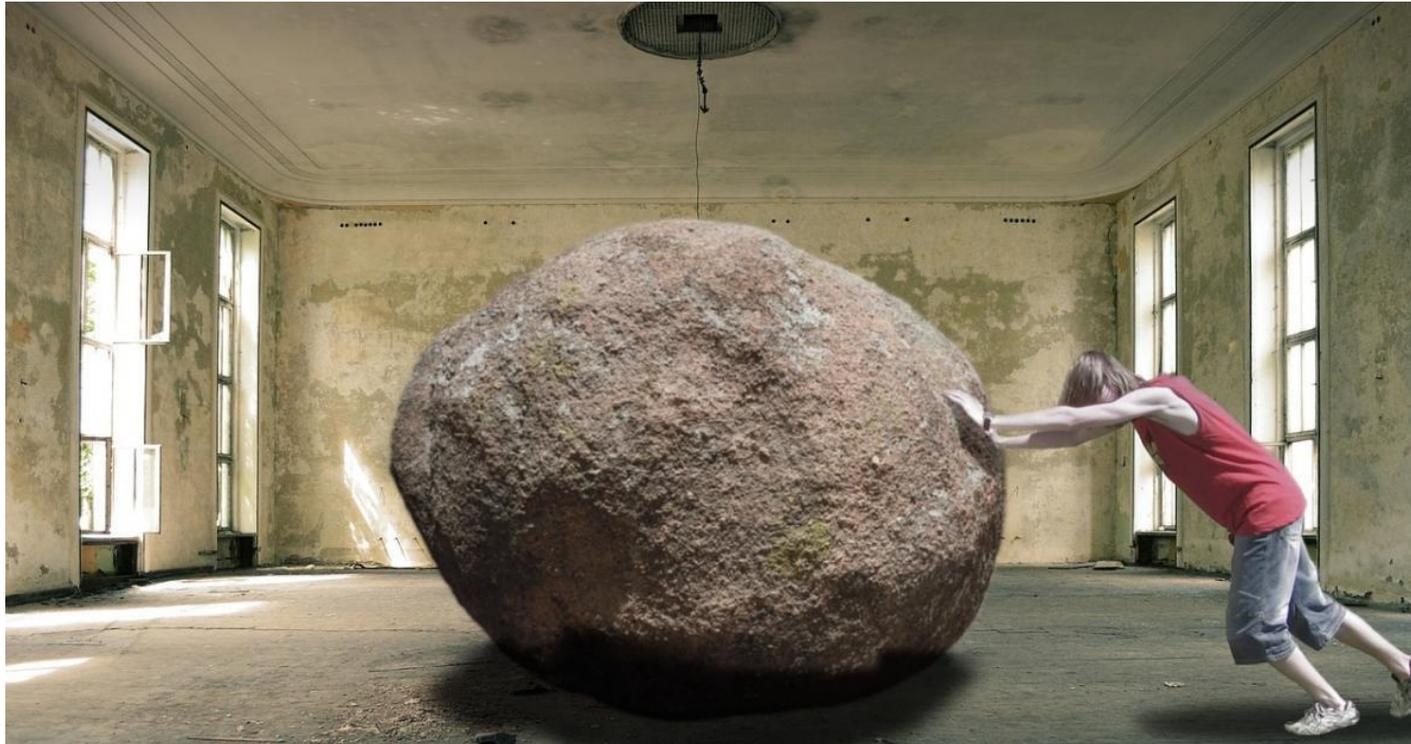
Research Journey in the last 20 years – Twist and turns



What has worked

- Clear review and approval pathways for research in containment and confined field trials
- Regulations and guidelines in place
- Science-based approval system
- Competent and functional regulatory system so far up to CFTs
- Experienced regulators and opportunities for capacity building
- Inspection and compliance

Big Rocks in Biosafety



Big Rocks

- Lack of legislative instrument – Biotech law
- No clear path forward for deployment and commercialization of compelling products beyond CFTs
- Increased activism and negative public perception
- Funding for biotechnology research
- Advocacy and weak political economy and competing interests
- Coordination of communication and advocacy

Emerging challenges

- Donor fatigue on project funding
- Emerging and re-emerging pests and diseases
- Adoption of these technologies in the region (Kenya , Nigeria, Mozambique, Sudan, Ethiopia etc.)
- The bio-economy as a driver for industry, job creation and the economy
- Increasing population and rising food prices
- Food and nutrition insecurity
- Climate change

All these challenges require innovations and new technologies

Thank you