

opment policy centered on economic development and environmental conservation, while ensuring the sound existence of many small local authorities (*communes*). Such penetration of public policy into local societies does not exist within hierarchical bureaucratic systems, but it is practised by representatives of local

authorities and a small number of staff members who are appointed for a specific period to participate in policy making.

#### Researchers

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## Study on Overseas Movements Regarding the Development and Regulations of Genetically Modified Crops

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### Introduction

This research was carried out from 2000 to 2003 as part of the study, "Comprehensive Study on Ensuring Safety in the Industrial Use of Genetically Modified Products" (1999 - 2003), which was conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

Over recent years, the development of genetic modification technology has been remarkable, and the application of GM technology in the agricultural industry is rapidly on the increase. On the other hand, the social acceptance of GM crops and food products in many countries around the world is in question. There are debates over the safety aspect of GM products as well as labelling and trading regulations amongst not only governmental bodies but also producers, consumers, those in the food industry, journalists as well those who are ethically and religiously concerned. Considering such circumstances, this research was intended to interpret and analyze the actual overseas movements regarding the development of GM crops and relevant regulations by means of social and economic analysis, and to clarify the influence and circumstances behind these movements.

In 2001, a field survey regarding movements of production, distribution and consumption of GM crops and food products as well as related regulations, was implemented in the US, Brazil, Argentina and Australia. Information on relevant movements in France and South Korea was also acquired by means of literature and the use of the Internet. One of the project members was sent to the University College London, to implement a consciousness survey regarding British people's valuation of GM food. In addition, a social and economic analysis was carried out in order to interpret the phenomenon of adverse selection and the friction caused between the US and EU over GM crops and food products, as well as discussing the significance of international regulations for GM products.

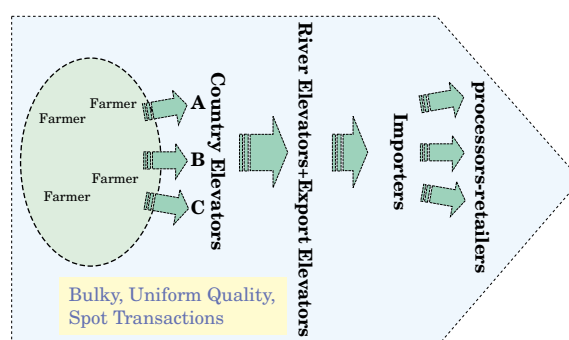
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#### Traditional Bulk Grain Handling



#### IP Handling

