

Risk Assessment and Biotechnology – ‘Get Jiggy with it!’
Charles Yoe

Biotechnology issues are of global importance and affect billions of people. They involve a great variety of wickedly complex problems. The solution of these problems is not well served by traditional planning and analytical methods because the world is uncertain and uncertainty means risk. Traditional food safety systems are no longer enough. Experience shows science-based approaches to our problems have helped. Risk analysis is a relatively new way of approaching problems that integrates science and social values. Risk analysis is a paradigm shift, a way of approaching problems. It comprises the three tasks of risk management, risk assessment and risk communication. It is not science but it is science-based and there are compelling reasons for doing risk analysis. It may be useful for managing biopesticides and transgenic insects.