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# Gender Dimensions of Biotechnology Policy and Trade

*Chapter in GENETIC ENGINEERING AND THE WORLD TRADE SYSTEM, Wueger and Cottier, ed., Cambridge University Press (2007)*

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## **Abstract**

Gender issues in biotechnology policy and trade are rapidly emerging as some of the most interesting and challenging within these fields. Gender issues have been identified in three important areas impacted by biotechnology, namely agriculture, traditional knowledge, and health. The policy discussion on these matters is still in its early stages and more research will be needed in order to formulate approaches that adequately incorporate a gender perspective. Gendered aspects of biotechnology also raise concerns in international trade law, which have not yet been addressed in the current legal framework at any level, including the World Trade Organization (“WTO”) regime. This paper analyzes some of these trends and then proposes ways in which gender might be mainstreamed into biotechnology policy and trade in order to better suit the needs of women.

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