

## **Proposed Research Outline**

### **Genetically Modified Food Labelling**

#### **1. Scope**

1.1 The purpose of this research paper is to provide the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene with information regarding genetically modified (GM) food labelling in overseas jurisdictions.

#### **2. Proposed Outline**

2.1 Introduction

2.2 A detailed discussion of the regulatory framework of GM food labelling, including:

- legislative history on GM food labelling;
- labelling regulations and policies;
- authorities involved in GM food labelling;
- enforcement methods; and
- cost and benefits of GM food labelling.

2.3 Analysis

- A comparison of the various attributes of the regulatory framework in overseas jurisdictions.

#### **3. Proposed Overseas Jurisdictions to be Studied**

3.1 The Research and Library Services Division (RLSD) proposes to study the following jurisdictions:

1. United States (US);
2. Australia; and
3. Japan.

3.2 These jurisdictions are chosen because:

1. in the US, labelling of GM foods is only required when the food is significantly different from its conventional counterpart in any of its product characteristics;
2. in Australia, there exists a threshold level of GM materials above which all GM foods are required to be labelled; and
3. in Japan, only designated food items that contain GM materials as major components are required to be labelled.

#### **4. Proposed Completion Date**

4.1 RLSD proposes to complete the research in March 2003.