



Biotechnology Regulation and GMOs

Law, Technology and Public Contestations in Europe

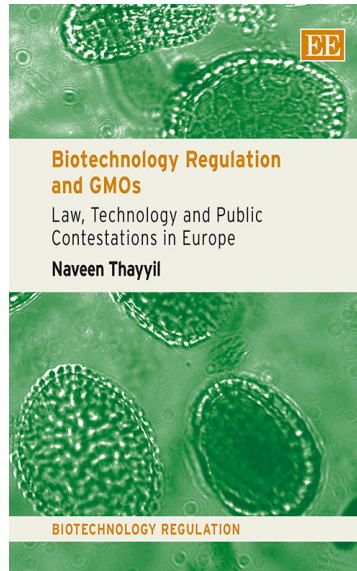
Biotechnology Regulation series

Naveen Thayyil, Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi, India

This book examines the EU regulatory framework in the Genetic Modification of agriculture and food to see how adequately EU law treats serious contestations about the development and use of GMOs. Since linkages between law, technology and public contestations could have a crucial dimension in the shaping of democratic societies, the space EU law provides for publics outside of the scientific experts to shape the regulation of GMOs becomes significant. By examining the employment of the precautionary principle and (the advices from) public bioethics committees in GMO regulation, this book examines the policy claim of public participation as a mechanism to represent and mediate public contestations about the use and regulation of GMOs.

'In this sophisticated examination of the EU regulatory framework for GMOs, Naveen Thayyil identifies a worrying shortfall between the commitment to public participation and its implementation—a deficit that results in a failure fully to engage the public in debates that represent their concerns (whether about what is 'safe' or what is 'right'). For anyone who senses that our technological futures are too important to be left to the 'experts', this is a book to be read.'

– Roger Brownsword, King's College London, UK



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