

SUZANO'S POSITIONING

Alleged threat of eucalyptus plantation practices to local bee population

In 2015, Suzano faced protests regarding its cultivation of genetically modified (GM) eucalyptus trees, amid claims of environmental impacts in the Maranhão region of Brazil. The alleged impacts included the contamination of conventional crops, threats to bee populations, economic losses in honey production, risks to human health, and potential harm to natural resources.

As standard practice, Suzano has conducted extensive and robust biotechnology research necessary for regulatory approval of GM eucalyptus. This GM variety underwent thorough evaluations to confirm the safety of all approved materials, specifically their biosafety, ensuring that they pose no risks to human, animal, or plant health, or to the environment. As a result, no concerns were noted.

In general, the safety assessment protocol, published by CTNBio – the National Technical Commission of Biosafety, includes analyses of the impact on the soil of crops, insects and microorganisms, as well as studies with indicator organisms (fish, earthworms, crustaceans, bees) to demonstrate whether a GM variety differs from conventional varieties. The biosafety studies carried out did not identify any risks distinct from conventional eucalyptus to the environment, as confirmed by the Consolidated Sectorial Opinion on Plant and Environmental Matters, Process 01200.000202/2014-71, [available here](#).

It is worth noting that Suzano operates in compliance with the Brazilian Biosafety Law, 11.105/2005, Normative Resolution No. 24/2021, as well as the regulations and communications published by CTNBio – an agency linked to the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation (MCTI), which regulates all issues related to the biosafety of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) for the Brazilian federal government. All facilities operate under a Biosafety Quality Certificate (CQB) issued by the Commission, are periodically inspected by CIBio – Internal Biosafety Commission, and supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply (MAPA) and the Ministry of the Environment (IBAMA).

As a matter of internal policy and best practices, any technology that is perceived to pose a risk to the environment, human, or animal health, is excluded before the initiation of development of such a technology. Products that present adverse or unexpected results during biosafety or performance evaluations have their development immediately suspended until a complete review of all criteria and results is finalized, which may lead to restructuring or project cancellation.

It is important to clarify that, under Brazilian law, all submissions, actions, approvals, and decisions made according to CTNBio's biosafety rules are publicly accessible, except for confidential information involving industrial secrets and competitive advantages that may be requested from CTNBio to be redacted but are subject to regular analysis. Furthermore, despite the absence of any legal barriers, Suzano does not commercialize or plant GM trees in its commercial operations to comply with certification requirements.

The company reiterates its commitment to ethics and compliance, transparency, and stakeholder engagement through its Responsible Management Program for Genetically Modified Trees.

Updated in September 2025.

***Corporate policies and related public commitments:**

Suzano S.A. Genetically Modified Trees Policy

Suzano S.A. Human Rights Policy

Suzano S.A. Wood Supply Policy

Suzano S.A. Corporate Environmental Management Policy

Technical Reports

Technical Report CTNBio

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<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10195733/>