

Issues relating to human experimentation with recombinant DNA are supervised by a general committee of clinical experimentation, which is an advisory arm of the Ministry of Health. Any experiment involving human beings and using recombinant DNA technology must be approved in advance. so far no applications for approval have been granted.

#### 5. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Israel is a signatory of the Paris Treaty, which deals with patents. In addition, Israel has a patent law similar to that in many Western European countries. As it stands, the law allows for the protection of genetically engineered micro-organisms. Plants are protected by breeder rights. The law is currently being reviewed and once revised, is expected to allow also for the protection of genetically engineered plants and animals.

#### 6. GENETIC RESOURCES

A gene bank for agriculturally important plants was established in 1978. The bank is responsible for collecting, preserving and analyzing genetic variant of plants in the following groups: winter and summer cereals, legumes, vegetables, ornamentals, cash crops, medicinal plants, spices, and natural gene reserves. Tissue culture cells are expected to be included in the future. the bank is located at the Volcani Research Center for Agriculture, and is part of an international network of plant banks. Genetic material is available from the bank, subject to approval by a special committee. No national microbial collections are available.