



SOUTHERN AFRICAN CONFEDERATION OF AGRICULTURAL UNIONS

MEDIA RELEASE

30 May 2011

SACAU ADOPTS A GMO POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Southern African Confederation of Agriculture Unions (SACAU) has adopted a policy framework on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO). The framework was adopted at its AGM which was recently held on May 18, 2011 in Vereeniging, South Africa.

The policy framework emanated from a policy conference which preceded the AGM, where farmers engaged with researchers and leading experts on the subject of GMOs in agricultural development in Southern Africa. Particularly highlighted in the framework is SACAU's acknowledgement that GM technology is one of the options that can increase production, improve productivity and incomes of farmers, and contribute to addressing food security challenges in the region.

Among others, the framework recognizes the need for evidence-based decision-making; the right of consumers to choose whether or not to consume GMO products; the need for more research and development as well as the widespread dissemination of the results of such research; the importance of directly involving farmers in R&D in GMOs and in related standards setting process and structures; that cost benefit analysis should also look at the costs associated with non adoption GMOs; the need to monitor trade in GMOs in the region; the importance of political will and harmonization of policies in the region, including the urgent need for a bio-safety framework for the region which ensures responsible development and regulation of GMOs in the region.

Following the adoption of the framework by the AGM, specific details of SACAU's key messages and position statements on GMOs are now being developed and will soon be published.

Editors' note

SACAU was originally established in 1992, and its Secretariat is based in Centurion, South Africa. Its membership is open to national farmers' unions in Southern Africa. In addition, it has now created associate membership from regional commodity organisations, agro-business organisations with a regional outreach; agricultural cooperative organisations with a regional outreach, and any organisation with a regional outreach participating in the agricultural value chains. In addition, honorary membership can also be bestowed to deserving organisations and/or individuals.

The organisation is involved in agricultural development in the region through advocacy on regional, continental and global matters impacting on agriculture in the region, by strengthening the capacities of farmers' organisations, and by providing agricultural related information to its members and other stakeholders.

Membership

SACAU has 16 members in 12 countries in southern Africa, namely:

Botswana	Botswana Agricultural Union (BAU)
Lesotho	Lesotho National Farmers Union (LENAFU)
Madagascar	Coalition Paysanne de Madagascar (CPM) Confédération des Agriculteurs Malagasy (FEKRITAMA)
Malawi	Farmers Union of Malawi (FUM) National Smallholders Farmers' Association of Malawi (NASFAM)
Namibia	Namibia Agricultural Union (NAU) Namibia National Farmers Union (NNFU)
Seychelles	Seychelles Farmers Association (SEYFA)
South Africa	Agri South Africa (AgriSA)
Swaziland	Swaziland National Agricultural Union (SNAU)
Tanzania	Agricultural Council of Tanzania (ACT)
Zambia	Zambia National Farmers Union (ZNFU)
Zimbabwe	Commercial Farmers Union (CFU) Zimbabwe Farmers Union (ZFU)
Mozambique	Uniao Nacional de Camponeses (UNAC)

For further information, contact:

Mr Ishmael D Sunga, CEO. Tel +27 (0)12 644 0808, e-mail ceo@sacau.org
Mr Bernard Likalimba, Tel +27 (0)12 644 0808, e-mail blikalimba@sacau.org

Issued by the Secretariat

30 May 2011

End