

SACAU 2011 Policy Conference

Policies and Frameworks regarding GMO's in Agricultural Development in Southern Africa





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Content



- GM technology adoption/regulation in the Southern African region.
- Policies and Frameworks to regulate GMO – Why?
- Policy makers attitudes, policy frameworks and implementation.
- Key areas needing policy attention.
- Policy recommendations and actions.

GM technology adoption/regulation in the Southern African region.

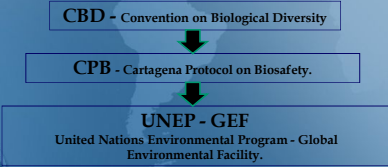
- South Africa - first approvals in 1997 (Bt cotton and maize).
 - Currently 15 events/ combinations (stacked events) approved for commercial release.
- Zimbabwe - confined field trials 2000 -2001 (Bt maize).



South African Approvals	Bt 1.	Bt 2.	HT 1.	HT 2.	Bt 1 x HT 1	Bt 2 x HT 2 **BT2 x HT 1.
Maize	2	1	2		2	1**
Soybean			1			
Cotton	1	1	1	1	1	1

Policies and Frameworks to regulate GMO – Why?

- Originators of regulatory guidelines - **the innovators themselves!**
 - SAGENE (South African Committee on Genetic Experimentation).
- Mid 80's risk assessment/regulation was developed.
 - Scientists, governments and other stakeholders under the auspices of the OECD.
- In 1986 publication of the "Blue Book" - "**Recombinant DNA Safety Considerations.**"








Policy makers attitudes, policy frameworks and implementation.

- Policy makers attitudes differ:
 - From country to country.
 - Between ministries within a single country.
- Generally speaking departments with portfolios covering:
 - Agriculture, Education and Science are - **proactive/action orientated.**
 - Environment, Health and Trade are - **less enthusiastic.**

Ultimately pragmatic governments who can visualize the opportunities develop the necessary legislation to realize those opportunities.


- What progress in other African countries outside SADC?






Policy makers attitudes, policy frameworks and implementation.

Modern Biotechnology is a multi sector technology.

- Biosafety Policy, National Frameworks and Legislation needs to cover all opportunities, however.....
- Early adopters vs. later adopters > CBD > CPB > UNEP - GEF



Policy makers attitudes, policy frameworks and implementation.

	Biosafety Policy.	National Biosafety framework.	Biosafety/Biotech. Acts	Regulations.
Botswana		2004 and 2006 (draft Bill for GMO)	○	
Lesotho		Drafted 2005 NS&TP	○	
Malawi		NBBP 2008	✓ Biosafety Act 2002	✓ Regulations and guidelines ✓
Mauritius		Draft in progress.	○ GMO Act 2004	✓ Drafted but ○
Namibia		Draft in progress	○ Biosafety Act 2006	✓ Drafted but ○
Seychelles		NAFP 2003 - 2013 ✓	Draft in progress	○
South Africa		NBS 2001 ✓ NBES ○	Pest Act. 1983 GMO Acts 1997 & 2006 ✓	Regulations and guidelines ✓
Swaziland		Draft + BP & BA 2006	○	
Zambia		NBBP 2003 ✓	Biosafety Act 10	✓
Zimbabwe		NBP ✓	NRA 1998 NBAA 2006	✓ Acts included reg. ✓

Source: SANBio ○ = not approved ✓ = in force.

- ### Key areas needing policy attention.
- Familiarity and Experience.
 - Governments have different Departments/Ministries:
 - The big Four ...Agriculture, Science, Health and Environment.
 - All have regulations relative to Feed, Food, Human and Environmental safety.
 - Examine these regulations first before developing Biotech. specific legislation.
 - Consider borders are political creations not necessary reflecting geographical biodiversity.
 - Risk assessment and management are constants. Data packages always the same?
 - Policy makers need good scientific knowledge! Consult scientists and regulators internally and externally.

- ### Policy recommendations and actions.
- Best policies based on good sound science and global experience. Acts and regulations, with regard to plant biotechnology, are essentially the same.**
- Intensive research and development covering risk assessment and management.
 - Regulatory requirements stricter than pesticide approvals.
 - Data based on global consensus data points. (OECD, WHO, FAO, Codex alimentarius and country regulators, academies of science and medical institutions/associations.
- Innovator adherence to the three bullets above.**
- **Harmonisation of legal requirements for plant biotechnology across the SADC countries.**

- ### Conclusions.
- Harmonise across the SADC region - maybe beyond?
 - Create the legal Acts and regulations to be able to evaluate the technology.....only then accept or reject.
 - Harmonisation would improve trade between member countries.
 - Plant Biotechnology could then become an additional tool in the toolkit for increased sustainable agricultural production.
 - Global population explosion.
 - Africa's low production yields together with poor quality harvests.
 - Unstable climatic conditions.

Thank You

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