

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL UNDER GMO ACT, 1997 HELD ON
03 MARCH 2009, HARVEST HOUSE, ROOM 332, PRETORIA**

PRESENT

Dr J Jaffha (Chairperson)
Mr B Durham
Dr G Bouwer
Ms W P Mandivenyi

Department of Agriculture (DoA)
Department of Science and Technology (DST)
Chairperson of the Advisory Committee (AC) under the GMO Act, 1997
Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT)

APOLOGIES

Mr A Pretorius
Ms E Koekemoer

Department of Health (DoH)
Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)

VACANT

Representative

Department of Labour (DoL)

IN ATTENDANCE

Ms C Arendse
Ms G Christians
Ms E Jantjies
Ms T Mogapi
Ms R Chanda
Mr S Mokhothu
Ms L Segooa
Ms P Kershaw

Department of Agriculture
Department of Agriculture
Department of Agriculture
Department of Agriculture
Department of Health
Department of Agriculture
Department of Science and Technology
Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism

NO.	SUBJECT	RESOLUTION	FOR ATTENTION
1.	OPENING AND WELCOME	The Chairperson welcomed those present.	
2.	ATTENDANCE REGISTER AND APOLOGIES	The attendance register was circulated to everyone present for signature and Apologies were presented for Ms E Koekemoer (the dti) and Mr A Pretorius (DoH).	
3.	ADDITIONS TO AND	The agenda was adopted with the following additions:	

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	ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA	5.16 Feedback on the Austrian study 7.5 Publication by the African Centre for Biosafety 7.6 DST developments	
4.	APPROVAL OF THE RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF 27 JANUARY 2009	The record of proceedings of the meeting of 27 January 2009 were amended and approved.	
5.	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PROCEEDINGS		

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5.1	Feedback on appeals lodged under the GMO Act (DoA)	<p>(i) The EC noted that the CSIR responded to the request to submit further information on the medium to long term goals of the project regarding the application for CSIR-06/005. Contained use of GM Sorghum for further evaluation and that the permit will be issued and the Minister informed accordingly.</p> <p>(ii) The EC requested the OoR to include as part of the permit conditions, that the filters for the contained use of GM sorghum must be sufficient.</p> <p>(iii) The EC requested that the OoR draft the permit conditions and circulate them amongst the EC members</p> <p>(iv) The EC noted that the appeal decision with regard to application ARC: IIC-06/001: Contained use of GM Cassava is still pending.</p>	Registrar Registrar Registrar
5.2	Update on outcome of Argentina fact finding mission (DoA)	<p>(i) The EC noted that a proposal for training, planning workshop and seminar will be forwarded to the DEXCO committee for approval.</p> <p>(ii) The EC noted that recommendations based on a similar project will be forwarded the AC members to get some inputs as to what topics should be included in the training.</p>	Registrar
5.3	Commodities (Registrar)	<p>(i) The EC noted that the registrar and members of the EC from thedti and DoH attended the SABS standards meeting on 23 February 2009 to discuss the scope of the standards for approval.</p> <p>(ii) The EC noted that applicants were requested to submit the outstanding information with regard to risk management measures but the OoR has received no response.</p> <p>(iii) The EC suggested that the OoR indicate to the applicants that they have 7 days to submit the outstanding information and that failure to do will result in the permits being suspended for the existing applications and new applications will not be approved.</p>	OoR

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5.4	Appointment of AC members	(i) The EC noted that the appointment of Advisory Committee members is still in progress.	OoR
5.5	Syngenta – 08/096: Commodity clearance of maize MIR604xGA21 (Registrar)	(i) The EC noted that a report from an allergen expert regarding all four applications was received with additional questions and these have been forwarded to the applicant and that a response has not yet been received from the applicant.	OoR
5.6	AND Syngenta – 08/097: Commodity clearance of triple stacked Maize Bt11xMIR604xGA21 (Registrar)	(ii) The EC noted that concerns raised regarding the Syngenta applications were forwarded to the applicant and the response is still awaited.	OoR
5.7	Pioneer 08/336: Commodity clearance – Soybean 356043 (Registrar)	(iii) The EC noted that the OoR has been requested to only make use of a nutritionist for applications that claim to have enhanced nutritional characteristics.	OoR
5.8	AND Pioneer 08/340: Commodity clearance – Soybean 305423 (registrar)		
5.9	SASRI 08/011: Trial release of GM Sugarcane NCo310, multiple events	(i) The EC had previously approved the application for trial release but have decided that the decision is pending subject to submission of separate applications for the multiple events by the applicant.	OoR
5.10	AND SASRI 08/010: Fast track of GM sugarcane (NCo310) (Registrar)	(ii) The EC reserved a decision on the decision for the application SASRI 08/010: Fast track of GM sugarcane (NCo310)	OoR

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5.11	GMO Appeal Guidelines (DoA)	(i) The EC noted that a revised copy of the document was circulated in January and again in February for comments. (ii) The EC recommended that the proposed guidelines be approved in principle and that the document remains a work in progress.	OoR
5.12	Monsanto 08/470: Trial Release of GM maize event MON89034 and stacked event MON89034 x NK603 AND	(i) The EC noted that a decision on these two applications is pending the submission of additional information.	OoR
5.13	Monsanto 08/546: Fast track of GM maize event MON89034		
5.14	Pioneer 08/360: Import and contained use of maize TC1507 AND	(i) The EC recommended approval of the application Pioneer 08/360: Import and contained use of maize TC1507 and Pioneer 08/361: Import and contained use of maize 98140 and the quantity to be imported for each application be limited to 10kg.	OoR
5.15	Pioneer 08/361: Import and contained use of maize 98140		
5.16	Feedback on Austrian Study	(ii) The EC noted that the reports from current AC members, an allergen expert and a statistician have been forwarded to the AC Chairperson who will provide EC with a comprehensive report with regard to the study.,	OoR
6.	NEW APPLICATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED BY EC		
6.1	Triclinium 08/018: Import and Trial Release of AERAS-402 TB Vaccine	(i) The EC recommended approval of the application Triclinium 08/018: Import and trial release of AERAS 402 TB vaccine pending MCC approval.	OoR

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6.2	Triclinium 09/020: Import of AERAS C-20-485	(i) The EC recommended approval of the application Triclinium 09/020: Import of AERAS C-20-485 pending that the issues raised are addressed.	OoR
7 7.1	GENERAL Regulatory and policy development (All)	(i) The EC noted that correspondence regarding the Consumer Protection Bill was received and that the Bill is currently with the President for signing. The GMO clause has been retained in the current version of the Bill. (ii) The EC noted that the draft regulations for the National IP Management Office (NIPMO) will be gazetted for public comment. This office will be responsible for co-ordinating public funding.	DoH DST
7.2	Liability and Redress (Registrar)	(i) The EC noted that a stakeholder meeting was held on 6 February 2009. (ii) No feedback has been received with regard to the meeting in Mexico held from 23-27 February 2009. The DoA will meet as soon as feedback is received to get an update and identify the key issues to prepare for the COP-MOP meeting that will be held in 2010. (iii) The EC noted that the documents reporting on the outcomes of the Liability and Redress meeting will be distributed as soon as it becomes available.	OoR and EC members DEAT
7.3	General planning calendar 2009/2010 (Registrar)	The EC noted that the following issues have been placed on the EC planning calendar 2009/2010 namely:- (i) The EC noted that a CSIR representative submitted a proposal for coordinating a workshop on pharma crops and was hoping to determine the interest amongst scientists in South Africa, including the EC and AC. (ii) The EC noted that PlantBio will be arranging a workshop on biopharming on 12 March 2009. The workshop will focus on conceptualising biopharming and assessing the needs in terms of capacity and equipment in order to setup this kind of research. (iii) The EC suggested that OoR continues to make arrangements for another port visit.	EC Members & OoR

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7.4	Stellenbosch 06/11: GM Grapevine (Registrar)	(i) The EC recommended approval of the application Stellenbosch 06/11: GM grapevine pending submission of additional information.	OoR
7.5	Publication by African Centre for Biosafety	(i) The EC noted the publication by the African Centre for Biosafety on GM Human Vaccine Trials in SA. (ii) The EC requested that the document be circulated amongst the EC members.	DoH
7.6	DST developments	<p>The EC noted the following developments by DST:</p> <p>(i) DST is currently reviewing the National Biotechnology Strategy and the draft will be ready by the end of 2009. They are currently undertaking audits of technologies to invest in the capabilities that South Africa currently has and to identify gaps, strengths and opportunities to come up with the new strategy. They would like to incorporate institutions into TIA Innovation Agencies and indicated that institution names are likely to change, but will still maintain regional presence.</p> <p>(ii) DST has established a Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) and is currently in the process of appointing board members. The announcement of the members will be made at the end of March 2009.</p> <p>(iii) PlantBio is looking into Biopharming (see 7.3 (ii))</p> <p>(iv) The establishment of a Bioprospecting platform is being considered in order to take advantage of biodiversity heritage.</p> <p>(v) DST is also investigating the possibility of a Preclinical Trial Platform in order to take advantage of drug development and trial processes within South Africa and to also build the relevant capacity.</p>	DST
8	Date of the next meeting	The date for the next meeting is scheduled for 12 May 2009.	

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9	Closure	The meeting was concluded at 14h15.	

Approved by Chairperson

Dr J Jaffha
Name



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Signature

Approved by Registrar

Ms G Christians
Name



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Signature