

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL UNDER GMO ACT, 1997 HELD ON 20
NOVEMBER 2006, HARVEST HOUSE, ROOM 341, PRETORIA**

PRESENT

Dr J Jaftha (Chairperson)
Mr B Durham
Ms L Sello
Mr D Pretorius
Ms M Vosges
Ms E L Marshall (Secretariat)

Department of Agriculture (DoA)
Department of Science and Technology (DST)
Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT)
Department of Health (DoH)
Department of Agriculture (Registrar)
Department of Agriculture

ABSENT

Mr L Motshelanoka

Department of Labour (DoL)

With apologies:

Ms E Koekemoer

Department of Trade and Industry (dti)

IN ATTENDANCE

Ms SMG Zwane
Ms WP Mandivenyi
Ms T Magagula
Mr MD Matlala
Ms E Jantjies
Ms MI Molepo
Ms R Chanda
Ms S M Molefe

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

NO.	SUBJECT	RESOLUTION	FOR ATTENTION
-----	---------	------------	------------------

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL UNDER GMO ACT, 1997 HELD ON 20
NOVEMBER 2006, HARVEST HOUSE, ROOM 341, PRETORIA**

NO.	SUBJECT	RESOLUTION	FOR ATTENTION
1.	OPENING AND WELCOME	Dr Jaftha as the new Chairperson welcomed all present at the meeting and requested the same level of support as shown to his predecessor.	
2.	ATTENDANCE REGISTER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The attendance register was circulated to everyone present for signature. (ii) Apology from Ms E Koekemoer was noted. 	
3.	ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA	<p>The agenda was adopted with the following additions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6.7 WITS-06/017: Import and Clinical Trials with HIV-1 vaccine 7.2 Codex ad hoc intergovernmental Task Force on foods derived from Biotechnology 9.1 Capacity and development training of Executive Council 	
4.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES	The minutes of the meeting of 4 October 2006 was approved.	
5.	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 17 AUGUST 2006		

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL UNDER GMO ACT, 1997 HELD ON 20
NOVEMBER 2006, HARVEST HOUSE, ROOM 341, PRETORIA**

NO.	SUBJECT	RESOLUTION	FOR ATTENTION
5.1	Risk assessment of stacked plant biotechnology products and Ecological Risk Assessment (DEAT)	(i) It was decided that before the end of January 2007 DEAT will have consolidated all the comments from all the relevant stakeholders and submitted a draft document to the Council for discussion at the Council meeting scheduled for 30 January 2007 .	DEAT
5.2	Visit to Argentina to benchmark SA trade implications (DoA)	(i) The Office of Registrar was requested to propose dates for the visit early in 2007 and to take the time which will elapse before the Cabinet meeting as well as at least six weeks for individual departments to finalise their approvals and arrangements, into consideration. (ii) The Council noted that the Cabinet Memorandum not only indicates trade implications but also relates to the broader biotechnology issues which will assist Departments in approaching their respective Ministers for approval of the intended visit and that DoA will provide DoH with a copy of the Cabinet memorandum for information purposes.	Registrar
5.3	Guideline for classification of GMO facilities (Registrar)	(a) The Council noted that the guideline for classification of GMO facilities will focus on both greenhouses and laboratories and will be circulated by the end of the year to members for inputs and discussion at the Council meeting scheduled for 13 March 2007 .	Registrar
5.4	Study by dti (DoA)	(i) The Council noted the report by the Registrar that experts at the University of the Free State have been approached to utilise an existing model to assist in determining the impact of different scenarios regarding trade implications on GMOs.	

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL UNDER GMO ACT, 1997 HELD ON 20
NOVEMBER 2006, HARVEST HOUSE, ROOM 341, PRETORIA**

NO.	SUBJECT	RESOLUTION	FOR ATTENTION
5.5	Strategy regarding participation in workshops (DoA)	<p>(ii) The Council noted that the University of the Free State will submit a report by the end of 2006 and as this is not the expertise of the DoA, dti will be relied upon to analyse the information.</p> <p>(i) The Council noted that in accordance with a recent decision within the DoA, all invitations to attend workshop have to be extended via the Office of the Director-General and that a longer notification period is needed for a response to whether the DoA will participate in any particular workshop.</p> <p>(ii) It was agreed that individual members on the Council still maintain their status of being autonomous government departments but are challenged as administrators of the GMO Act, 1997, to respond to a range of issues.</p> <p>(iii) It was agreed that individual departments represented on the Council are responsible for their respective mandates and no other department will pronounce on that particular mandate.</p> <p>(iv) Should the Council have a particular position or reached a consensus view and agreement it will be communicated as such but any other than that is the responsibility of the individual departments.</p> <p>(v) The Council agreed that they are committed members of the Council and will enhance the relationship with the various stakeholders by providing the necessary support where applicable and (resources permitting) stakeholder engagement is sought.</p>	
5.6	Monsanto-04/205: General Release of maize MON810xNK603	<p>(i) The Council has noted that DEAT is of the opinion that there is new information on which the Council is requested to review the application.</p>	Registrar

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL UNDER GMO ACT, 1997 HELD ON 20
NOVEMBER 2006, HARVEST HOUSE, ROOM 341, PRETORIA**

NO.	SUBJECT	RESOLUTION	FOR ATTENTION
6.	NEW APPLICATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED BY EC:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (ii) In terms of the application of Monsanto stacked maize MON810xNK603 DEAT was requested to indicate what new information has been submitted and how the Council should deal with it. (iii) DEAT suggested that the Council review the socio-economic impact that has been presented by the applicant. The applicant has attempted to highlight the target beneficiaries of the technology and have also looked at information on the changes in agricultural management practices, particularly with emphases on reduction in use of herbicides and pesticides and the total herbicides usage for those crops and recommends that a report from the applicant be made available to the Council in order for them to consider the information for a decision at the Council meeting of 30 January 2007. (iv) The Office of the Registrar will request the applicant to submit a revised post market monitoring plan which will accompany the application which the Council has to consider. 	<p>DEAT</p> <p>All members</p> <p>Registrar</p>
6.1	SA Bioproducts-06/010: Contained use for production of L-Phenylalanine	The Executive Council approved the application SA Bioproducts-06/010: Contained use for production of L-Phenylalanine.	Registrar

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL UNDER GMO ACT, 1997 HELD ON 20
NOVEMBER 2006, HARVEST HOUSE, ROOM 341, PRETORIA**

NO.	SUBJECT	RESOLUTION	FOR ATTENTION
6.2	Monsanto-05/276: General release of cotton, RR-Flex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) A decision on the application for Monsanto-05/276: General release of cotton, RR-Flex cannot be made without the applicant submitting a case specific post market monitoring plan which DEAT will assess. (ii) The applicant must also, in view of the updated technology, share their strategy for the phasing out of the dated technology and the introduction of the updated technology, with the Council. (iii) The matter will again be discussed at the next Council meeting scheduled for 30 January 2007. 	Registrar Registrar
6.3	Monsanto-06/297: Field trials with Abiotic Stress maize	The Council's decision on the application Monsanto-06/297: Field trials with Abiotic Stress maize, is pending the submission of the required information by the applicant.	Registrar
6.4	Monsanto-06/309: Field trials with Herbicide tolerant Soybeans.	Provided that documentation is available that indicate which lines would be imported, the application Monsanto-06/309: Field trials with Herbicide tolerant Soybeans is approved .	Registrar
6.5	ARC:IIC-06/002: Contained use of GM Cassava	The Council decided to request further information from the applicant as they do not want to be in a position to overturn an approval half way through the process, and will consider it together with the new trial release application at the next meeting on 30 January 2007.	Registrar
6.6	Bayer-06/001: Commodity Clearance with Liberty Link Rice (LLRICE62)	Council decided that a decision on this application is pending the outcome of the dti study.	Registrar

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL UNDER GMO ACT, 1997 HELD ON 20
NOVEMBER 2006, HARVEST HOUSE, ROOM 341, PRETORIA**

NO.	SUBJECT	RESOLUTION	FOR ATTENTION
6.7	WITS-06/017 & 018: Import and Clinical Trials with HIV-1 vaccine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The Council approved the application WITS-06/017 & 018: Import and Clinical Trials with HIV-1 vaccine. (ii) The Council indicated that engagement in the future with the MCC on policies and practices, would be useful. 	Registrar
7.	NEW MATTERS		
7.1	Renewal of AC appointments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The Council noted that currently three members of the Advisory Committee's terms of office have expired and that they must be renewed in order to maintain capacity whilst a new process has to be started to ensure continuity. (ii) The Council agreed to the reappointment for the next 5 years of F Botha, S Cawe and H du Plessis. 	Registrar
7.2	<i>Codex ad hoc</i> Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods derived from Biotechnology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The Council noted that South Africa, as a member of the <i>Codex ad hoc</i> Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods derived from Biotechnology, will participate in the proceedings in Chiba, Japan from 27 November-1December 2006, around an agenda item submitted by the United States of America titled "Discussion paper on Food Safety Assessment of Low Level Presence of Recombinant-DNA Plant Material in Food Resulting from Asynchronous Authorizations" (ii) The Council further noted the DoH concern that the issues in this paper predominantly on trade issues rather than food safety issues. (iii) After an in depth discussion the Council concluded that the work programme on this Task Force is not a concern to S A and DoA will 	

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL UNDER GMO ACT, 1997 HELD ON 20
NOVEMBER 2006, HARVEST HOUSE, ROOM 341, PRETORIA**

NO.	SUBJECT	RESOLUTION	FOR ATTENTION
8.	STANDING MATTERS	take it to their Directorate Food Safety for a brief consultation whilst other individual Departments will provide a formal response to DoH.	
8.1	Copy of permits issued since last meeting	(i) The Executive Council noted the list of permits issued since the last meeting of the Executive Council.	
8.2	Report on current trials	(i) The Executive Council noted the Summary of GMO trials Planted in Growing Season 2006-2007. (ii) The Executive Council requested the Registrar to, where available, include in the report, the coordinates of the trials.	Registrar
9.	GENERAL		
9.1	Capacity building and development training of the Executive Council	(i) DST indicated that it would welcome a 2 to 3 day intense workshop where the Executive Council can come to grips with its mandate, scope, existing policies, legislation and issues which it is currently dealing with. (ii) DST will forward a list of issues they wish to be addressed at the proposed workshop to the Office of the Registrar who will determine how they can accommodate such a workshop.	DST Registrar
9.2	Status of the GMO Amendment Bill	The Executive Council noted that the Afrikaans translation of the amendments to the GMO Amendment Bill had to be finalised and was received for confirmation, prior to the Bill being submitted to the President for signature.	

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL UNDER GMO ACT, 1997 HELD ON 20
NOVEMBER 2006, HARVEST HOUSE, ROOM 341, PRETORIA**

NO.	SUBJECT	RESOLUTION	FOR ATTENTION
10.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	(i) The Executive Council noted the list of proposed dates for meeting in 2007 and that should they have a problem with the proposals, to consult with and submit alternative dates to the Office of the Registrar. (ii) The next meeting of the Executive Council will take place on 30 January 2007.	All members
11.	CLOSURE	The meeting was concluded at 12:05.	

Approved by Council on 30 January 2007.