

**MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL UNDER GMO ACT, 1997 HELD ON
23 OCTOBER 2007, HARVEST HOUSE, ROOM 332, PRETORIA**

PRESENT

Dr J Jaftha (Chairperson)	Department of Agriculture (DoA)
Ms L Sello	Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT)
Mr A Pretorius	Department of Health (DoH)
Ms E Koekemoer	Department of Trade and Industry (the dti)
Mr B Durham	Department of Science and Technology (DST)
Dr G Bouwer	Chairperson of the Advisory Committee under GMO Act, 1997
Ms R Ngoepe (Secretariat)	Department of Agriculture

ABSENT

Mr L Motshelanoka	Department of Labour (DoL)
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IN ATTENDANCE

Ms C Arendse	Department of Agriculture
Ms E Jantjies	Department of Agriculture
Ms T Mogapi	Department of Agriculture
Mr S Mokhothu	Department of Agriculture
Ms R Chanda	Department of Health
Mr M Masilela	Department of Environmental Affairs
Ms K C Malakalaka	Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism
Dr M N Molefe	Department of Science and Technology

NO.	SUBJECT	RESOLUTION	FOR ATTENTION
1.	OPENING AND WELCOME	The Chairperson welcomed those present and especially Dr Molefe, the newly appointed Policy Analyst at the Department of Science and Technology who will henceforth be in attendance.	

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NO.	SUBJECT	RESOLUTION	FOR ATTENTION
2.	ATTENDANCE REGISTER AND APOLOGIES	The attendance register was circulated to everyone present for signature.	
3.	ADDITIONS TO AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA	The agenda was adopted.	
4.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 18 September 2007	The minutes of the meeting of 18 September 2007 were approved. The Council agreed that when members are not in attendance, recommendations received in writing should be noted in the minutes.	
5. 5.1	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 18 September 2007 Risk assessment of stacked plant biotechnology products and Ecological Risk Assessment (DEAT)	(i) The Council noted that the draft ERA document was introduced at the AC Meeting of 10/10/2007. (ii) The Council noted that at this meeting it was decided that a joint workshop be held for AC and EC members to discuss and deliberate on the contents of the ERA document. Dates for the joint workshop will be finalized for the end of this year or early in 2008.	Office of Registrar & DEAT

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5.2	Visit to Argentina to benchmark SA trade implications (DoA)	<p>(i) The Council noted that the BTOR for the fact finding mission to Argentina had been compiled and circulated for comments. The report has also been forwarded to the Mission in Argentina.</p> <p>(ii) The Council noted the following comments made by members:</p> <p>DST: The report has been forwarded to their international division for the incorporation of Biosafety issues in bilaterals</p> <p>DEAT: They will evaluate recommendations made with regard to monitoring.</p> <p>the dti: The next mission should include a visit to a country that is a nett importer of GMO's in order to evaluate experiences concerning commodity clearance imports.</p> <p>DOH: The consolidated report was submitted to the Minister of Health.</p>	Executive Council
5.3	Study by the dti (DoA)	<p>(i) The Council noted the response by Ms E Koekemoer who referred the document to the WTO Desk for comments.</p> <p>(ii) The Council noted the request by Ms E Koekemoer that the Office of the Registrar assist by providing information on countries that do allow commodity clearance imports and those countries that do not allow such imports.</p>	the dti & Office of Registrar
5.4	Participation in Codex Task Force Meeting (DoA)	<p>(i) The Council noted the feedback provided by Ms C Arendse that for the DoA the focal point for FAO/Codex is the Directorate Food Safety and Quality Assurance (FSQA). Ms Arendse reported that she will follow up on the mandate of FSQA participation on the relevant committees.</p> <p>(ii) The Council noted the feedback provided by Ms R Chanda of DoH, with regard to the outcome of the recent Codex Task Force meeting. Ms</p>	

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5.5	Monsanto-07/363: General release of cotton(BGIIXRFFlex)	<p>Chanda explained that the task force was an <i>ad hoc</i> committee established to address specific issues on GMO's. It was noted that the committee had completed their work and that specific recommendations resulting from the task force meetings will now be submitted to the Codex Commission for adoption in June 2008.</p> <p>(iii) The Council noted the request received from the Codex Secretariat for member countries to share information on food safety assessments conducted on GMO's. The Council recommended that the DoH be the contact point and requested that they follow up with the Codex Secretariat on the details of the information being requested. It was also noted that the DoA would follow up on the existing linkage of the DoA to the FAO specifically the IPFSAPH-Safety Assessment portal. It was noted that the request from the Codex Secretariat will be discussed in greater detail at the next EC meeting.</p> <p>(i) The Council noted the issues regarding the post market monitoring plan.</p> <p>(ii) The Council noted the feedback given by Ms Chanda as to why catfish as a model is acceptable to use for cotton feeding studies.</p> <p>(iii) The Council recommended that the application be approved subject to a permit condition that a monitoring plan be submitted for the following season's trial results.</p>	<p>DoH & DoA</p> <p>Executive Council</p> <p>Office of Registrar</p>
5.6	Stellenbosch – 06/011: Field trials with GM Grapevine (GUS)	<p>(i) The Council noted that no feedback had been received from the client despite follow ups being made and recommended that the application be removed from the agenda until a response has been received from the applicant.</p>	<p>Registrar</p>

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NO.	SUBJECT	RESOLUTION	FOR ATTENTION
5.7	Feedback on Appeals Lodged under the GMO Act	<p>(i) The Council noted that the Appeal Board for the sorghum application had forwarded their decision to the Minister.</p> <p>(ii) The Council noted the Appeal Board hearing for the Cassava application held on the 8th October 2007 and was informed that the decision of the board was expected to be forwarded to the Minister a week after the hearing.</p>	Chairperson
6.	NEW APPLICATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED BY EC		
6.1	Triclinium-07/010: Export of TB vaccine, MVA85A	<p>(i) The Council approved the application on condition that the results of the study at Oxford University are made available to the EC.</p> <p>(i) The Council noted that official notification was received from the applicant confirming the suspension of further trials in SA. It was concluded that the application be withdrawn and that the Office of the Registrar should follow up on further activities by the applicant through monitoring and inspection.</p>	Office of Registrar
6.2	WITS-07/020: Extended permit for trial release of MRKAd5 HIV-1 gag/pol/nef vaccine.		Office of Registrar
6.3	Monsanto-07/394: Extended permit for Import and trial release MON89034 and MON89304x NK603	<p>(i) The Council noted the recommendations submitted by DST and the AC chairperson, Dr G Boucher.</p> <p>(ii) The application was approved.</p> <p>(i) The Council noted the comments from Dr Boucher. Council decided that the application be sent back on the bases of insufficient documentation</p>	Office of Registrar

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NO.	SUBJECT	RESOLUTION	FOR ATTENTION
6.4	Bayer-07/003: Extended permit for Import and Trial release, BGIIxRRFlex	and information and that the applicant be requested to re-submit.	Office of Registrar
STANDING MATTERS			
7.	Copies of permits issued since last meeting	The Council noted permits issued since the last meeting.	Executive Council
7.1	Report on current trials	The Council noted the report on current trials.	
7.2			
GENERAL			
8.	Syngenta-Maize Monitoring Plan	The Council noted the discussions under 5.5 and members will submit comments on the Syngenta Monitoring Plan.	Office of Registrar
8.1	GMO Permit Extension Policy	(i) The Council noted the request by Monsanto for an extension permit that included the import of increased volumes of seed.	
8.2		(ii) The Council approved the application. (iii) It was recommended that the Office of the Registrar closely monitor the trial site and volumes of seed. (iv) Dr J Jaftha reported that the review of GMO application forms needs to consider linkages to agricultural practises such as field trial layouts.	
9.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	Proposed dates for 2008 were distributed for comments.	
CLOSURE			

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NO.	SUBJECT	RESOLUTION	FOR ATTENTION
10.		The meeting was concluded at 11:20.	Executive Council

Approved by Chairperson

Dr J Jaftha
Name

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Signature

Date:

Approved by Registrar

Dr J. Jaftha
Name

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Signature

Date: