MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL UNDER THE GMO ACT, 1997 HELD ON 25 JANUARY 2011, GONDWANALAND, DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, PRETORIA

PRESENT

Dr J Jaftha (Chairperson)	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF)
Mr B Durham	Department of Science and Technology (DST)
Ms W P Mandivenyi	Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)
Mr A Pretorius	Department of Health (DoH)
Dr G Bouwer	Chairperson of the Advisory Committee (AC) under the GMO Act, 1997
Ms E Koekemoer	Department of Trade and Industry (**the dti**)

APOLOGIES

Ms J Mhlophe	Department of Labour (DoL)

IN ATTENDANCE

Ms C Arendse	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF)
Ms E Jantjies	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF)
Ms I Muedi	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (secretariat) (DAFF)
Ms R Chanda	Department of Health (DoH)
Mr S Mokhothu	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF)
Ms L Segooa	Department of Science and Technology (DST)
Mr Tshifhiwa Madima	Department of Trade and Industry (**the dti**)

NO.	SUBJECT	RESOLUTION	FOR ATTENTION
1.	**OPENING AND WELCOME**	The Chairperson welcomed those present at the EC meeting.	EC Chairperson
2.	**ATTENDANCE REGISTER AND APOLOGIES**	The attendance register was circulated to everyone present for signature.	EC Chairperson
3.	**ADDITIONS TO AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**	The agenda was adopted with the following additions: 7.7 SADC High Level Dialogue on biotechnology and biosafety 7.8 AfricaBio request for capacity building needs	

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NO.	SUBJECT	RESOLUTION	FOR ATTENTION
4.	**APPROVAL OF THE RECORD OF PROCEE-DINGS OF 07 September 2010**	The record of proceedings of the meeting held on 26 October 2010 were amended and approved.	
5.	**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PROCEEDINGS**		
5.1	Feedback on appeals lodged under the GMO Act (DAFF)	(i) The EC members were informed that in terms of the GMO potato appeal, the Appeal board is scheduled to meet on 8 February 2011 to resolve African Centre for Biosafety's (ACB) PAIA request to access the appeal document of the Agricultural Research Council (ARC).	DAFF
5.2	Commodities (Registrar) (a) SABS standard	(i) The EC **noted** that the standard was placed on the SABS website on 21 December for public comments. The closing date to submit inputs is 28 February 2011.The document was circulated to EC members in December 2010 and members were requested to submit inputs.	OoR
	(b) Asynchronous approvals	(i) None	OoR

NO.	SUBJECT	RESOLUTION	FOR ATTENTION
	(c) Permit conditions	(i) The EC **noted** that the OoR had an informal meeting with **the dti** and DST to clarify their inputs to the different types of commodity permits. Once final inputs are received from DST, permits will be amended accordingly and circulated amongst EC members.	OoR
	(d) Responses from applicants regarding why GM events contained in commodity applications are not being considered for general release in SA.	(i) The EC **noted** the responses from Bayer, Pioneer, Syngenta, Monsanto and Dow Agroscience regarding the request that was circulated to them. (ii) Following much deliberation on the responses received the following was agreed: • The OoR would distribute a matrix of the pending Commodity Clearance applications indicating the events and subsequent activities approved for each of these events. • DAFF and **the dti** will engage the National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) to discuss the possible extension of the previous trade study to look into the benefits of individual events.	EC (all members) OoR
5.3	Pioneer 17/3/1-Pioneer - 09/383:Commodity clearance of maize 98140 (DoH, Registrar, AC Chair)	(i) The EC **noted** that the report on NAA/NAG and the application was forwarded to the review chairperson for further consideration. It was recommended that the review chairperson analyse Pioneer's information and provide an opinion on the results in order to determine whether additional information is required. (ii) The AC chair and DoH was requested to liaise with the review chairperson on this matter.	AC Chair ,DoH
5.4	Monsanto-10/811 and Dow Agro -science -10/006:multi-stack maize event MON89034x1507xMON88017x59122	(i) The EC **noted** that the OoR received recommendations from various EC members for approval of the application subject to the finalisation of commodity permit conditions.	OoR
5.5	GM threshold vs adventitious presence (DoH, Registrar)	(i) The EC **noted** that a meeting between the DoH, **the dti** and DAFF will be rescheduled in order to consider the relevant information on LLP and AP.	OoR, DoH

NO.	SUBJECT	RESOLUTION	FOR ATTENTION
5.6	Non-GM vaccines (Registrar)	(i) For Noting.	OoR
5.7	Departmental representation (Registrar)	(i) For Noting. The EC was informed that Ministerial confirmations regarding representation on the EC were received from the DoL, **the dti,** DST and that the OoR is still awaiting responses from DoH and DEA.	OoR
5.8	Monsanto /Pannar /Linkseed Introgression agreement (Registrar)	(i) For Noting	OoR
5.9	Dual permits :Monsanto and Dow Agro sciences combined application (Registrar)	(i) For Noting	OoR
5.10	Terms of Reference for the Advisory Committee (Acting Registrar)	(i) For Noting	OoR
6.	**Application to be considered by EC Time extensions and amendment to existing permits (Registrar)**		
6.1	Monsanto's request to amend permit conditions for maize events MON89034 and stacked MON89034xNK603	(i) The EC **noted** Monsanto's request for the amendment of General Release permit conditions.	OoR
6.2	PPD's request to import additional vials	(i) The EC **noted** the request for the import of an additional 200 vials and that a similar application had been forwarded to the MCC. The EC **approved** the import of additional vials subject to the applicant providing the OoR with a record for the disposal of the damaged vials.	OoR
	New Applications **Extension of trial release (and import and/or export)**	(i) None	

NO.	SUBJECT	RESOLUTION	FOR ATTENTION
	Contained use (including import and /or export)	(i) None	
	Trial release (including import and / or export)		
6.3	SASRI-10/016:Trial release of sugarcane (pihUMPS H2-2,3-1,3-2,3-3,4-2)	(i) The EC **noted** SASRI's field trial application for the agronomic evaluation of transgenic sugarcane lines with altered sucrose content and the response provided to the public input. (ii) The EC **approved** the application for SASRI-10/016: Trial release of sugarcane (pihUMPS H2-2, 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 4-2) subject to additional information being submitted by the applicant.	EC
6.4	SASRI-10/017:Trial release of sugarcane (pCel 1.1,7.2,7.4 and 8.2)	(i) The EC **noted** SASRI's field trial application for the evaluation of transgenic sugarcane lines with altered cell wall biosynthesis and the response provided to the public input. (iii) The EC **approved** the application SASRI-10/017: Trial release of sugarcane (pCel 1.1, 7.2, 7.4 and 8.2) subject to additional information being submitted by the applicant.	EC
6.5	SASRI-10/018:Trial release of sugarcane (piHADK5-1,5-2,5-3,6-1,6-2 and 6-3)	(i) The EC **noted** SASRI's field trial application for the evaluation of transgenic sugarcane lines with altered starch metabolism and the response provided to the public input. (iii) The EC **approved** the application SASRI-10/018: Trial release of sugarcane (piHADK5-1, 5-2, 5-3,6-1,6-2 and 6-3) subject to additional information being submitted by the applicant.	EC
6.6	SASRI-10/019:Trial release of sugarcane (piAGPase 11,15 ,19 ,20)	(i) The EC **noted** SASRI's field trial application for the evaluation of transgenic sugarcane lines with altered starch metabolism and the response provided to the public input. (iii) The EC **approved** the application SASRI-10/019: Trial release of sugarcane (piAGPase 11, 15, 19, 20) subject to additional information being submitted by the applicant.	EC
	General Release	(i) None	OoR
	Commodity clearance	(i) None	OoR
7.	**General**		

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NO.	SUBJECT	RESOLUTION		FOR ATTENTION
	Standing Matters			
7.1	Regulatory and policy development	(i)	The EC was informed that the draft regulations for the Consumer Protection Act which also included regulations for GM labelling was published in the government gazette with a deadline for public comments on 31 January 2011. The draft regulations were circulated to EC members in December 2010 and members were encouraged to submit their comments. The DoH provided feedback on their meeting with **the dti** on 14 January 2011 as well the comments they will be submitting with regard to the GMO labelling regulations.	DoH
		(ii)	The EC was informed of DST's Biosafety Research Strategy that is being conceptualized..	
		(iii)	DEA informed the EC of the launch of the GMO environmental post market monitoring framework for South Africa on 28 January 2011 at the Sheraton Hotel in Pretoria. The framework represents three years of research and collaboration in terms of the SA/ Norway Project.	DEA
7.2	COP-MOP5-Report back on meeting	(i)	The EC were informed that the DEA will make the COP-MOP-5 report available for circulation. The meeting was informed that national consultations would be initiated to facilitate the ratification of the Kuala Lumpur / Nagoya Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress. National consultation will be facilitated through the media, cabinet and parliament. A study on the financial mechanism will also be initiated. Other key responsibilities emanating from COP-MOP5 included the registration and participation of SA biosafety experts on the Risk Assessment/ Risk management online discussions forum and the submission of the second National report which is due in December 2011.	DEA
7.3	Non-compliance (OoR)	(i)	None	OoR
	Other			
7.4	MON810 insect resistance in SA (Industry response)	(i)	The EC considered the responses received from various industry members with regard to their views on the possible withdrawal of MON810. The EC was informed that Monsanto requested an extension until the 18 February 2011 to submit their response.	OoR

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NO.	SUBJECT	RESOLUTION	FOR ATTENTION
7.5	Commodity Clearance permit (Letter from Syngenta)	(i) The EC **noted** that this application is still pending. The EC recommended that the OoR facilitate a response to the applicant confirming the EC's position that the commodity import activity is covered under the general release permit.	EC
7.6	Biosafety Regional Workshop 7-11 March 2011	(i) The EC were informed of the Biosafety regional workshop taking place from 7 to 11 March 2011. EC members were requested to confirm their attendance with the OoR as soon as possible.	DAFF
7.7	SADC High Level Dialogue on biotechnology and biosafety	(i) The DEA provided feedback on the SADC regional meeting on biotechnology and biosafety. The proposed harmonisation guidelines presented at the meeting for discussion will need to be revisited in order to address developments that have overtaken the document. Follow up recommendations from DEA included that the SA representation at this forum needs to be clarified and that new representation will need to be considered..	DEA
8.	Date of the next meeting	(i) The date for the next meeting is scheduled for 15 March 2011.	All
9.	Closure	(i) The meeting was concluded at 13:15	

Approved by Chairperson

Dr J Jaftha

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Signature

Approved by Acting Registrar

Dr J Jaftha

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Signature