MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL UNDER THE GMO ACT, 1997 HELD ON 01 SEPTEMBER 2020, MICROSOFT TEAMS

PRESENT

Dr J Jaftha (Chairperson)	Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD)
Mr B Durham	Department of Science and Innovation (DSI)
Ms N Tshidada	Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF)
Prof G Bouwer	Chairperson of the Advisory Committee (AC) under the GMO Act, 1997
Dr M Jugmohan-Naidu	Department of Science and Innovation (DSI)
Dr N Netnou-Nkoana	Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD)
Ms T Ndukwana	Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (**the dtic**)
Dr M Matlala	Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS)
Ms T Masilela	Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS)
Ms P Campbell	Department of Health (DoH)
Dr A Sigobodhla	Department of Health (DoH)

APOLOGIES

Ms J Mhlophe	Department of Employment and Labour (DEL)

IN ATTENDANCE

Ms A Madzivhandila	Department of Health (DoH)
Ms T Mogapi	Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF)
Ms M Hlalele	Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF)
Mr B Kgope	Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF)
Ms R Ngoepe	Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD)
Mr S Mokhothu	Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD)
Ms B Mahlangu	Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD)
Ms N.L Mkhonza	Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD)

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 OoR noted the attendance since this was a virtual meeting.	EC Chairperson
3.	**ADDITIONS TO AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**	The agenda was adopted with additions.	All

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4.	**APPROVAL OF THE RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF 21 JULY 2020**	The record of proceedings of 21 July 2020 was approved with amendments.		All
5.	**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PROCEEDINGS**			
5.1	SANSOR: Proposed conditions for conducting field trials with higher-order stack(s) that are approved for commodity clearance and/or general release (EC)	(i) (ii)	The OoR reminded the EC that in the July 2020 EC meeting, SANSOR's proposal as well as the current field trial permit conditions were circulated to EC for inputs. The EC had then requested more time to review the proposal. The EC deliberated and noted that the rationale for the proposal is not clear. The EC raised questions and concluded that SANSOR should be requested to provide a written response to EC's questions.	OoR EC
5.2	Monsanto/Bayer's general release annual reports for GM cotton MON88913 (OoR)	(i) (ii)	The EC Chairperson reminded the EC that in the July 2020 meeting, the EC had a discussion about Monsanto/Bayer's request and concluded that they could not yet make a final decision on the matter. The EC deliberated and concluded that additional work is still needed in this regard.	EC Chairperson EC
5.3	Vacancy in the Advisory Committee (OoR)	(i) (ii) (iii)	The EC Chairperson reminded the EC that at the July 2020 meeting the EC had concluded that the three candidates are suitable for the replacement of one member and additional names should be suggested. The EC noted that additional names were suggested, however only two candidates confirmed their availability and submitted their CVs. The EC deliberated on the suitability of the candidates and concluded that one candidate was suitable. The EC would conduct interviews with the four candidates and make recommendation to the Minister for their appointment to AC.	EC Chairperson EC
5.4	Update on NBT/genome edited products workshop (AC Chairperson)	(i) (ii)	The EC Chairperson reminded the EC that they are encouraged to participate in all internal AC workshops on NBTs. The EC noted that first workshop will be held in September 2020.	EC
6.	**APPLICATIONS TO BE**			Registrar

	CONSIDERED BY EC (REGISTRAR)		
	Time extensions, amendments to (existing) permits, import and exports		
6.1	Syngenta – 20/167: Import and trial release extension for GM maize MIR162	The EC approved the Syngenta – 20/167: Import and trial release extension application for GM maize MIR162.	EC
6.2	Syngenta – 20/168: Import and trial release extension for GM maize Bt11 x MIR162 x GA21	The EC approved the Syngenta – 20/168: Import and trial release extension application for GM maize Bt11 x MIR162 x GA21, subject to submission of additional information by the applicant.	EC
6.3	Syngenta – 20/169: Import and trial release extension for GM maize BT11 x MIR162 x MON89034 x GA21	The EC approved the Syngenta – 20/169: Import and trial release extension application for GM maize BT11 x MIR162 x MON89034 x GA21, subject to submission of additional information by the applicant.	EC
	New applications		
	Trial release and import and /or export		
6.4	Sensako - 20/014: Import & Trial Release for Soybean HB4 (IND-ØØ41Ø-5)	The EC decision on the Sensako - 20/014: Import & Trial Release application for Soybean HB4 (IND-ØØ41Ø-5), is pending submission of additional information by the applicant.	EC
6.5	SAMRC - 19/001: Import & Trial release for MVA-CMDR HIV Vaccine	The EC approved the SAMRC - 19/001: Import & Trial release application for MVA-CMDR HIV vaccine, subject to SAHPRA's approval.	EC

6.6	Bayer - 20/111: Trial release for maize MON 87427	The EC decision on the Bayer - 20/111: Trial release application for maize MON 87427is pending submission of additional information by the applicant.	EC
	Contained use and import and/or export	None	
	Commodity Clearance	None	
	General Release	None	
7.	**Applications considered by EC in May and June 2020 (intersessional)**		
	Trial release and import and/or export 7.1 IQVIA-20/001: Import & trial release of genetically modified vaccine Ad26.COV2.S.	The EC noted that the one application reviewed during the intersessional period (August 2020) was approved by the EC, subject to SAHPRA's approval.	EC
8	**Standing matters**		
8.1	Regulatory and policy developments (All)	a. Bayer: Efficacy evaluation- use of artificial pests infestation (i) The OoR informed the EC that Bayer has submitted a correspondence requesting clarity with regard to the use of artificial pest infestation in GM trials. (ii) The EC noted that since Bayer's request is with regard to pests and trials the OoR has referred the matter to DEFF as well as the EC for further guidance. (iii) The EC deliberated and concluded that the EC Chairperson supported by DEFF will engage the Registrar of Act 36 to understand how this approach is applied under Act 36.	OoR EC EC Chairperson/DEFF
8.2	Cartagena Protocol (All)	(i) The DEFF informed the EC that the COP-MOP 10 is rescheduled for May 2021 in Kunming, China. The DEFF also informed the EC of the following key meetings: • Special virtual meeting for SBSTTA-24 and SBI-3, to be held online from 15-18 September 2020. The programme of the special	DEFF

		virtual sessions will include: A testing of the virtual platform, 14 September, launch of the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (Special Session of SBSTTA), 15 September, testing of a Party-Led Review Process, Through an Open-Ended Forum (Special Session of SBI), 16 and 17 September, strategy for Resource Mobilization (Special session of SBI), 17 September and preparation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (Special Joint Session of SBSTTA and SBI), 18 September. • Third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework will be held February 2021, in Canada. The programme will include: Resource mobilisation, post 2020 GBF, assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and review of the effectiveness of the processes under the Convention and its protocols. • Twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and Third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation will be held in March 2021, in Canada. The programme will include: Risk Assessment and Management and Synthetic biology. (ii) The DEFF also informed the EC that the inputs from EC on the TOR for a Supplementary Protocol study were received and DEFF is currently in the process of finalising the appointment of the service provider to conduct the study. (iii) The EC noted the key meetings under the Cartagena protocol as well the status of appointment of the service provider for the Supplementary Protocol study.	EC
8.3	Compliance/Non-compliance	a. <u>Inspections</u> The OoR informed the EC that no inspections were conducted in August 2020. b. <u>Annual Reports</u> (i) The OoR also informed the EC that eight annual reports from	OoR

			Bayer/Monsanto for general release of GTS 40-3-2 soybean, MON88913 cotton, MON15985xMON88913 cotton, NK603, MON89034 MON89034xNK603, MON810 and MON 810xNK603 maize events were assessed. A summary of the annual report assessment was circulated to EC. The permit holder was compliant in terms of the permit conditions.	
		(ii)	The EC noted the feedback on annual reports and suggested the item on annual reports be brought forward on the agenda.	EC
9.	General			
9.1	Corteva's (Dow AgroSciences) request to plant soybean trials at the same trial plots	(i)	The EC noted Corteva's request and rationale to plant DAS-44406-6 and DAS-44406-6 x DAS-81419-2 soybean approved for a trial release extension in 2020 at the exact same trial plots used during 2019/2020 season.	EC
		(ii)	The EC deliberated and approved Corteva's request to plant DAS-44406-6 and DAS-44406-6 x DAS-81419-2. This approval is only applicable for the 2020/2021 planting season and also that all other trial release permit conditions must be adhered to.	
10.	Date of the next meeting	The EC noted that the date of the next EC meeting is scheduled for 10 November 2020. The EC meeting is likely to be a virtual meeting via MS teams.		All
11.	Closure	The meeting was concluded at 14:00.		All

Approved by Chairperson

Dr J Jaftha

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Signature

Approved by Registrar

Ms NL Mkhonza

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Signature