MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL UNDER THE GMO ACT, 1997 HELD ON 02 NOVEMBER 2021, MICROSOFT TEAMS

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

Ms J Mhlophe	Department of Employment and Labour (DEL)
Dr M Matlala	Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS)
Ms T Ndukwana	Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (**the dtic**)

IN ATTENDANCE

Ms A Madzivhandila	Department of Health (DoH)
Ms T Mogapi	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)
Ms Z Mboweni	Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS)
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 EC 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
4.	**APPROVAL OF THE RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF 31 AUGUST 2021**	The record of proceedings of 31 August 2021 was approved with amendments.	All

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5.	**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PROCEEDINGS**			
5.1	Update: IRM (EC Chairperson)	(i)	The EC Chairperson reminded the EC that at the August 2021 meeting, it was noted that he will organise an offline engagement in September 2021 between DALRRD, DSI and DFFE to further discuss a way forward on the overall framework.	EC Chairperson
		(ii)	The EC Chairperson informed the EC that a discussion between DALRRD, DSI and DFFE took place on 14 September 2021 and an outcome of the discussion was circulated to the EC for their consideration.	EC Chairperson
		(iii)	The EC deliberated and agreed with the outcome that the DSI develops a concept note on how best the EC can engage stakeholders in an attempt to source the information on their IRM approaches.	DSI
		(iv)	The EC concluded that the DSI will circulate the concept note to the EC for further inputs.	EC
5.2	Request by Bayer for an amendment of general release permit conditions for MON87701 x MON89788 soybean (OoR)	(i)	The OoR reminded the EC that at the August 2021 meeting, the EC was requested to provide inputs on Bayer's request for amendment of general release permit conditions (permit no. 8a, 8b, 10 and 14b) by 10 September 2021.	OoR
		(ii)	The OoR informed the EC that inputs were received from the EC. However, further inputs are still required with regard to the annual submission of information on grower's details under permit condition 14 (b).	
		(iii)	The EC deliberated and concluded that Bayer should be requested to confirm if the grower's details are routinely kept as part of Bayer's records. The OoR will send EC's request to Bayer.	EC/OoR
5.3	Notice: SA regulatory approach for NBTs (DSI)	(i)	The DSI informed the EC that they did not agree to the wording on the published notice on SA's regulatory approach for NBTs.	DSI

		(ii) The EC noted DSI' statement.	EC
6.	**Compliance/Non-compliance**	a. Inspections The OoR informed the EC that one post plant inspection was conducted for Bayer's maize event. b. Annual Reports The OoR also informed the EC that five annual reports for general release and trial release were received and assessed. A summary of the annual report assessment was circulated to EC. c. Request by Bioceres to change trial site (i) The OoR informed the EC that a request to change field trial site locations was submitted by Bioceres on 10 October 2021. Bioceres is a permit holder for the HB4 soybean and IND-ØØ41Ø-5 X MON-Ø4Ø32-639.4 soybean trial releases for which three trials locations were approved. Bioceres is requesting to move two of the trial locations. (ii) Bioceres also provided relevant information for the proposed trial sites. (iii) The EC indicated that the information on the proposed trial sites is sufficient and approved Bioceres' request for change of trial site locations. (iv) The OoR will amend the trial permits accordingly.	OoR OoR OoR OoR EC OoR
7.	**APPLICATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED BY EC (REGISTRAR)**		Registrar
	Time extensions, amendments to (existing) permits, import and exports	None	
	New applications		
	Trial release and import and /or export		

7.1	Triclinium–21/118: 3x import and 1x trial release for MTBVAC vaccine	The EC approved the Triclinium – 21/118: 3x import and 1x trial release application for MTBVAC vaccine.	EC
	General release		
7.2	Zoetis–21/001: General release of Poulvac Procerta HVT-ND vaccine	The EC approved Zoetis – 21/001: General release application for Poulvac Procerta HVT-ND vaccine, subject to the approval by Fertiliser, Farm Feds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act 36 of 1947.	EC
	Commodity clearance		
7.3	Corteva–21/028: Commodity clearance of Maize NK603 x T25 x DAS40278	The EC approved Corteva – 21/028: Commodity clearance application for Maize NK603 x T25 x DAS40278.	EC
8	**Standing matters**		
8.1	Regulatory and policy developments (All)		
	a) EU RASFF Food Safety Alerts (DoH)	(i) The DoH informed the EC that DoH's Directorate: Food Control is the Food Safety Contact Point for the global food safety emergency alert system under the World Health Organization (WHO) as well as the European Union Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (EU RASFF). (ii) The DoH also informed the EC that they have received two alerts from France through the EU RASFF. These alerts were in relation to food enzymes/additives from China that were imported/exported to EU and South Africa; which were found to contain unauthorized GM material as per EU regulations as well as antibiotic resistance gene. (iii) The DoH requested the EC to provide:	DoH

		• Guidance on whether food enzymes/additives derived from GM material would be subjected to the GMO Act processes. • Clarity on EC's approach regarding the use of antibiotic resistance marker genes in genetically modified organisms. In EC deliberations: • The EC indicated that GM derived ingredients that are not viable/active organisms in a product would not be subjected to the GMO Act processes. • The EC also indicated that technology developers are encouraged to disuse antibiotic resistance marker genes in GMOs. (iv) The EC concluded that the DoH will submit the notification received through the EU RASFF to the EC Chairperson for further assessment.	EC DoH/EC Chairperson
8.2	Cartagena Protocol (All)	(i) The DFFE reminded the EC that the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in collaboration with other international organizations, is hosting a global webinar on Synthetic biology governance and cooperation opportunities on 02 November 2021 at 14:00pm. (ii) The DFFE informed the EC that part II of the COP-MOP10 is scheduled for 25 April to 08 May 2022 and due to COVID restriction only three delegates per country will be allowed to participate in the face-to-face meetings.	DFFE
9.	General		
9.1	Proposed EC meeting dates for 2022/23	The EC noted the meeting dates for 2022/23 financial year.	EC
9.2	SANSOR's letter on the regulation of gene-edited technologies/new breeding techniques and supporting letters.	(i) The OoR informed the EC that letters regarding the regulation of gene-edited technologies/NBT were received from SANSOR, Agbiz, GWK, SSK and Agricol. The letters were circulated to the EC.	OoR EC

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		(ii)	The EC noted the letters from SANSOR, Agbiz, GWK, SSK and Agricol on the regulation of gene-edited technologies/NBT.	
9.3	Reappointment of AC member	(i)	The OoR reminded the EC that section 10(6) of the GMO Act makes provision for the reappointment of AC members. The OoR informed the EC that the tenure of one AC member will expire in June 2022 and the member has confirmed his availability for reappointment.	OoR
		(ii)	The EC deliberated on the appointment tenure for AC members and concluded that: • The EC Chairperson will engage the OoR to further discuss a way forward on the matter. • The EC Chairperson will have to inform the EC accordingly.	EC EC Chairperson/OoR
10.	Date of the next meeting	The EC noted that the date of the next EC meeting is scheduled for 01 March 2022. The EC meeting is likely to be a virtual meeting via MS teams.		All
11.	Closure	The meeting was concluded at 12:30am.		All

Approved by Chairperson
Dr J Jaftha

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Signature

Approved by Registrar
Ms NL Mkhonza

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Signature