

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL UNDER THE GMO ACT, 1997 HELD ON 27 MARCH 2018, DAFF, HARVEST HOUSE, ROOM 332, PRETORIA**

**PRESENT**

Dr J Jaftha (Chairperson)	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF)
Mr B Durham (Deputy Chairperson)	Department of Science and Technology (DST)
Ms J Mhlophe	Department of Labour (DoL)
Mr M Matlala	Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS)
Ms N Tshidada	Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)
Ms W Mandivenyi	Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)
Prof G Bouwer	Chairperson of the Advisory Committee (AC) under the GMO Act, 1997
Dr M Jugmohan-Naidu	Department of Science and Technology (DST)

**APOLOGIES**

Dr A Sigobodhla	Department of Health (DoH)
Ms P Campbell	Department of Health (DoH)
Dr N Netnou Nkoana	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF)
Ms T Ndukwana	Department of Trade and Industry ( <b>the dti</b> )

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr S Mokhothu	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF)
Ms R Ngoepe	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF)
Ms T Mogapi	Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)
Ms A Madzivhandila	Department of Health (DoH)
Mr B Kgope	Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)
Ms M Herbst	Department of Health (DoH)
Ms Z Mboweni	Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS)
Ms N L Mkhonza	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF)

NO.	SUBJECT	RESOLUTION	FOR ATTENTION
1.	OPENING AND WELCOME	The Chairperson welcomed those present at the EC meeting.	EC Chairperson
2.	ATTENDANCE REGISTER AND	The attendance register was circulated to everyone present for signature	EC

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	APOLOGIES	and apologies were noted.	Chairperson
3.	<b>ADDITIONS TO AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA</b>	The agenda was adopted with additions:	All
4.	<b>APPROVAL OF THE RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF 21 NOVEMBER 2017 AND 30 JANUARY 2018</b>	The record of proceedings of the meeting held on 21 November 2017 and 30 January 2018 were approved with no amendments and amendments respectively.	All
5.	<b>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PROCEEDINGS</b>		
5.1	Draft guideline for annual reports	The EC noted that comments were submitted to the OoR and the OoR will circulate the consolidated guideline document to EC before submitting to the Minister to give consent to the Executive Council to approve and issue the guideline in line with section 5(2)(f) of the GMO Act.	EC/OoR
5.2	Monsanto -17/1724: General Release of Maize MON87460xMON89034xNK603	The EC noted that the recommendation documents from some EC members are still outstanding and concluded that once all recommendation documents are received the OoR should respond to the applicant.	EC/OoR
5.3	Regional Engagement Strategy on Biosafety	The EC noted that the DEA has presented the strategy to the International Cooperation, Trade and Security (ICTS) cluster meeting.	DEA
5.4	Monsanto's update on FAW	<p>(i) The EC noted that the EC's decision was sent to Monsanto in November 2017. Subsequent to that Monsanto submitted a notification with a proposed change to the seed labels of MON89034 products.</p> <p>(ii) The EC deliberated on Monsanto's proposal to change the seed labels of MON89034 products and concluded that the seed label is part of the general release permit conditions and the permit conditions can only be used for traits where data has been assessed by the AC and EC in terms of the GMO Act. Since no field data for FAW in the South African environment has been assessed by the AC and EC. Monsanto's claims that the MON89034 products control FAW should not make reference to the GMO Act.</p>	EC/OoR

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5.5	SAHRC formal report	The EC noted that a formal report from the Chairperson of the SAHRC was requested and there was no response.	EC Chairperson
5.6	Supplementary Protocol trilateral meeting	The EC noted that the trilateral meeting between DEA, the dti and DAFF took place on 16 March 2018. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and clarify the way forward with regards to the ratification of the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress.	DEA/the dti/DAFF
5.7	Update on the inventory of all COP/MOP decisions	The DEA informed the EC that the compilation of all COP/MOP decisions is still work in progress. The document will be circulated to EC soon.	DEA
<b>6.</b>	<b>APPLICATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED BY EC (REGISTRAR)</b>		Registrar
	Time extensions, amendments to (existing) permits, import and exports	None	
	New applications		
	Trial release and import and /or export	None	
	New applications		
	Contained use and import and/or export	None	
	New applications		
	Commodity Clearance		
6.1	Monsanto - 17/1732: Commodity Clearance of Soybean MON87705xMON97708xMON89788	The EC's decision on Monsanto - 17/1732: Commodity Clearance of Soybean MON87705xMON97708xMON89788 is pending.	EC
6.2	Monsanto - 17/1764: Commodity Clearance of Soybean MON87708xMON89788xA5547-127	The EC approved the Monsanto - 17/1764: Commodity Clearance of Soybean MON87708xMON89788xA5547-127.	EC
6.3	Monsanto - 17/1774: Commodity Clearance of Maize MON87427xMON87460xMON89034xTC1507xMON87411xDAS59122-7	The EC approved the Monsanto - 17/1774: Commodity Clearance of Maize MON87427xMON87460xMON89034xTC1507xMON87411xDAS59122-7.	EC

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	New applications General Release	None	
	New applications Trial release and import and /or export	None	
7.	General		All
	Standing matters		
7.1	Regulatory and policy developments	<p><b><u>A. Hybrid seed production</u></b></p> <p>(i) The EC noted Monsanto's letter requesting EC's guidance on how to handle seed production for a stacked event MON89034xMON87427xNK603xMIR62 using parental inbred lines that do not have regulatory approvals in South Africa.</p> <p>(ii) The EC deliberated on the matter and concluded that the parental lines that do not have general release approval and will be used in the production of an event that has received general release approval should be regulated under the GMO Act. Further engagement with Monsanto was proposed.</p> <p><b><u>B. Assessment of end points</u></b></p> <p>The EC noted that the DEA is the process of developing the guidance document for the assessment endpoints and they have identified officials from key departments and relevant stakeholders to assist in the drafting of guidance document.</p> <p><b><u>C. MON810 report</u></b></p> <p>The EC noted that the recommendations in the MON810 report may be implemented as part of the permit conditions. The EC Chairperson indicated that OoR will assess the recommendations and make proposals to the EC on those recommendations that may be included in the permit conditions.</p> <p><b><u>D. NBT update</u></b></p> <p>The EC noted that the AC is in the process of submitting a recommendation</p>	EC

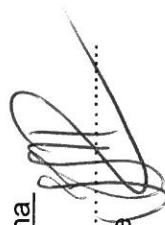
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		with regards to the implication of NBT for EC's consideration.	
7.2	Cartagena Protocol (DEA)	The EC noted that there's a notification requesting the nomination of experts to participate in a training workshop on detection and identification of living modified organisms. The due date for submission of nominee is 11 April 2018. The workshop is organized by the Executive Secretary of the CBD and will be held in Bloemfontein (University of the Free State) on 18-22 June 2018. The nominees must be involved in laboratory-based detection and identification of living modified organisms and must have an understanding of techniques used in molecular biology.	DEA
7.3	Non-compliance		DAFF
9	Date of the next meeting	The date for the next meeting is scheduled for 29 May 2018.	All
10	Closure	The meeting was concluded at 12:00.	All

Approved by Deputy Chairperson

Dr J Jaftha

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Signature



Approved by Registrar

Ms NL Mkhonza

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Signature

