

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL UNDER THE GMO ACT, 1997 HELD ON
24 JANUARY 2012, HARVEST HOUSE, ROOM 332, PRETORIA**

PRESENT

Dr J Jaffha (Chairperson)
 Mr B Durham
 Ms W P Mandivenyi
 Dr G Bouwer
 Ms E Koekemoer

Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF)
 Department of Science and Technology (DST)
 Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)
 Chairperson of the Advisory Committee (AC) under the GMO Act, 1997
 Department of Trade and Industry (the dti)

APOLOGIES

Ms J Mhlophe
 Mr A Pretorius
 Ms L Nkgadime

Department of Labour (DoL)
 Department of Health (DoH)
 Department of Science and Technology (DST)

IN ATTENDANCE

Ms N L Mkhonza
 Ms T Mogapi
 Ms I Muedi
 Mr M D Mattala
 Ms T Tshimomola
 Ms K C Malakalaka

Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF)
 Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF)
 Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (secretariat) (DAFF)
 Department of Health (DoH)
 Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)
 Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)

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	The agenda was adopted with the following additions.	

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	AGENDA	7.6. ICGEB 7.7. ASSAF	
4.	APPROVAL OF THE RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF 25 OCTOBER 2011	The record of proceedings of the meeting held on 25 October 2011 was amended and approved.	
5.	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PROCEEDINGS		
5.1	Feedback on appeals lodged under the GMO Act (DAFF)	(i) The EC was informed that the appeal board chairperson had indicated that there was still one area on which further consultation was needed with the appeal board members.	DAFF
5.2	Commodities (Registrar) (a) SABS standard (b) Asynchronous approvals	(i) There was no discussion (i) There was no discussion	DAFF DAFF

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	(c) Permit conditions	(ii) There was no discussion	OoR
5.3	GM threshold vs. adventitious presence (DAFF)	(i) The EC was reminded about the GM threshold and adventitious presence meeting held on the 30 September 2011. The discussion focused on the draft risk management matrix for low level presence of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs). The finalization of the guidance document that will correspond to the draft risk matrix is still in process.	DAFF
5.5	Pioneer 177/3/1-Pioneer - 09/383:Commodity clearance of maize 98140 (OoR)	(i) The EC noted the applicant was previously requested to submit additional information. A response was received from the applicant. The OoR is still awaiting additional copies of the application from the applicant.	OoR
5.7	Departmental representation(DAFF)	(i) The EC was informed that the work regarding the departmental representation on the EC following the recent government restructuring is concluded. The legal opinion clarifies that if ever there are issues of capacity within the EC, the EC can co-opt additional members to the Council, bearing in mind that the maximum number of members to serve on the Council is 10.	DAFF
5.8	Terms of Reference for the Advisory Committee (DAFF)	(i) The EC was informed that the document will serve as part of development for future AC members and will form part of the agenda for the general meeting that will address the EC's technical and operational issues. The EC recommended that this item be removed from the agenda.	DAFF
5.9	General release application form (AC Chair)	(i) The EC noted the inputs that the AC Chair received from DST and DEA on the general release application form. The inputs will be incorporated in the document and the final version will be sent to the OoR.	AC Chair

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5.10	Risk benefit analysis publication by DR Jane Morris (AC Chair)	(i) The EC was informed about a publication by Dr Jane Morris on A Semi-Quantitative Approach to GMO Risk Benefit Analysis (RBA) that was discussed at an AC meeting. The EC noted that the RBA approach proposed in the publication is one of various alternative approaches to RBA and that its application would have to be justified. The EC noted that it could be useful for screening applications presenting high levels of uncertainty.	
5.11	National Report (DEA)	(i) The EC was informed that the National Report on the Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is on the website.	DEA
6.	APPLICATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED BY EC (REGISTRAR) TIME EXTENSIONS, AMENDMENTS TO (EXISTING) PERMITS, IMPORT AND EXPORTS		
	General release		
6.1	Monsanto's request to amend general release permit conditions 1, 5 (a), 10 (a), and 13 (MON89034)	(i) The EC noted that DAFF has not responded to the applicant on condition 5a as well as 6a. The OoR had a discussion with the EC Chair and they needed guidance from DEA in terms of the 3 year study that is referred to in the conditions. (ii) The EC was informed that DEA had an engagement with Monsanto on the study. The EC recommended that only one study is required from the applicant. (iii) On permit condition 13, the EC recommended that Monsanto should seek synchronous approvals on MON89034.	DAFF
6.2	Monsanto's request to	(i) Permit conditions 6 (a) and 14 are similar to permit conditions 5a and 13	EC

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NO.	SUBJECT	RESOLUTION	FOR ATTENTION
	amend general release permit conditions 6 (a) and 14 (MON89034 x NK603)	respectively. The EC recommendations on agenda item 6.1 also apply for item 6.2.	
	<u>Commodity clearance</u>		EC
6.3	Bayer's request to amend commodity clearance permit conditions 1.6 and 1.10	(i) The EC noted Bayer's request to amend commodity clearance permit conditions 1.6 and 1.10. The decision is pending.	EC
6.4	Monsanto's request to amend commodity clearance permit conditions: 1.3 (a-d), 1.4, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8 (a-c), 1.10 and 2.1	(i) The EC noted Monsanto's request to amend commodity clearance permit conditions 1.3 (a-d), 1.4, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8 (a-c), 1.10 and 2.1. The decision is pending.	EC
6.5	Syngenta's request to amend commodity clearance permit conditions 1.3 (a-d), 1.4, 1.6, 1.7, and 1.8 (a-c), 1.10 and 2.1	(i) The EC noted Syngenta's request to amend commodity clearance permit conditions 1.3 (a-d), 1.4, 1.6, 1.7, and 1.8 (a-c), 1.10 and 2.1. The decision is pending.	EC
6.6	Commodity Clearance Permit conditions - SANSOR	(i) There was no discussion	EC

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6.7	Monsanto's opinion on commodity clearance of MON89034 X MON88017	(i) The EC noted Monsanto's request for commodity clearance approval of MON89034 X MON88017 event. The EC remains of the view that each stack must be subjected to a safety assessment as per the GMO Act. Monsanto is therefore required to submit a separate application for the MON89034 X MON88017 event.	EC
	<u>New applications.</u>	None	
	<u>Extension of trial release, contained use (and import and/or export)</u>		
	<u>Contained use (and import and/or export)</u>		
	<u>Trial release and import and/or export</u>		
	<u>General release</u>		
	<u>Commodity clearance</u>		

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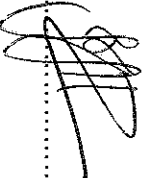
NO.	SUBJECT	RESOLUTION	FOR ATTENTION
7.1	Regulatory and policy developments (All)	(i) The EC was informed that the bioeconomy strategy was still under development.	DST
7.2	Cartagena Protocol (DEA)	(i) The EC was informed about a workshop that DST attended in India which focused on socio-economic issues. It was highlighted that Norway and France have developed regulatory guidelines for addressing socio-economic issues. The DEA suggested that EC should participate in online discussion on socio-economic issues.	DEA
7.3	Non-compliance	None	
7.4	(a) AC appointment renewals (Registrar)	(i) The EC was informed that the submission was sent to the Minister.	OoR

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NO.	SUBJECT	RESOLUTION	FOR ATTENTION
7.6	ICGEB Report	(i) The EC was informed about a workshop that DST attended in Rwanda in November 2011, entitled: key elements in effect of GMO regulations. One of the objectives was a model regulatory system. A consensus document on a regulatory framework for biosafety was developed, which is more progressive than the African model law but less detailed. ICGEB is in the process of transforming the document into a pamphlet.	DST
7.7	Academy of Science for South Africa (ASSAF)	(i) The EC was reminded about the study on Biosafety and Biosecurity in South Africa that the Academy of Science for South Africa (ASSAF) approached DST to find out whether government would be interested. Some of the EC members met with ASSAF to find out what would be interesting within their scope. ASSAF will give feedback on the responses they received with regards to the proposed study	DST
8.	Date of the next meeting	(i) The date for the next meeting is scheduled for 20 March 2012.	All
9.	Closure	(i) The meeting was concluded at 13:30	

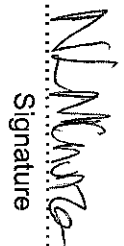
Approved by Chairperson

Dr J Jaftha

Signature 

Approved by Registrar

Ms NL Mikhonza


Signature