



agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

PUBLIC NOTICE:

07 February 2017

MINISTER'S FINAL DECISION ON THE APPEAL LODGED BY AFRICA CENTRE FOR BIODIVERSITY UNDER THE GMO ACT, 1997

Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has made a final decision on the appeal lodged by the African Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) against the decision taken by the Executive Council regarding the general release application of a genetically modified maize event MON87460. The maize is genetically modified to express a cold shock protein B (CSPB), which enables the maize event to be tolerant to drought.

The African Centre for Biodiversity lodged an appeal against the Executive Council's decision to approve the general release of Monsanto's maize event MON87460 on 07 August 2015. The grounds for the appeal included the following:

- The Executive Council's decision document was inadequate;
- The risk assessment provided by Monsanto was inadequate and flawed.

The matter was thus referred to the appeal board appointed by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in terms of Section 19 of the Genetically Modified Organisms Act, 1997 (Act No. 15 of 1997). The Appeal Board deliberated on the matter and upheld the EC's decision to approve the general release permit. The reasons for the appeal board decision included the following:

- Detailed analysis of MON87460 shows that, as per scientifically accepted guidelines, there is no apparent or measurable risk posed by MON87460 to human, animal and environmental health;
- There is sufficient evidence to show that MON87460 is equivalent to conventional maize, except for its resistance to the selection marker kanamycin and its ability to produce the cold shock protein (cspB) that affords it some degree of tolerance to drought.

On 27 October 2016 the Minister made the final decision and upheld the Appeal Board's decision and as such the approval for general release permit for the MON87460 maize event was sustained.

For further information please contact the Registrar of the GMO Act at the following contact details:

Email: NompumeleloM@daff.gov.za

Tel: 012 319 6382

Fax: 012 319 6298