

- Insect resistant and drought tolerant maize; WEMA Project (KALRO, Kiboko and Kitale)
- Insect resistant Bt cotton (KALRO Mwea and Thika, NB; Trials completed)
- Virus-resistant cassava (KALRO Mtwapa, Alupe and Thika)
- Disease resistant bananas (KALRO Alupe)
- Virus resistant sweet potatoes (KALRO Kakamega)
- Modified colour Gypsophila cut flowers (Naivasha)
- Improved vaccines against various livestock diseases (ILRI)

More recently (Year 2016), the Authority approved limited environmental release of Bt cotton and Bt maize to pave way for National Performance Trials (NPTs) in various locations in the country.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Biosafety Act requires that the Authority invite comments from the public by putting a notice in two (2) newspapers with nationwide circulation and an appropriate electronic media before approving application for environmental release of GMOs (for planting or for selling). In addition, they are also published in Kenya Gazette, NBA website and a public forum is held for the public to give comments. The Public is then given a period of 30 days to make comments on such applications so that the Authority appropriately addresses any relevant concerns raised.

For more information, please contact:

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NATIONAL BIOSAFETY AUTHORITY

Championing for a Biosafe Nation

www.biosafetykenya.go.ke



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BACKGROUND

The National Biosafety Authority (NBA) is a state corporation in Kenya mandated to ensure safety to human and animal health and provide adequate protection of the environment from harmful effects that may result from genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The Authority was established pursuant to the provisions of the Biosafety Act No. 2, 2009 to regulate all activities involving GMOs in food, feed, research, industry, trade and environmental release and it fulfils its mandate by ensuring and assuring safe development, transfer, handling and use of GMOs in Kenya.

VISION STATEMENT

A World-class Biosafety Agency.

MISSION STATEMENT

To ensure and assure safe development, transfer, handling and use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in Kenya.

OUR CORE VALUES

- Integrity
- Professionalism
- Transparency
- Accountability

ENFORCEMENT OF THE BIOSAFETY LEGISLATION

In enforcing the Biosafety Act, the National Biosafety Authority collaborates with a number of other regulatory agencies as specified in the Act. These agencies include:

- (i) Department of Public Health (DPH)
- (ii) Department of Veterinary Services (DVS).
- (iii) Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS).
- (iv) Pest Control Products Board (PCPB).
- (v) Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS).
- (vi) National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA).
- (vii) Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS).
- (viii) Kenya Industrial Property Institute (KIPI).

BIOSAFETY REGULATIONS

BIOSAFETY (CONTAINED USE) REGULATIONS, 2011

These regulations cover activities on GMO while still in laboratory, greenhouse, growth chambers and confined field trials. The objective of these Regulations is to ensure that potential adverse effects of genetically modified organisms are addressed to protect human health and the environment when conducting research. A person shall not undertake research on GMOs without prior written approval from the Authority.

BIOSAFETY (IMPORT, EXPORT AND TRANSIT) REGULATIONS, 2011

The regulations aim at ensuring safe movement of GMOs into, across and out of Kenya while protecting human and animal health and the environment. They provide clear procedures on importation, exportation and transportation of GMOs and guidelines on

measures to undertake in case of inadvertent release of the products into the environment while on transit. The regulations require any person(s) involved in GMO import for consumptions or research; GMO export to any country and GMO transit from one country to another through Kenya to seek approval from the National Biosafety Authority.

BIOSAFETY (ENVIRONMENTAL RELEASE) REGULATIONS, 2011

These regulations cover activities involving release of GMOs into the environment i.e. allowing farmers to grow them. The objective of these regulations is to ensure that potential adverse effects of GMOs are addressed so as to protect human health and the environment when conducting environmental release- availing GM products for use by the public.

BIOSAFETY (LABELLING) REGULATIONS, 2012

The essence of these regulations is basically to ensure that all GMOs or products containing traces of GMOs from 1% and above must be labelled. The purpose of labelling is purely for consumers' informed choices and not safety. It also makes it easier for the Authority to trace products in the market.

The biosafety regulations and application forms for import, export, transit, contained use and environmental release are available on our website.

ONGOING GMO ACTIVITIES IN KENYA

The following GMO projects have been approved by NBA and are at various stages of research/experimentation.