



Assuring Agricultural and Food Safety
of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)
in Southern Africa

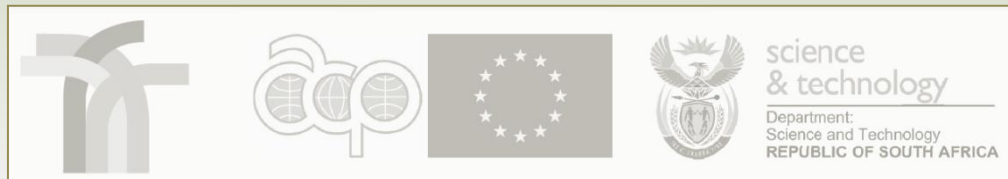
Launch and Awareness Raising Symposium
2-3 July 2014
Pretoria, South Africa



Rationale

- “...70% of the region's population depends on agriculture for food, income and employment. Hence the performance of this sector has a strong influence on food security, economic growth and social stability in the region.”

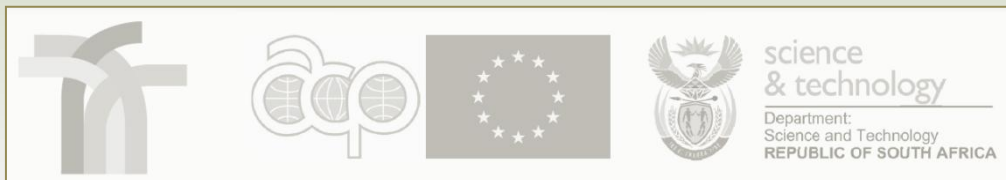
<http://www.sadc.int/themes/agriculture-food-security/>



Rationale

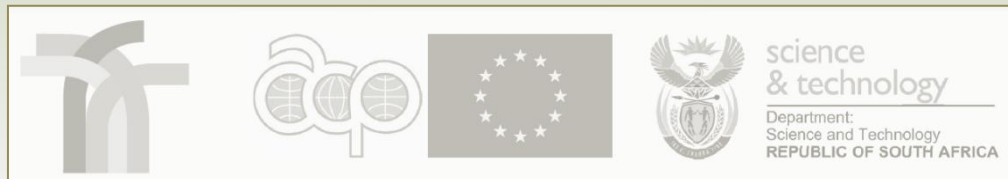
- “In 2008, southern Africa had an estimated population of 135 million people; a moderate estimate has overall regional population increasing roughly 70 percent between 2010 and 2050 to about 241 million.”

IFPRI Issue Brief 77



Rationale

- Agricultural productivity in SADC needs to be drastically increased
- BUT: Not all available tools or technologies are being utilised
- Modern biotechnology presents a solution
- Uptake/acceptance is limited due to a variety of reasons

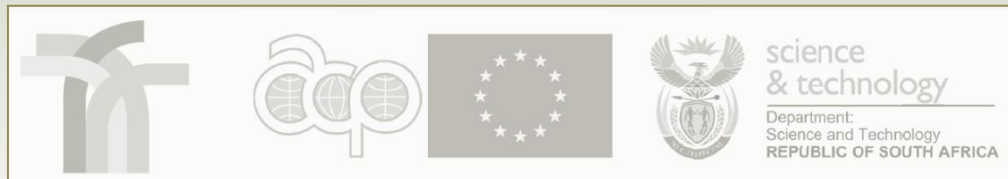


Uptake of (bio)technologies?

- Misinformation about biotech is widespread
- Knowledge of new biotech solutions and regulation lacking
- Biosafety and food safety courses/knowledge do not reach everyone
- Information is not fully disseminated

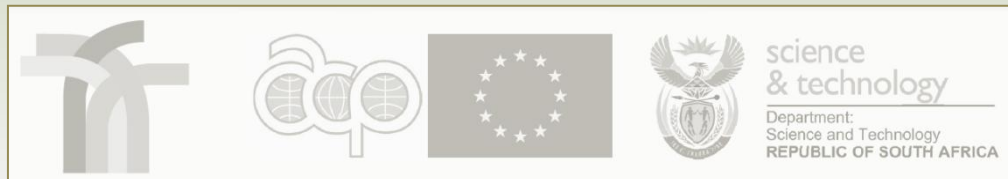
Action objectives

- OVERALL:
- To increase agricultural productivity and ensure access to safe food in the Southern African region, through greater public awareness of modern biotechnologies



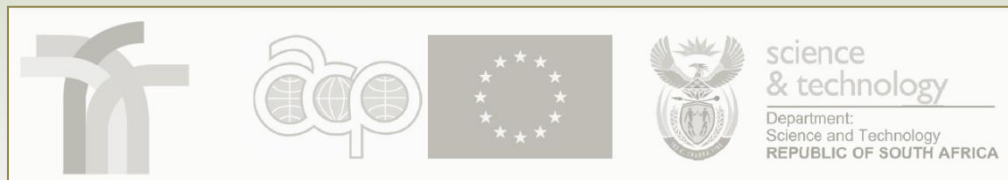
Action objectives

- SPECIFIC:
- To facilitate informed decision making on the use of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) in agriculture and food by enhanced knowledge of stakeholders



Symposium

- Official launch of the ACP-EU action
- Emphasize importance of biosafety training
- Identify key stakeholders for training sessions
- Forum for regional interaction
- Share per-country approaches to biosafety and biotechnology (GMO's)



Expectations?

- Take on board the importance of training and capacity building in decision-making
- Network and make regional contacts
- Learn from countries who have gone through the process
- Participate in Action activities
- Disseminate knowledge



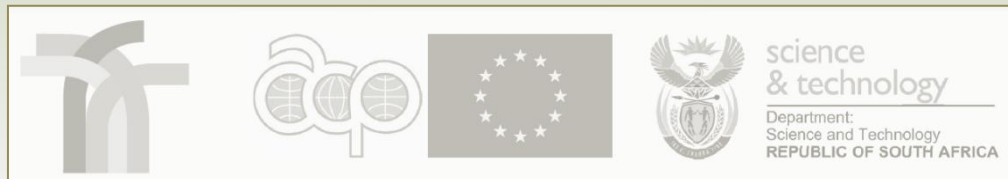
Arrival		Tuesday 1st July 2014
Day 1		Wednesday 2nd July 2014
Time	Item	Resource Person
08:30 - 09:00	Registration	
09:00 - 09:30	Welcome Remarks Overview and Expectations of the Symposium Self-Introductions	Dr John Becker ACGT
09:30 - 10:00	Introduction to GMASSURE Action and activities	Dr John Becker ACGT
10:00 - 10:30	Tea	
10:30 - 11:15	Importance of biosafety regulation and risk analysis	Dr Alex Owusu-Biney United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
11:15 - 11:45	A regulator's perspective of GM biosafety: why, what, and who	Mr Ben Durham Dept. of Science and Technology (DST) RSA
11:45 - 12:30	Crop biosafety in South Africa; problems, solutions, level of awareness and the role of Biosafety SA	Dr Hennie Groenewald BiosafetySA
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 - 14:15	Agricultural Biotechnology in the Bio-economy: the importance of GM crops in Southern Africa	Dr Maneshree Jugmohan-Naidu Dept. of Science and Technology (DST) RSA
14:15 - 14:45	Building decision making capacity for commercialisation of Genetically Modified Crops in Africa	Mr. Walter Green Independent Biotechnology Professional
14:45- 15:30	Experiences in sub-Saharan Africa with GM crop risk communication	Dr Dennis Ndolo Obonyo The International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB)
15:30- 16:00	Discussion and Closure	
16:00	Tea	
19:00	Gala Dinner	



Day 2		Thursday 3rd July 2014	
09:00 – 09:15	Recap of Day 1	Dr John Becker ACGT	
09:15 – 09:30	SADC regional cooperation and the expectations required from member states	Ms Anneline Morgan SADC	
09:30 – 09:45	Botswana's status with respect to biotechnology and biosafety	Mr Charles Mazereku	
09:45 – 10:00	DRC'S status with respect to biotechnology and biosafety	Prof Mundala O.Tete	
10:00 – 10:15	Lesotho's status with respect to biotechnology and biosafety	Maboi Mahula	
10:15 – 10:30	Malawi's status with respect to biotechnology and biosafety	Dr Weston Mwase	
10:30 – 10:45	Mozambique's status with respect to biotechnology and biosafety	Ms Yara Gaspar	
10:45 – 11:15	Tea		
11:15 – 11:30	Namibia's status with respect to biotechnology and biosafety		
11:30 – 11:45	South Africa's status with respect to biotechnology and biosafety		
11:45 – 12: 00	Swaziland's status with respect to biotechnology and biosafety		
12:00 – 12:15	Tanzania's status with respect to biotechnology and biosafety	Dr Nicholas. Nyange	
12:15 – 12:30	Zambia's status with respect to biotechnology and biosafety	Dr Paul Zambezi	
12:30 – 12:45	Zimbabwe's status with respect to biotechnology and biosafety	Dr Jonathan Mufandaedza	
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch		
14:00 – 15:30	Facilitated open discussion: Legislation and approach; potential for harmonisation		
15:30 – 16:00	Closure		
16:00	Tea		

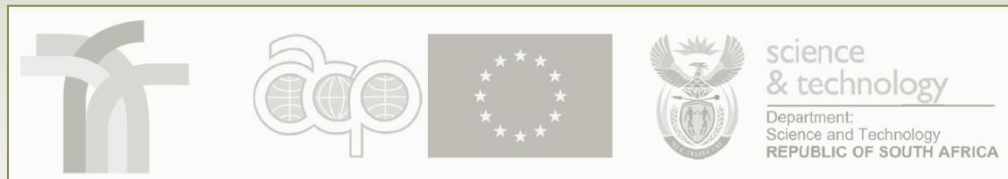
Introductions

- Name
- Country
- Affiliation
- Role in biotechnology
- Potential contribution to project



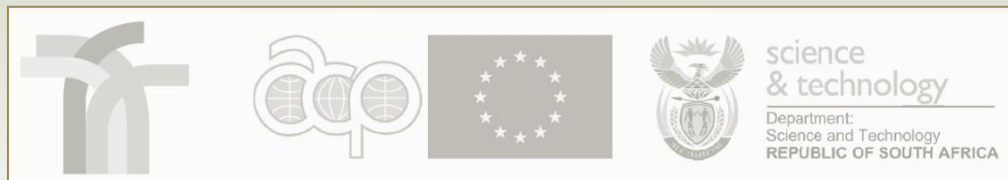
Activity categories

- Biosafety and food safety training
- Countering misinformation
- Provision of learning materials online
- Training in new biotech developments and regulation
- Information dissemination in beneficiary countries



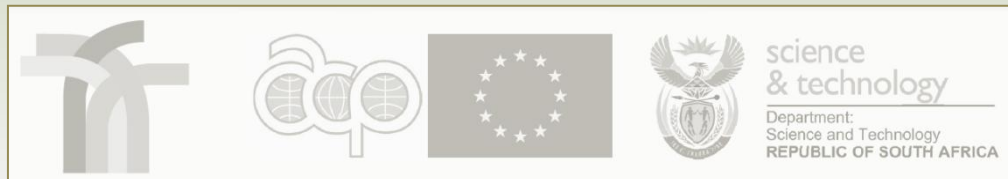
Project partners

- South Africa
 - ARC, CSIR, Universities of Johannesburg & Pretoria
- Namibia
 - University of Namibia
- Zimbabwe
 - University of Zimbabwe
- Denmark
 - Technical University of Denmark (DTU)
- Other platforms/institutions
 - SADC and Europe



Biosafety training

- Two week-long training courses
 - Namibia; Zimbabwe
 - 2nd event to build on knowledge of 1st
- At least one participant per SADC country
- Expert trainers with support from Europe
 - Groningen/Wageningen



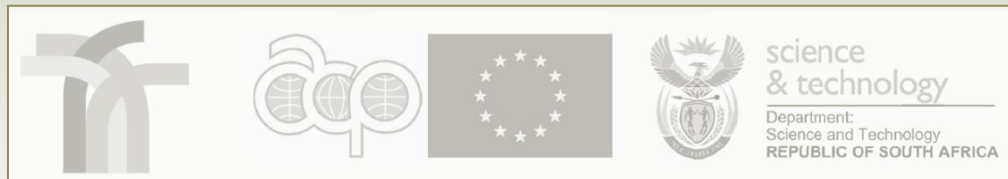
Food safety training

- Week-long training course in SA
 - methods for determination of food and nutrition safety in a GMO context
- At least one participant per SADC country
- European trainers
 - DTU



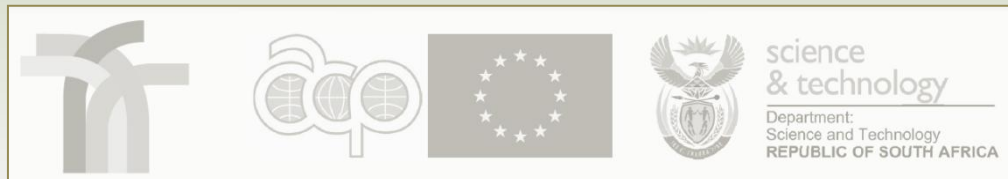
Countering misinformation

- Establishment of a website
- Creation of an online panel
 - scientists/biotechnologists answer GMO queries
- Production of newsletters and brochures
 - objective information
- Workshops to discuss cultural and religious issues
 - SA, Namibia and Zimbabwe



Online provision of training material

- Bio- and food safety training materials
 - video of training events
- Development of context-specific biosafety training material for SADC
- Production of CDs and DVDs for distribution
 - alternative means

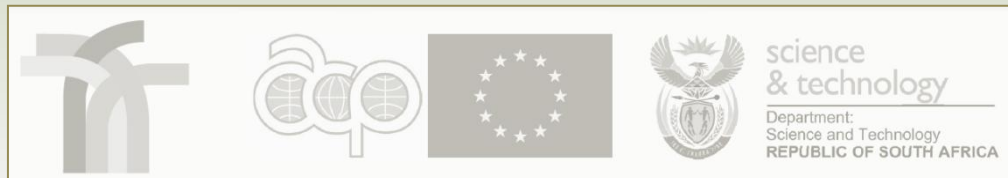


New biotechnology developments and regulation

- Profiling of genes, proteins and metabolites in GMOs
 - comparison to conventional crops
 - relation to food and crop safety
- Impact of new biotechnologies
 - regulation of new technologies

Information dissemination

- Stakeholder/interactive workshops
 - SA, Namibia, Zimbabwe
 - forum for information dissemination
- Development of resource material for extension officers
- Short course on science communication



Expected results

- Increased capacity of stakeholders
- Increased understanding of biotechnology and biosafety issues
- Increased networking on GMO issues
- Improved/informed decision-making by regulators

