

STATUS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY AND BIOSAFETY IN ZAMBIA

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OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

- **BACKGROUND**
- **ZAMBIA'S BIOTECHNOLOGY AND BIOSAFETY FRAMEWORK**
- **PUBLIC AWARENESS ON BIOTECHNOLOGY AND BIOSAFETY**
- **CONSTRAINTS TO PUBLIC AWARENESS**
- **BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH IN ZAMBIA**

BACKGROUND

- **Zambia experienced severe drought in the 2001/2002 farming season**
- **This resulted in food shortage**
- **International community donated GM maize to Zambia**
- **Government rejected the maize**
- **Government adopted precautionary principle as required by the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety**

ZAMBIA'S BIOTECHNOLOGY AND BIOSAFETY FRAMEWORK

- Biotechnology and Biosafety policy of 2003
- Biosafety Act No. 10 of 2007
- National Biosafety Authority (NBA)
- Appointment of the Board of the NBA
- Appointment of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Board
- Development of necessary regulations
- Also have a National GMO detection laboratory

REGULATIONS DEVELOPED

- **The Biosafety (Genetically Modified Organisms for Food Feed and Processing) Regulation, was published through Statutory Instrument (SI) No. 42 of 2010. These Regulations are intended to regulate the importation of genetically modified organisms for direct use as food, feed or for processing, unless;**

REGULATIONS CONTINUED

- The importation is duly authorized by the National Biosafety Authority
- The genetically modified organism is authorized for commercial distribution as food or feed in the country of origin
- Regardless of the intended use, the genetically modified organism pose no significant risks to human or animal health, biological diversity, non genetically modified crops or the environment

REGULATIONS CONTINUED

- **The Biosafety (Packaging, Handling, Transportation and Transit of Genetically Modified Organisms) Regulations**
- **Administrative guidelines**
- **Guidelines on Field work and planned release of Genetically Modified Organisms**

PUBLIC AWARENESS

- **The purpose of this programme is:**
- to establish a platform for public awareness and participation among stakeholders on biosafety decision making process
- to create awareness among cotton farmers, general public, scientists, and policy makers on biotechnology and biosafety

CONSTRAINTS TO PUBLIC AWARENESS

- **Misinformation**
- **Publicity of information from promoters**
- **Wrong target crops**
- **Farm sizes: Most of the farms, particularly peasant farms, are small scale**