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**ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT**

**AFRICAN CENTRE FOR BIODIVERSITY**

**JANUARY-DECEMBER 2018**



NPO No 57324

Registration No: 2004/025137/08

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# **SUPPORT**

The ACB gratefully acknowledges support for our work this year from the following partner institutions:

1. Bread for the World
2. New Venture Fund/11th Hour
3. Swedbio/Stockholm Resilience Fund
4. Swift Foundation
5. Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC)
6. Thousand Currents (IDEX)
7. United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

# **STRATEGIC REVIEW AND OUTLOOK**

The African Centre for Biodiversity (previously ‘Biosafety’) was established in 2003 and registered in 2004. ACB carries out research, analysis, capacity and movement building, and advocacy, and shares information to widen awareness and catalyse collective action and influence decision making on issues of biosafety, agricultural biodiversity and farmer-managed seed systems (FMSS) in Africa. The ACB’s work both informs and amplifies the voices of social movements fighting for food justice and food sovereignty in Africa.

During 2018, key advocacy actions were undertaken and these include;

1. The ACB’s appeal in the Hight Court in Pretoria, South Africa against the decisions of the South African government authorising the commercial release of Monsanto’s GM drought tolerant maize. A concrete outcome of ACB’s advocacy work in relation to Monsanto’s triple stacked GM drought tolerant maize, is the decision of the South African government not to grant a permit for the commercial release of a stacked GM maize.

2. The ARIPO Plant Variety Protection (PVP) Protocol was adopted in 2017 and our focus shifted to the regulations in 2018. Together with other African CSOs we achieved some successes in restricting ARIPO due to dogged and unfailing advocacy work outside of the official process. The process and state-corporate actors are hostile to popular engagement and participation. An earlier version of the Regulations - intended to introduce what can only be described as a draconian rural surveillance system, designed to intimidate and force seed processors, seed suppliers, government certification officers and even farmers’ organisations to police and spy on farmers who use farm-saved protected seed - was toned down substantially. A further major point of controversy during the Protocol negotiations was the extent to which the decision-making powers of the ARIPO Office were usurping the sovereignty of member states. Changes were made that now give Contracting States an explicit right to object to any PBR granted by the ARIPO Office, regionally from being awarded national protection. Furthermore, a previous version of the draft Regulations failed to provide appropriate mechanisms to operationalize the right of Member States to object to the grant of breeder’s rights as contemplated in the Protocol. After further advocacy work by CSOs, mechanisms have been created for a Contracting Party to object to a PBR granted by the ARIPO PBR Office from applying in its territory. Changes were also made to the Regulations to give contracting parties sovereignty in regard to the issue of compulsory licenses; another area of advocacy work that bore fruit.

3. At a continental and global level, ACB was invited into a number of continental and global processes around seed including participation in ITPGRFA meetings and processes in Africa, as well as securing observer status at the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Working Group (AHTEG) on farmers’ rights as part of the ITPGRFA.

The work under the auspices of the AHTEG is designed to come up with international guidelines towards the implementation of farmers’ rights. The ITPGRFA offers a strong basis for advocacy and practical work around farmer seed systems in a number of countries in the region who have already acceded to the Treaty, and others like South Africa who are proposing to do so especially through the implementation of Article 9 of the Treaty dealing with farmers’ rights. However, the proposed simultaneous adoption by the South African government of UPOV 1991 poses serious threats to what may be achieved through the Treaty.

4. In regard to corporate expansion, the South African Competition Commission requested ACB to provide expert testimony at Tribunal hearings to contest the terms of the Bayer-Monsanto merger in South Africa. ACB made submissions and presentations to Parliamentary hearings on the South African Competition Amendment Bill which seeks to give the competition authorities more power to regulate corporate concentration. The final amendments may open space for work on for investigations into the concentration in agricultural input supply, as well as proposing alternatives in the form of greater smallholder and small enterprise involvement in production and supply of inputs.

# **THE ACB’S PROGRAMMES**

The ACB has four programmes:

1. Biosafety in Africa: advocate for biosafety, building biosafety awareness and capacity of partners; and influencing decision-making in response to and anticipating the expansion of GMOs in Africa and new GM technologies;

2. Agricultural biodiversity is secured in east and southern Africa, focusing on seed policies and laws, and farmer seed systems;

3. Corporate expansion in African agriculture is contested, and alternatives are available to smallholder farmers;

4. Alert system in place and strengthened, informing members of the network coordinated by ACB of new policy, legislative and regulatory initiatives related to seed, intellectual property and trade regimes in the region, and rapid response to alerts.

ACB conducts and shares research and analysis, we carry out advocacy work in our own name and with partners and networks, we support capacity and knowledge development through building networks, and seek to influence public opinion and network/movement discourses and approaches with the goal of realising policy, legal and programmatic changes in favour of food sovereignty, and the strengthening of smallholder farmers and their links with consumers.

ACB’s partners remain the same, including farmers; farmer organisations; civil society organisations, especially those working in the fields of smallholder agriculture, agro-ecology and seed; governments, public sector institutions and donors. We have identified women and youth as core constituencies for progressive change, and are working towards integrating these constituencies in our work.

# **OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS ACHIEVED JANUARY 2018- DECEMBER 2018**

# **BIOSAFETY IN AFRICA: ADVOCATE FOR BIOSAFETY, BUILDING BIOSAFETY AWARENESS AND CAPACITY OF PARTNERS; AND INFLUENCING DECISION-MAKING IN RESPONSE TO AND ANTICIPATING THE EXPANSION OF GMOS IN AFRICA AND NEW GM TECHNOLOGIES**

Outcome 1.1 The commercial cultivation of genetically-modified (GM) varieties of staple foods is subject to broader resistance in South Africa and the region.

ACB has appealed against the commercial release of the GM drought tolerant maize and legal proceedings are ongoing in the High Court in Pretoria.

The SA government did not grant a permit for the commercial release of a stacked GM maize involving the GM drought tolerant trait which falls under the WEMA project. At its meeting on the 2nd October 2018, the Executive Council: GMO Act, refused to authorize the GM maize for commercial growing as it found that the data provided by Monsanto was insufficient to demonstrate the claimed drought tolerant and insect resistant efficacy of the GM event.

ACB’s decade-long critique of GM varieties developed in the context of the project ‘Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) in Southern and East Africa’ has been (perhaps decisively) vindicated by rulings in South Africa, which found against the licensing of Monsanto’s triple-stacked GM maize variety, and Ministerial decrees in Tanzania, which stopped field trials for the WEMA project owing to breach of biosafety regulations in that country.

The global push for developing, testing and releasing new genetically-modified organisms using what are called GM 2.0 technologies, including synthetic biology, genome editing and gene drives has increased. ACB is the lead African CSO participating, with other organisations focusing on these issues and together they lead the CSO lobby in the Convention for Biological Biodiversity (CBD) that is advocating for moratoria on field trials and release of organisms developed using these technologies.

**The summary on progress of ACB’s work within the Biosafety in Africa Programme**

During this period, a number of outputs were considered and activities were undertaken by the ACB on capacity building and information sharing.

**The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)**

At the national level ACB participated in a meeting with the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) on developing a database to monitor GMOs released into the environment, Pretoria, 16 Feb 2018. Further to this, liaison was done to SANBI regarding compliance and implementation of National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act (NEMBA) obligations in regard to monitoring impacts of GMOs on the environment, 24August 2018 and submission of applications for public to access to information to monitoring and reporting documents.

**Knowlegde and information sharing**

At the regional level, ACB continued to build capacity to CSOs by hosting 2 meetings for civil society organisations on GMO knowledge and information sharing in Johanesburg, South Africa and Maputo, Mozambique. In Maputo, the meeting focused particularly on sharing information and knowledge of the regulation of GMOs under the auspices of the Biosafety Protocol and biosafety capacity building with reference to the best biosafety practise and the Biosafety Protocol. ACB further participated in a meeting on GM with Tanzanian Parliamentarians, which took place on 12 May 2018 and attended a Biosafety Indaba in Swaziland to share the experiences of GMOs on the continent with government officials, parliamentarians and CSOs, 22 May 2018. Information on Biosafety laws was also shared to CSOs in Uganda, and ACB assisted Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) on a draft response to Mark Lynas on GMOs.

As part of information sharing, ACB participated in the Route to Food Initiative’s panel discussion where an ACB staff was one of the featured writers of the first edition of Cha Kula publication, which was publicly launched at the Alliance Francais in Nairobi, on the 11 July 2018. In addition, ACB was invited to attend and present on GMO and Biosafety regulation meetings in Uganda, Mozambique and Tanzania. Furthermore ACB team held a meeting with the Chief Director, Department of Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) Directorate: Genetic Resources in Pretoria, to discuss new technologies, 23 March 2018.

**SBSTTA, Cartagena Protocol and Convention for Biological Biodiversity (CBD)**

In relation to events at the international fora related to the Cartagena Protocol and the CBD, ACB team attended a Department of Environmental Affairs SBSTTA stakeholder consultation meeting on the 24th May 2018 in order to make inputs into the SA government position for both SBSTTA (preparatory negotiations for the COP MOP). Furthermore, ACB made submissions/inputs to the CBD Synbio AHTEG via the South African government and made recommendations for strong risk assessment for GMOs including new technologies and a moratorium on gene drives 26 Feb 2018. ACB further participated in both the Plenary sessions and the Contact groups negotiations in the main event of the CBD which was the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSSTA) 22 meeting in Montreal Canada between the 2nd and the 7thof July 2018. ACB also attended the national stakeholder consultation workshop in preparation for COP/MOP9 on the 26th October at the Sheraton Hotel in Pretoria that included a range of stakeholders from industry, tertiary institutions, and various government departments.

**Research reports/blogs/briefings**

At least 5 alerts and blogs were published during this period on Monsanto’s triple stacked GM Soya, Biosafety Indaba in Swaziland, demystifying GM maize through collective action on World Food Day, Debate on GMOs in Tanzania, Status quo of GM in South Africa and GM Mosquitoes in Burkina Faso. See Annex 1 and 2 for more details.

In addition at least 7 research reports were produced during this period on GM Cotton in East and Southern Africa, Bt Maize and the Fall ArmyWorm, GM Mosquitoes in Burkina Faso, No benefit of imminent release of GM Mosquitoes in Burkina Faso, Illegal Use of pro-GM propaganda in Tanzania, and Mark Lynas Slammed for exploiting African farmers’ images to promote GMOs. A number of briefing papers and press releases were published by ACB in collaboration with other global partners on GM Mosquitos in Burkina Faso and Synthetic Biology for dissemination during SBSTTA 22. Please See Annex 1 and 2 for more details.

During this period an objection to Application by Dow for general release of GM Maize MON89034 x TC1507 x NK603 was done by ACB alongside an online petition on the same trait.

# **2. AGRICULTURAL BIODIVERSITY IS SECURED IN EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA**

*Outcome 2.1 African CSO networks have positively influenced regional, national seed laws and policies*

At the regional level, the ACB engaged directly with national governments on new and revised seed laws and policies in South Africa and Tanzania, and provided analysis and support to CSO networks in Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia. The ACB, through Tanzania is also working on regional seed harmonisation processes of the East Africa Community (EAC).

In South Africa specifically, there was a process to bring together farmers and organisations to respond to the PBR and Plant Improvement bills where they actively participated in provincial and national processes to respond to the bills. This led to a number of provinces rejecting the bills because of concerns about their negative impacts on smallholder farmers. However, when these mandates went to national level debate in Parliament they were rejected. From a national seed dialogue ACB hosted in December 2017 a series of videos were produced, which were widely disseminated and have been well received.

During the reporting period the SA government indicated its intention to accede to the International Union for the Protection of New Plant Varieties (UPOV) 1991 as well as the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA). It called for submissions to be made by stakeholders and ACB made submissions, shared information with farmers and CSOs, and facilitated further discussion and participation of farmers and CSOs in national consultations which were held in October 2018. The ACB organised a workshop prior to the consultations and capacitated CSO members across SA, as well as assisted them to attend these consultations.

*Outcome 2.2 African CSOs and governments are enabled to advocate for and support farmer-managed seed systems (FMSS)*

In South Africa ACB has developed its contacts with CSOs and organisations which work on farmers seed systems in the Eastern Cape and emergent work elsewhere including in Limpopo province. Some were involved in the 2018 World Food Day celebrations in Eastern Cape and were especially keen to continue this engagement on FMSS. There is significant interest from some government officials to work more on FMSS, especially if external funding were available.

In Zimbabwe, which has a rich history of CSOs and farmers involved with programmes of work on farmers’ seeds, the ACB initiated a participatory research process with members of the Zimbabwe Seed Sovereignty Programme which is contributing to building alternatives rooted in farmer seed systems. At the Good Food and Seed Festival (Harare Botanical Gardens in October 2018), farmers from all the provinces of Zimbabwe were represented, as well as ACB-supported farmers from Malawi, Eastern Cape - South Africa and Zambia.

*Outcome 2.3 Policies and programmes that protect, support and strengthen FMSS are in place or on government agendas*

ACB has received invitations to meetings and discussions of the Open Source Seed Initiative (OSSI) and other deliberations hosted by the Oxfam-Novib led Sowing Diversity=Harvesting Security (SD=HS) programme. The work by OSSI is to develop systems of open source seed initiatives to counterbalance the impact of PVP laws that restrict the use of farm saved seed and is an important practical initiative to support age old practices of the free exchange of seed.

ACB is also actively involved in the Global Alliance for the Future of Food (GAFF) which is a network of donors and organisations seeking to support a transition to agroecology and food sovereignty. Discussions and plans include work on farmer seed systems and seed law and policies. GAFF aims to bridge the gaps between the formal and informal seed systems by putting in place a process that will focus on protecting and improving seed systems globally and locally.

As result of its continuous contribution in the discourse of FMSS, the ACB was invited into a number of continental and global processes around seed. These include participation in ITPGRFA International Planning Committee (IPC) for Food Sovereignty meetings and processes in Africa, and ACB has secured observer status at the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Working Group (AHTEG) on farmers’ rights as part of the ITPGRFA.

**The summary on progress of ACB’s work within the Securing of Agricultural Biodiversity in East and Southern Africa**

**Seed laws and Policies : SADC, ARIPO**

In the reporting period, ACB published 2 blogs, one report and one discussion paper on seed laws and policies on the continent (see Annex 2). ACB also made a preliminary submission to the SADC Seed Centre on registration of farmers’ varieties in terms of its harmonised seed regulations. Other reports in the reporting period included one on ARIPO Protocol and its regulations and the SADC PVP Protocol. Further, ACB assisted AFSA in drafting a press release on the ARIPO PVP Protocol.

**National seed laws and policies in African countries**

Preliminary comments on Malawi’s seed bill were shared with CSOs in that country, and ACB provided support to groups in Malawi to host a meeting on their seed law.

Policy inputs were given to Mauritius on their Seed Sector Policy. These inputs were used to strengthen a working group on seed and agriculture, and also address issues of control for seeds.

Inputs were made to the Global Alliance for Future of Food towards a global framework for seed systems.

In Tanzania, support was given by ACB on training on seed laws. ACB also provided a critique on the Mozambiqan PVP law. In addition in Tanzania and Mozambique, ACB was invited to share and reflect on seed laws in other meetings.

***South Africa***

In South Africa submissions were sent to the Parliamentary Land and Mineral Resources Select Committee on protecting smallholder farmers in the seed bills, with an accompanying press release. Comments were submitted on UPOV 1991/ITPGRFA South Africa ratification/accession to the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), in April 2018 with a workshop held to prepare for a national stakeholder consultations for DAFF. On the 18th of September the ACB held a capacity building seminar for the Legal Resource Centre (LRC) and focused on sharing information regarding the two seed Bills. As a result of this capacity building initiative by the ACB, the LRC published an article during World Food Day titled [Access to seed is access to food](https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2018-10-15-access-to-seed-is-access-to-food/) discussing the challenges the challenges in legislation with regard to limiting access to the sharing of seeds by small-scale farmers. An information sharing meeting on seed laws was held with Eastern Cape farmers.

**Participatory research partnership**

As part of ACB’s participatory research partnership, ACB was invited and took part in a meeting in Tanzania to reflect and discuss among agricultural researchers and smallholder farmers on how to fully incorporate farmers need into agricultural research systems, and in the Eastern Cape, an meeting was held to discuss GM, seed and producer support, and broad ideas and plans developed including joint event on World Food Day (16 October) in Eastern Cape, multi-stakeholder farmer seed selection and trials including farmers, CSOs, universities, research institutes and district and provincial government, and ideas about developing and deepening seed modules for agroecology curricula.

ACB also presented on seed policy issues in the country at a Climate Smart Agroecology (CSAN) learning meeting which included CSOs, farmers and academic institutions, from Limpopo, Mpumalanga, and Eastern Cape provinces.

Additionally the ACB also attended a dialogue on land hosted by the Inyanda National Land Movement in King William’s Town, E Cape on the 10th till the 11th of December 2018. The meeting went through a series of case studies on different contexts (e.g. farm land, communal areas, Act 9 land etc) presented by grassroots activists. Furthermore the ACB team met with 22 farmers and activists from several affiliated to the Inyanda Land Movement. This meeting was aimed at discussing GMOs, farmer seed systems and commercial laws, and producer support programs. This led to ACB in collaboration with the Mxumbu Youth Cooperative, and other organisations such as Zingisa Educational Project, Calabash Trust, Khanyisa Development Project, RPM, UFH, Earth Harmony and individual farmers hosted a World Food Day event at Mxumbu Village in Eastern Cape on the 16 of October 2018 which was attended by over 150 people (adults, locals, farmers and in school children). During this time ACB released 3 animations on GM seeds, translated into 5 languages - isiZulu, isiXhosa, Sesotho, English and Afrikaans (History of Maize Cultivation and Consumption in South Africa; GMOs in South Africa; Debunking Myths Relating to GMOs).

**Research reports/blogs/briefings**

A number of research reports were worked on during this period, while a number of blogs and videos on seed were also produced by ACB for dissemination. Please refer to Annex 1 and 2 for more information on these.

# **3. CORPORATE EXPANSION IN AFRICAN AGRICULTURE IS CONTESTED, AND ALTERNATIVES ARE AVAILABLE TO SMALLHOLDER FARMERS**

Outcome 3.1 CSOs’ critical voices against corporate expansion in African seed and agriculture sectors receives increased support

The critique of the farm input subsidy programmes (FISPs) is gathering steam, with the report on SA being published in the reporting period. A report for Tanzania was shared at a CSO workshop and has been published. Draft reports were produced for Zambia and Mozambique, with farmers and CSO networks keen to engage further on the topic. ACB co-hosted a very successful regional workshop on the FISPs with the RWA in Namibia during the reporting period, which developed very concrete proposals around diversification and reallocation of resources to agroecology including farmer seed systems. There is an expanding network of interested organisations from multiple countries in the region.

In regard to corporate expansion, the South African Competition Commission requested ACB to provide expert testimony at Tribunal hearings to contest the Bayer-Monsanto merger in South Africa. Ultimately the Tribunal did not sit because behind the scenes negotiations resolved the impasse. Unfortunately, the conditions of the merger were not made publicly available on the basis of confidentiality claims. In this regard, ACB made submissions and presentations to Parliamentary hearings on the South African Competition Amendment Bill which seeks to give the competition authorities more power to regulate corporate concentration. A draft report on the COMESA Competition Commission has been produced to tie up with our regional work on seed in relation to COMESA.

**Summary on progress of activities and outcomes**

A number of reports on FISP and public sector resources in agriculture were produced and disseminated. Please see Annex 1 and Annex 2 for more information.

**FISP activities at national countries**

A number of organisations also took up the role on challenging FISPs and these were from South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique and Ghana.

In South Africa, ACB attended DAFF national stakeholder meeting on Conservation Agriculture policy, Pretoria, 12 April 2018 and met with the DAFF policy drafting team on Comprehensive Producer Support Policy, Pretoria, 5 July 2018. Furthermore a submission on DAFF Comprehensive Producer Support Policy, 12 July 2018 was done and inputs on DAFF Agroecology grain production information document on request, 20 July 2018.

**FISP activities at regional level**

ACB co-hosted a regional farmer speak out and discussion on producer support and FISPs as part of the SADC People’s Summit to coincide with the SADC Heads of State Summit in Windhoek, Namibia, 15-18 August 2018. The meeting was attended by 140 mainly women smallholder farmers and CSOs from South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi, Swaziland, Lesotho, Mauritius, Tanzania and Ghana to discuss FISPs and public sector support for agroecology. The event was documented and a workshop report, statement from the meeting, and four draft videos from the Namibia meeting - Why farmers find FISP problematic; Experiences of FISPs (Farm Input Subsidy Programmes) in Africa; Alternatives to FISP - Farm Input Subsidy Programmes in Africa; Agroecology as an alternative.

**Submission on Competition Amendment Bill**

ACB submitted comments on Competition Amendment Bill, 29 January 2018. Furthermore, Competition Commission invited ACB to present evidence at Tribunal hearings on the Bayer-Monsanto merger; submitted evidence statement; attended meetings and hearing preparatory discussions, May 2018. Ultimately a deal was made behind closed doors and the Tribunal did not sit. Further comments submitted on the Competition Amendment Bill to Economic Development Department, 17 August 2018, leading to an invitation to the ACB to provide an oral presentation on our submission to the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, which we did in Cape Town, 29 August 2018.

**Research reports/blogs/briefings**

2 blogs were published in June 2018, one on “Bayer opposes black economic empowerment in purchase of Monsanto” and another titled “Restrict, regulate and reduce corporate power in South Africa’s food system”. These blogs were shared by 942 people on social media platforms. ACB further attended TIPS Dialogue on corporate ownership in SA, Pretoria, 25 May 2018.

**Additional work on taking back corporate control**

ACB also participated in national and international events on taking back power from corporate control and transitioning to seed and food sovereignty and agro ecology. These were through participating in the;

* FAO Agroecology symposium, Rome, 3-5 April 2018
* Adaptation Futures Conference, Cape Town, June 2018 where ACB presented “Harnessing indigenous and traditional knowledge for adaptation in low-input conditions”
* AFSA food systems and the SDGs conference and AGM meeting on 2nd to 5th November at Sally in Senegal.

# **4. ALERT SYSTEM IN PLACE AND STRENGTHENED, INFORMING MEMBERS OF THE NETWORK COORDINATED BY ACB OF NEW POLICY, LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY INITIATIVES RELATED TO SEED, IP AND TRADE REGIMES IN THE REGION, AND RAPID RESPONSE TO ALERTS**

**Summary on progress of activities and outcomes**

**Arusha PVP Protocol and SADC PVP Protocol**

Following the adoption of both the Regulations to implement the Arusha PVP Protocol and the SADC PVP Protocol, ACB received various urgent requests from partners in the SADC region to unpack both Protocols and outline what they mean for FMSS and to convene a meeting of CSOs with some key governments and from the RECs to discuss these.

Consequently, ACB and ZAAB hosted a regional workshop on regional seed processes (ARIPO/SADC/COMESA) in Lusaka, 16-18 July 2018 with 56 participants (52% women) from 13 countries from Southern and East Africa.

**FAO’s International Symposium on Agroecology**

Furthermore, ACB participated in FAO’s 2nd International Symposium on Agroecology in Rome in April 2018 and thereafter a planning meeting of the Global Alliance for the Future of Food in regard to Seeds of Resilience in October 2018 in Oaxaca, Mexico.

**Other work on seed laws and policies**

The ACB supported the Malawian CSOs to meet between themselves and with government officials on the Malawi policy and draft seed bill. The ACB directed this support upon request by the Development Fund in collaboration with CEPA. This enabled CSOs to come together and speak with a unified voice. In addition, ACB enabled other CSOs in South Africa to attend parliamentary processes in regards to seed bill.

**LESSONS LEARNED**

During the reporting period, the ACB has substantially increased its overall visibility and impact at the national, regional and international levels across all of our programmatic areas of work. We have deepened our work, kept up to date with the key and emerging issues, produced timely research and policy analysis of high standard, expanded our reach into new networks and consolidated our relationship with existing partners. We have also undertaken our own advocacy work with considerable impact, as well as acting as an important and key catalyst towards advocacy work undertaken by our partners. Our consistency, persistence and dogged commitment to social justice and equity across our areas of work is bearing fruit.

In SA especially in regard to GMOs, there are many groups and networks actively engaged in the issues and who look to the ACB for leadership and support. In regard to biosafety and the GMO push on the rest of the continent, some parts of Africa are coming under tremendous pressure to adopt GM crops, including Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, Swaziland, Tanzania and Mozambique. The ACB has done a huge body of work on these issues over the last 14 years and we continue to support our network partners. In regard to our own work, ACB is driven by the imperatives to target key/strategic areas of work on new traits/crops and that has a wider reach that just SA, as is the case with the WEMA project and also on new and emerging issues such as gene editing and gene drive technologies. In this regard, we have produced national, regional and international level work as has already been explored in this report.

There is tremendous energy in several countries where ACB is active or has provided unwavering support including in South Africa, Swaziland, Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe around the seed issues. Recent engagement with groups of lawyers in regard to the GM and seed issues indicate to us that we have successfully conveyed messages in the public domain of gross inequities and miscarriages of justice in the food and agriculture systems. Our willingness to embrace new ways of including farmers into dialogues and debates that celebrate and honour culture, diversity and community has also opened new ways for the ACB to communicate the central messages from our work by giving voice to those most affected by political, economic and institutional inequities. While the ACB did not set out actively to influence global discourses, we have been recognised and included by key global initiatives for our contributions and this has been an unexpected yet exciting opportunity.

In regard to our corporate work undertaken during the reporting period, we have focused primarily on follow-up work to the Bayer/Monsanto merger and the FISP work. While we readily acknowledge that we were unable through our best efforts to stop the merger, we were able to influence the outcome to some extent and built better relationships with competition authorities.

The FISP work appears to be timely, with widespread questioning of the benefits to farmers and farming communities of Green Revolution input subsidies. ACB has been able to quickly build a wide network of CSOs interested in the topic. Key messages arising from the process are the need for diversification and greater choice for farmers, greater inclusion of women and resource-poor farmers, and public sector support for diverse agroecological practices and techniques.

Acronyms

AAI Action Aid International

ACB African Centre for Biodiversity

ADECRU Acção Académica para o Desenvolvimento das Comunidades Rurais

AFSA Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa

ARIPO African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation

ASSAf Academy of Science in South Africa

CBD Convention on Biological Diversity

COMESA Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa

COP Conference of Parties

CSO Civil society organisation

DT Drought tolerant

EFF Economic Freedom Fighters

ESAFF Eastern and Southern African Farmers’ Forum

FAO Food and Agriculture Organisation

FISP Farm input subsidy programme

FMSS Farmer-managed seed systems

FoE Friends of the Earth

GMO Genetically modified organism

IFP Inkatha Freedom Party

ITPGRFA International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

M&E Monitoring and evaluation

MPA Movimento dos Pequenos Agricultores

MRLs Minimum residue levels

MVIWATA Mtandao wa Vikundi vya Wakulima Tanzania

NCOP National Council of Provinces

PBR Plant breeders’ rights

PELUM Participatory Ecological Land Use Management

PPB Participatory plant breeding

PSA Partnership for Social Accountability

PVP Plant variety protection

RAALT Network for a GM Free Latin America

RWA Rural Women’s Assembly

SA South Africa

SADC Southern African Development Community

SAFSC South African Food Sovereignty Campaign

SAPSN Southern African People’s Solidarity Network

SDC Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation

TCOE Trust for Community Outreach and Education

TWN Third World Network

UCAMA Uniao Provincial Dos Camponeses De Manica

UN United Nations

UNAC Uniao Nacional de Camponeses

UPOV International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants

WEMA Water Efficient Maize for Africa

ZAAB Zambia Alliance for Agroecology and Biodiversity

ZSSP Zimbabwe Seed Sovereignty Platform

Annex 1: Released Publications January 2018 – December 2018

| **Date** | **Title** | **Type of publication** | **Digital views** | **Social media shares** | **Facebook reach** | **Twitter** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Programme 1: Biosafety in Africa** |
| 31 Jan 2018  | [ACB’s Objection to Monsanto’s Application for Commodity Clearance of MON 87708 × MON 89788 × A5547-127 Triple-Stacked Herbicide Tolerant Soybean](https://acbio.org.za/acbs-objection-monsantos-application-commodity-clearance-mon-87708-x-mon-89788-x-a5547-127-triple-stacked-herbicide-tolerant-soybean/) | Objection | n/a  | n/a  | n/a  | n/a |
| 08 Feb 2018 | [Monsanto’s risky triple herbicide-tolerant soybeans to enter South Africa’s food systems](https://acbio.org.za/monsantos-risky-triple-herbicidetolerant-soybeans-to-enter-south-africas-food-systems/) | Alert | 344 | 561 | 23 378  | 2501 |
| 09 Feb 2018 | [No benefit to imminent release of risky GM mosquitoes in Burkina Faso](https://acbio.org.za/press-release-no-benefit-imminent-release-risky-gm-mosquitoes-burkina-faso/) | Press release | 344 | 143 | 12441 | 2922 |
| 20 Feb 2018 | [A snake oil solution: GM cotton in East and Southern Africa](https://acbio.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/GM-Cotton-east_southern-Africa-WEB.pdf) | Report  | 302 | 24 | 486 | 2874 |
| 15 Mar 2018 | Objection to Application by Dow for general release of GM maize: MON89034 X TC1507 x NK603 with the intention for cultivation in the entire region of South Africa | Objection  | n/a  | n/a  | n/a  | 6022  |
| 19 Mar 2018 | [Stop the approval of Dow’s triple stacked GM maize destined for our food in South Africa](https://www.acbio.org.za/en/petition/stop-dow-triple-stacked-gm-maize) | Petition  | 383 | 680 | 28 712 | 376 |
| 28 May 2018  | [Biosafety Indaba eSwatini: Unclear motives following approval to cultivate Bt cotton, despite dismal failures in Africa, India](http://acbio.org.za/en/biosafety-indaba-eswatini-unclear-motives-following-approval-cultivate-bt-cotton-despite-dismal) | Blog  | 381 | 102 | 8,527 | 1554 |
| 04 Jun 2018 | [The debate on GMOs in Africa rages on, this time in Tanzania](https://www.acbio.org.za/en/debate-gmos-africa-rages-time-tanzania) | Blog | 367 | 127 | 8,822 | 1415 |
| 20 Jun 2018 | Briefing papers co-published with ETC Group and TWN:[Building International Capacity in Synthetic Biology Assessment and Governance](http://www.synbiogovernance.org/documents/); [What does Synthetic Biology mean for Africa?;](http://www.synbiogovernance.org/what-does-syn-bio-mean-for-africa/) [What does Synthetic Biology mean for Asia Pacific?;](http://www.synbiogovernance.org/what-does-syn-bio-mean-for-asia-pacific/) [What does Synthetic Biology mean for Latin America and the Caribbean?;](http://www.synbiogovernance.org/what-does-syn-bio-mean-for-latin-america-the-caribbean/) [Briefing for CBD Delegates**:** Synthetic Biology and AI-enabled Biosynthesis – The Implications for Biodiversity and Farmer Livelihoods;](http://www.synbiogovernance.org/synthetic-biology-and-ai-enabled-biosynthesis-the-implications-for-biodiversity-and-farmer-livelihoods/)  [Sequence Information**:** A key topic for the Biodiversity Convention](http://www.synbiogovernance.org/sequence-information-a-key-topic-for-the-biodiversity-convention/); [Briefing for CBD Delegates: Synthetic gene drives: Genetic engineering gone wild](http://www.synbiogovernance.org/synthetic-gene-drives-genetic-engineering-goes-wild/); [Decisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization related to ‘digital sequence information’.](http://www.synbiogovernance.org/compilations-of-convention-on-biological-diversity-decisions-on-digital-sequence-information-on-genetic-resources/) | Briefings | n/a  | n/a  | n/a  | n/a  |
| 27 Jun 2018 | [WEMA’S Bt maize and Fall Army Worm: African claims are unscientific and unsubstantiated](https://www.acbio.org.za/en/wemas-bt-maize-fall-armyworm-africa-claims-are-unscientific-and-unsubstantiated) | Press release | 394 | 117 |  10 279 | 627 |
| 04 October 2018  | [GM0 ALERT: news and status quo in South Africa](https://www.acbio.org.za/en/gm0-alert-news-and-status-quo-south-africa) | Alert  | 403 | 265 | 17275 | 550 |
| 12 October 2018  | [Press Release: World Food Day Celebration in the Eastern cape: Phansi GMO Maize Phambili Agroecology!](https://acbio.org.za/sites/default/files/documents/Press%20Release%20-%20World%20Food%20Day%20Celebration%20in%20the%20Eastern%20cape%20-%20Phansi%20GMO%20Maize%20Phambili%20Agrocology.pdf) | Press Release  | 356 | 40 | 12774 | 717 |
| 15 October 2018 | 3 animations on GMOs in South Africa1. [History of Maize Cultivation and Consumption in South Africa](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PorQQdhPsKo&t=0s&list=UUo5OiZnNBz806VHXcZeSiHQ&index=2)
2. [GMOs in South Africa](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vD6GqZgjtAI&index=3&list=UUo5OiZnNBz806VHXcZeSiHQ&t=2s)
3. [Debunking Myths Relating to GMOs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TFnKMOMtBmc&list=UUo5OiZnNBz806VHXcZeSiHQ&t=0s&index=2)
 | Videos  | 374 | 203 | 14861 | 5643 |
| 1 November 2018  | [Demystifying GM maize through collective action on World Food Day](https://www.acbio.org.za/en/demystifying-gm-maize-through-collective-action-world-food-day) | Blog | 313 | 42 | 15562 | 1111 |
| 5 November 2018 | [Critique of African Union and NEPAD’s positions on gene drive mosquitoes for Malaria elimination](https://acbio.org.za/sites/default/files/documents/Critique_of_African_Union_and_NEPADs_positions_on_gene_drive_mosquitoes_for_Malaria_elimination.pdf) | Report | 334 | 157 | 39559 | 1683 |
|  | [Critique des positions de l’Union africaine et du NEPAD sur les moustiques issus du forçage génétique pour éliminer le paludisme](https://acbio.org.za/sites/default/files/documents/Critique%20des%20positions%20de%20l%E2%80%99Union%20africaine%20et%20du%20NEPAD%20sur%20les%20moustiques%20issus%20du%20for%C3%A7age%20g%C3%A9n%C3%A9tique%20pour%20%C3%A9liminer%20le%20paludisme.pdf) |  |  |  |  |  |
| 09 Nov2018  | [GM mosquitoes in Burkina Faso: a briefing for the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety](https://acbio.org.za/sites/default/files/documents/GM_mosquitoes_in_Burkina_Faso_A_briefing_for_the_Parties_to_the_Cartagena_Protocol_on_Biosafety.pdf) | Briefing Paper | 12 | 260 | 52565 | 2974 |
| 15 Nov 2018 | SA Government rejects Monsanto’s Triple stacked GM Drought tolerant maize | Press Release | 279 | 806 | 6766 | 3658 |
| 23 Nov 2018 | [Tanzania orders destruction of Monsanto/Gates’ GM trials due to illegal use for pro-GM propaganda](https://acbio.org.za/en/tanzania-orders-destruction-monsantogates-gm-trials-due-illegal-use-pro-gm-propaganda) | Press Release  | 300 | 830 | 12773 | 4022 |
| 7 Dec 2018  | [Mark Lynas slammed for exploiting African farmers’ images to promote GMOs](https://www.acbio.org.za/en/mark-lynas-slammed-exploiting-african-farmers-images-promote-gmos) | Press Release | 158 | 250 | 41627 | 1265 |
| **Programme 2: Agricultural biodiversity is secured in East and Southern Africa** |
| 15 Jan 2018 | [Status report on the SADC, COMESA and EAC harmonised seed trade regulations: Where does this leave the regions’ smallholder farmers?](https://acbio.org.za/status-report-sadc-comesa-eac-harmonised-seed-trade-regulations-leave-regions-smallholder-farmers/) | Report | 220 | 121 | 8178 | 2543 |
| 22 Jan 2018 | [Art, seed sovereignty and activism: Weaving new stories](https://acbio.org.za/activism-and-art-weaving-new-stories/) | Blog | 262 | 190 | 13939 | 2546 |
| 29 Jan 2018 | [Celebrating smallholder farmers and seed diversity in South Africa: Report from the national seed dialogue and celebration](https://acbio.org.za/celebrating-smallholder-farmers-and-seed-diversity-in-south-africa-report-from-the-national-seed-dialogue-and-celebration/) | Report  | 311 | 20 | 603 | 721 |
| 23 Feb 2018 | [Face to face: African CSOs confront ARIPO, SADC over draconian harmonised seed laws](https://acbio.org.za/face-face-african-csos-confront-aripo-sadc-draconian-harmonised-seed-laws/) | Video and PR | 324 | 149 | 393 | 1656 |
| 26 Feb 2018 | Relatório sobre os regulamentos harmonizados mais recentes para comércio de sementes na SADC, COMESA e EAC: Onde é que isto deixa os camponeses? | Report  | 221 | 324 | 400 | 473 |
| 01 Mar 2018 | [A review of participatory plant breeding and lessons for African seed and food sovereignty movements](https://acbio.org.za/a-review-of-participatory-plant-breeding-and-lessons-for-african-seed-and-food-sovereignty-movements/) | Report and PR | 309 | 11 | 513 | 4011 |
| 12 Mar 2018 | [Insights into our food system: Why did catering indigenous local food at the National Seed Dialogue go so horribly wrong?](https://acbio.org.za/en/insights-our-food-system-why-did-catering-indigenous-local-food-national-seed-dialogue-go-so) | Blog  | 307 | 205 | 10997 | 723 |
| 26 Mar 2018 | [Towards national and regional seed policies in Africa that recognise and support farmer seed systems](https://acbio.org.za/sites/default/files/documents/Seed_Policies_in_Africa_report_WEB.pdf) | Report  | 296 | 10 | 241 | 1133 |
| 19 Apr 2018 | [Pour des politiques semencières nationales et régionales en Afrique qui reconnaissent et soutiennent les systèmes semenciers paysans](http://ressources.semencespaysannes.org/docs/seed_policies_in_africa_report_french_web.pdf). |  Report | n/a  | n/a  | n/a  | 355 |
| 7 May 2018 | [Politics of seed in South Africa](https://acbio.org.za/en/video/2018/politics-seed-south-africa) | Blogs  | 939 | 300 | 14695 | 3277 |
| 18 May 2018  | [Spiritual and cultural value of seed in South Africa](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QMQpb0oq7OY) | Video  | 536 | 91 | 7,523 | 2460 |
| 31 May 2018 | [Participatory plant breeding and smallholder farmers](http://acbio.org.za/en/participatory-plant-breeding-and-smallholder-farmers) | Video  | 385 | n/a  | n/a | 1170 |
| 31 May 2018  | [Parliamentary consultation and decision making on SA’s corporate seed bills a sham!](https://acbio.org.za/en/parliamentary-consultation-decision-making-sas-corporate-seed-bills-sham) | Press release  | 359 | 411 | 18698 | 2662 |
| 8 Jun 2018  | Resisting corporate seed laws in South Africa | Video  | 677 | 298 | 15047 | 2763 |
| 18 Jun 2018  | Agroecology points the way towards resilience against climate change | Blog | 380 | 10 | 1335 | 712 |
| 22 Jun 2018  | [Value of household and community seed banks](https://acbio.org.za/en/video-value-household-and-community-seed-banks-fifth-video-release-series-six-videos-acb) | Video | 861 | 105 | 8,003 | 1461 |
| 06 Jul 2018  | Smallholder farmer autonomy over seed production | Video  |  | 112 | 5442 | 1601 |
| 16 Jul 2018 | [Marginalised worldviews hold the key to climate change adaptation: Reflections from the International Adaptation Futures Conference, Cape Town](https://acbio.org.za/en/marginalised-worldviews-hold-key-climate-change-adaption-reflections-international-adaptation) | Blog  | 120 | 37 | 1194 | 723 |
| 08 September 2018 | [The Arusha Protocol and Regulations: Institutionalising UPOV 1991 in African seed systems and laws](https://acbio.org.za/en/arusha-protocol-and-regulations-institutionalising-upov-1991-african-seed-systems-and-laws) | Report | 355 | 13 | 1337 | 3561 |
|  | Swahili[Itifaki na Kanuni za Arusha: Kutaasisisha Muungano wa Kulinda Aina za Mimea(UPOV 1991) katika Mifumo na Sheria za Mbegu za Afrika](https://www.acbio.org.za/sites/default/files/documents/Itifaki%20na%20Kanuni%20za%20Arusha%20Kutaasisisha%20Muungano%20wa%20Kulinda%20Aina%20za%20Mimea%20%28UPOV%201991%29%20katika%20Mifumo%20na%20Sheria%20za%20Mbegu%20za%20Afrika%20SUMMARY%20Swahili.pdf) |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | French[Le protocole et les règlements d'Arusha : l'institutionnalisation d'UPOV 1991 au sein des lois et systèmes semenciers africains](https://acbio.org.za/sites/default/files/documents/Le%20protocole%20et%20les%20r%C3%A8glements%20d%27Arusha%20l%27institutionnalisation%20d%27UPOV%201991%20au%20sein%20des%20lois%20et%20syst%C3%A8mes%20semenciers%20africains%20SUMMARY%20French.pdf) |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Portuguese[O Protocolo e Regulamentos de Arusha: Institucionalizando a UPOV 1991 em Sistemas e Leis de sementes Africanas.](https://acbio.org.za/sites/default/files/documents/O%20Protocolo%20e%20Regulamentos%20de%20Arusha%20Institucionalizando%20a%20UPOV%201991%20em%20Sistemas%20e%20Leis%20de%20sementes%20Africanas%20SUMMARY%20Port.pdf) |  |  |  |  |  |
| 17 September 2018 | [The SADC PVP Protocol: Blueprint for uptake of UPOV 1991 in Africa](https://acbio.org.za/en/sadc-pvp-protocol-blueprint-uptake-upov-1991-africa) | Report and Summary | 357 | 7 | 338 | 990 |
|  | [The SADC PVP Protocol-Blueprint for uptake of UPOV 1991 in Africa SUMMARY](https://acbio.org.za/en/sadc-pvp-protocol-blueprint-uptake-upov-1991-africa) |  |  |  |  |  |
| 17 Oct 2018 | [UPOV 1991 and the ITPGRFA: Key issues for farmer managed seed systems in South Africa](https://acbio.org.za/en/upov-1991-and-itpgrfa-key-issues-farmer-managed-seed-systems-south-africa) | Report | 374 | 45 | 5126 | 2224 |
| 30 Oct 2018 | [Reflections on ITPGRFA, UPOV 1991 and South Africa](https://acbio.org.za/en/reflections-itpgrfa-upov-1991-and-south-africa) | Blog  | 292 | 10 | 22840 | 1214 |
| 12 Nov 2018  | [Good Food and Seed Festival, Harare, Zimbabwe. By Edmore Parichi and Busi Mgangxela](https://www.acbio.org.za/en/good-food-and-seed-festival-harare-zimbabwe-edmore-parichi-and-busi-mgangxela) | Blog  | 313 | 5 | 428 | 3256 |
| **Programme 3: Corporate expansion in Africa** |
| 24 Jan 2018 | [Green Innovation Centre in Zambia: Fighting Hunger through Corporate Supply Chains?](https://acbio.org.za/green-innovation-centre-zambia-fighting-hunger-corporate-supply-chains/) | Report | 338 | 27 | 1661 | 7613 |
| 29 Jan 2018 | [Comments on the South African Competition Amendment Bill 2017](https://acbio.org.za/comments-competition-amendment-bill-2017/) | Submission | n/a  | n/a  | n/a  | n/a |
| 05 Apr 2018 | [A tale of neo-apartheid plans, dodgy dealings and corporate capture: Government support to South African smallholders](https://www.acbio.org.za/en/tale-neo-apartheid-plans-dodgy-dealings-and-corporate-capture-government-support-south-african) | Report and PR | 324 | 133 | 7370 | 814 |
| 6 Jun 2018  | [Bayer opposes black economic empowerment in purchase of Monsanto](https://www.acbio.org.za/en/bayer-opposes-black-economic-empowerment-purchase-monsanto) | Blog  | 300 | 200 | 14101 | 607 |
| 14 Jun 2018 | [Restrict, regulate and reduce corporate power in South Africa’s food system](https://www.acbio.org.za/en/restrict-regulate-and-reduce-corporate-power-south-africas-food-system) | Blog  | 342 | 216 | 13 249 | 646 |
| 13 Aug 2018 | Farm input subsidy programme (English and Afrikaans) | Pamphlet |  120 | 83 | 2937 | 259 |
| 10 Sept 2018 | [Report from SADC regional farmer speak out on farm input subsidy programmes](https://acbio.org.za/en/report-sadc-regional-farmer-speak-out-farm-input-subsidy-programmes) | Report  | 377 | 7 | 326 | 511 |
| 05 Oct 2018  | [The Future of smallholder farmer support in Tanzania: Where to after the National Agricultural Input Voucher System](https://www.acbio.org.za/en/future-smallholder-farmer-support-tanzania-where-after-national-agricultural-input-voucher-system) (NAIVS)? | Report and Summary | 324 | 12 | 792 | 1482 |

**Annex 2: ACB media coverage, January 2018- November 2018**

**Programme 1: GM and biosafety**

Interviews:

[What South African consumers should know about GM foods](https://m.soundcloud.com/radioislam/what-south-african-consumers-should-know-about-gm-foods-linzi-lewis) - Linzi Lewis, Radio Islam, 13 Jan 2018

ACB work on GMOs – Mariam Mayet and other ACB staff, An Nur, SABC3, Mar 2018

Lessons from SA on GMOs - Sabrina Masinjila, Cha Kula Magazine, 1 Jun 2018

Gene drives - Mariam Mayet, UK Telegraph, 10 Jul 2018

[Maize GMO release not meant for commercial use](https://omny.fm/shows/afternoon-drive-702/maize-gmo-release-not-meant-for-commercial-use?fbclid=IwAR0WDy7ZZbZgiWhhlRw96NBLKu92d6sVOBnRReVqaM1hTIuK_6Re5znhRy0), Interview by Mariam with radio 702, 13 August 2018

[SADC commemorating Malaria Day](https://iono.fm/e/623753), Mariam Mayet Interview with Channel Africa,09 November 2018

On the 15th of November 2018, ACB researcher Linzi Lewis had an interview with Radio 702 regarding SA Government decision to reject Monsanto’s Triple stacked GM Drought tolerant maize

On the 16th of November 2018, ACB researcher Linzi Lewis had an interview with SMILE FM 90.4 regarding SA Government decision to reject Monsanto’s Triple stacked GM Drought tolerant maize

Published articles referring to ACB’s work:

* [African solutions urgently sought for agricultural revolution](http://www.bizcommunity.com/Article/410/358/171845.html), 3 Jan 2018, BizCommunity.com
* No benefit to imminent release of risky GM mosquitoes in Burkina Faso, 12 Feb 2018, GMWatch.org
[ACB warns of Monsanto's GM soybean](http://www.bizcommunity.com/InBrief/0/642/14004.html), 12 Feb 2018, BizCommunity.com
* No benefit to imminent release of risky GM mosquitoes in Burkina Faso, 13 Feb 2018, GMWatch.org
* [Release of sterile mosquitoes a "publicity stunt"](http://www.bizcommunity.com/Article/35/152/173587.html), 14 Feb 2018, BizCommunity.com
* Burkina Faso set for risky GM mosquitoes’ trial with ‘no benefits’, 15 Feb 2018, Natural Blaze
* [Bill Gates Funds the Release of Thousands of GMO Mosquitoes on African Nation Solely for Experimental Purposes](http://healthyantidote.com/2018/02/16/bill-gates-funds-the-release-of-thousands-of-gmo-mosquitoes-on-african-nation-solely-for-experimental-purposes/), 16 February 2018, *healthyantidote.com*
* [Bill Gates Funds the Release of Thousands of GMO Mosquitoes on the African Nation Solely for Experimental Purposes](http://worldweb365.us/blog/bill-gates-funds-the-release-of-thousands-of-gmo-mosquitoes-on-the-african-nation-solely-for-experimental-purposes/), 19 February 2018, *World Wed 365*
* [Bill Gates funds the release of thousands of GM mosquitoes on African nation solely for experimental purposes](https://www.healthnutnews.com/bill-gates-funds-the-release-of-thousands-of-gm-mosquitoes-on-african-nation-solely-for-experimental-purposes/), 20 February 2018, healthnutnews.com
* Biopiracy: A threat to the natural world, 22 February 2018, <https://www.ntdaily.com/biopiracy-a-threat-to-the-natural-world/>
* [Projet Target Malaria: Des populations burkinabè en phase d’être des cobayes, selon la COPAGEN](https://infowakat.net/projet-target-malaria-populations-burkinabe-phase-detre-cobayes-selon-copagen/), 5 Apr 2018
* [Moustiques OGM au Burkina Faso : Les inquiétudes de la COPAGEN](http://lefaso.net/spip.php?article82819), 6 Apr 2018, Lefaso.net
* [Moustiques OGM au Burkina: la Copagen tire la sonnette d’alarme](http://www.fasozine.com/actualite/environnement/3907-moustiques-ogm-au-burkina-la-copagen-tire-la-sonnette-d-alarme.html), 06 Apr 2018, fasozine.com
* [Experimentation des OGM au Burkina : La COPAGEN dit niet à toute transformation du pays en laboratoire](http://lepays.bf/experimentation-ogm-burkina-copagen-dit-niet-a-toute-transformation-pays-laboratoire/), 06 Apr 2018, lepays.bf
* [L’œil de Glez : les moustiques OGM, cauchemar ou solution contre le paludisme ?,](http://www.jeuneafrique.com/553286/societe/loeil-de-glez-les-moustiques-ogm-cauchemar-ou-solution-contre-le-paludisme/) 20 Apr 2018, [www.jeuneafrique.com](http://www.jeuneafrique.com)
* [Lutte contre le paludisme : Target Malaria présenté aux hommes de média](http://lefaso.net/spip.php?article83044), 20 Apr 2018, Lefaso.net
* Documentary on ACB and our work on GMOs aired on An Nur The Light, on SABC3 in South Africa, 28 April 2018; edited version posted on ACB YouTube channel
* Anti GM up in arms over Bt cotton permit, 23 May 2018, Times of Swaziland article by Vuli Dlamini
* Local farmers urged to use mixed farming methods, 23 May 2018 Swazi Observer article by Majaha Nkonyane
* GM farming suicidal for smallholder farmers, 23 May 2018, Swazi Observer article by Majaha Nkonyane
* [Kenyan small farmers adopt zero tillage to enrich infertile land](http://arkrepublic.com/2018/06/11/kenyan-small-farmers-adopt-zero-tillage-to-enrich-infertile-land/), 11 Jun 2018,  [Africa and the Diaspora](http://arkrepublic.com/category/africa-and-the-diaspora/)/[Agriculture and Urban Farming](http://arkrepublic.com/category/agriculture-and-urban-farming/), by [James Karuga](http://arkrepublic.com/author/james-karuga/)
* Lessons from Africa’s largest producer of GMO crops - Interview by Sabrina Masinjila with Cha Kula Magazine Issue 1 Jun 2018
* [Food security In Africa: Is genetically modified technology a pathway? (III)](https://leadership.ng/2018/06/22/food-security-in-africa-is-genetically-modified-technology-a-pathway-iii/), 22 Jun 2018, leadership.ng
* [WEMA's Bt maize and fall armyworm claims are unscientific and unsubstantiated](https://www.gmwatch.org/en/news/latest-news/18325-wema-s-bt-maize-and-fall-armyworm-claims-are-unscientific-and-unsubstantiated), 27 Jun 2018, GMWatch.org
* [WEMA's Bt maize and fall armyworm claims are unscientific and unsubstantiated](https://mailchi.mp/4c47ac8f3ab4/wemas-bt-maize-and-fall-armyworm-claims-are-unscientific-and-unsubstantiated), 28 Jun 2018, mailchimp.com
* [The hubris of western science](https://africasacountry.com/2018/08/the-hubris-of-western-science/), 01 Aug 2018, africasacountry.com
* Questionable claims of Bt efficacy against the fall armyworm in Africa, 24 Aug 2018, GMWatch.org
* [Progress Has Been Made in the Battle Against Malaria](https://humanprogress.org/article.php?p=1497), 07 September 2018
* Un moustique génétiquement modifié pour lutter contre le paludisme, contrepoints.org, 11 September 2018
* [GM mosquitoes to be released in Burkina Faso malaria project](https://www.newscabal.co.uk/gm-mosquitoes-to-be-released-in-burkina-faso-malaria-project/), 25 [AU’s Premature And Misguided Endorsement Of Controversial, Unproven Gene Drive Mosquitos For Malaria ‘Eradication’ In Africa](https://www.modernghana.com/news/895405/aus-premature-and-misguided-endorsement-of-controversial-u.html), Modern GHANA, 05 November 2018
* Release of risky GM mosquitoes in Burkina Faso highly unethical, GMWatch, 09 November 2018
* Release of Risky GM Mosquitoes in Burkina Faso is “Highly Unethical”, Sustainable Pulse, 11 November 2018
* No benefits’ to planned release of genetically modified mosquitoes, Global Justice Ecology Project, 12 November 2018
* [SA Government Rejects Monsanto’s Triple Stacked GM Drought Tolerant Maize](https://www.modernghana.com/news/897533/sa-government-rejects-monsantos-triple-stacked-gm-drought-t.html), 15 November 2018, Modern Ghana
* [South Africa Government Rejects Monsanto’s GMO Triple Stacked Maize,](https://sustainablepulse.com/2018/11/15/south-africa-government-rejects-monsantos-gmo-triple-stacked-maize/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=gmos_and_pesticides_global_breaking_news&utm_term=2018-11-26#.W_0UMpMzZuU) 15 November 2018, Sustainablepulse.com
* [Tanzania orders destruction of Monsanto/Gates’ GM trials due to illegal use for pro-GM propaganda](https://www.gmwatch.org/en/news/latest-news/18602-tanzania-orders-destruction-of-monsanto-gates-gm-trials-due-to-illegal-use-for-pro-gm-propaganda), 23 November 2018, GM Watch
* [Gene Editing: Fears Lead To Call For Moratorium At CBD, Discussions Ongoing,](http://www.ip-watch.org/2018/11/23/gene-editing-fears-lead-call-moratorium-cbd-discussions-ongoing/)23 November 2018, IP-Watch.org
* [Tanzania Orders Destruction of Monsanto/Gates Foundation GMO Trials](https://sustainablepulse.com/2018/11/24/tanzania-orders-destruction-of-monsanto-gates-foundation-gmo-trials/#.W_0FbpMzZuU), 24 November 2018, Sustainablepulse.com
* [GM mosquito trial sparks ‘Sorcerer’s Apprentice’ lab fears](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/nov/25/gm-mosquitoes-released-burkina-faso-malaria-gene-drive), 25 November 2018, The Guardian.com
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**Resistance to corporate expansion**

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