

# AFRICAN CENTRE FOR BIODIVERSITY ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT



January to December 2019





The African Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) is a research and advocacy organisation working towards food sovereignty and agroecology in Africa, with a focus on biosafety, seed systems and agricultural biodiversity. The organisation is committed to dismantling inequalities and resisting corporate-industrial expansion in Africa's food and agriculture systems, founded on our belief in people's right to healthy and culturally appropriate food, produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems.

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## Acknowledgement of Support

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## Who we are

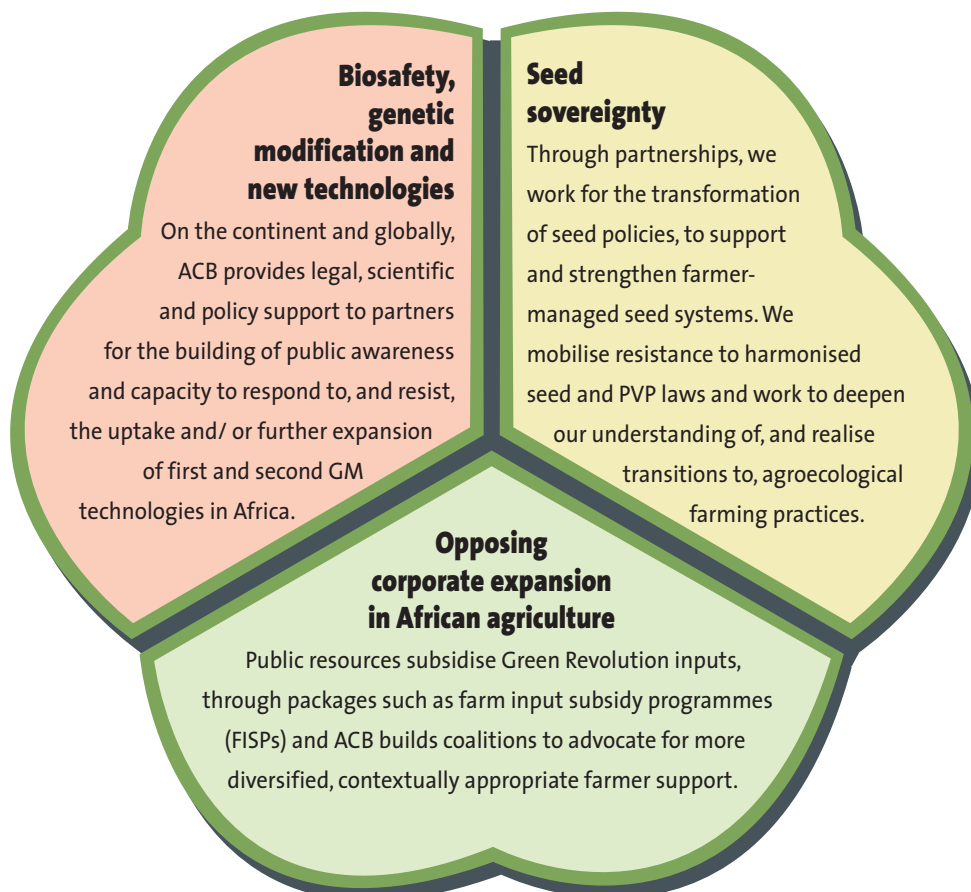
The African Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) is a research and advocacy organisation working towards food sovereignty and agroecology in Africa, with a focus on biosafety, seed systems and agricultural biodiversity. The organisation is committed to dismantling inequalities and resisting corporate-industrial expansion into Africa's food and agriculture systems.

Initially named the African Centre for Biosafety, our organisation was established in 2003 and registered in 2004. Our current geographical focus is Southern and East Africa, with extensive continental and global networks.

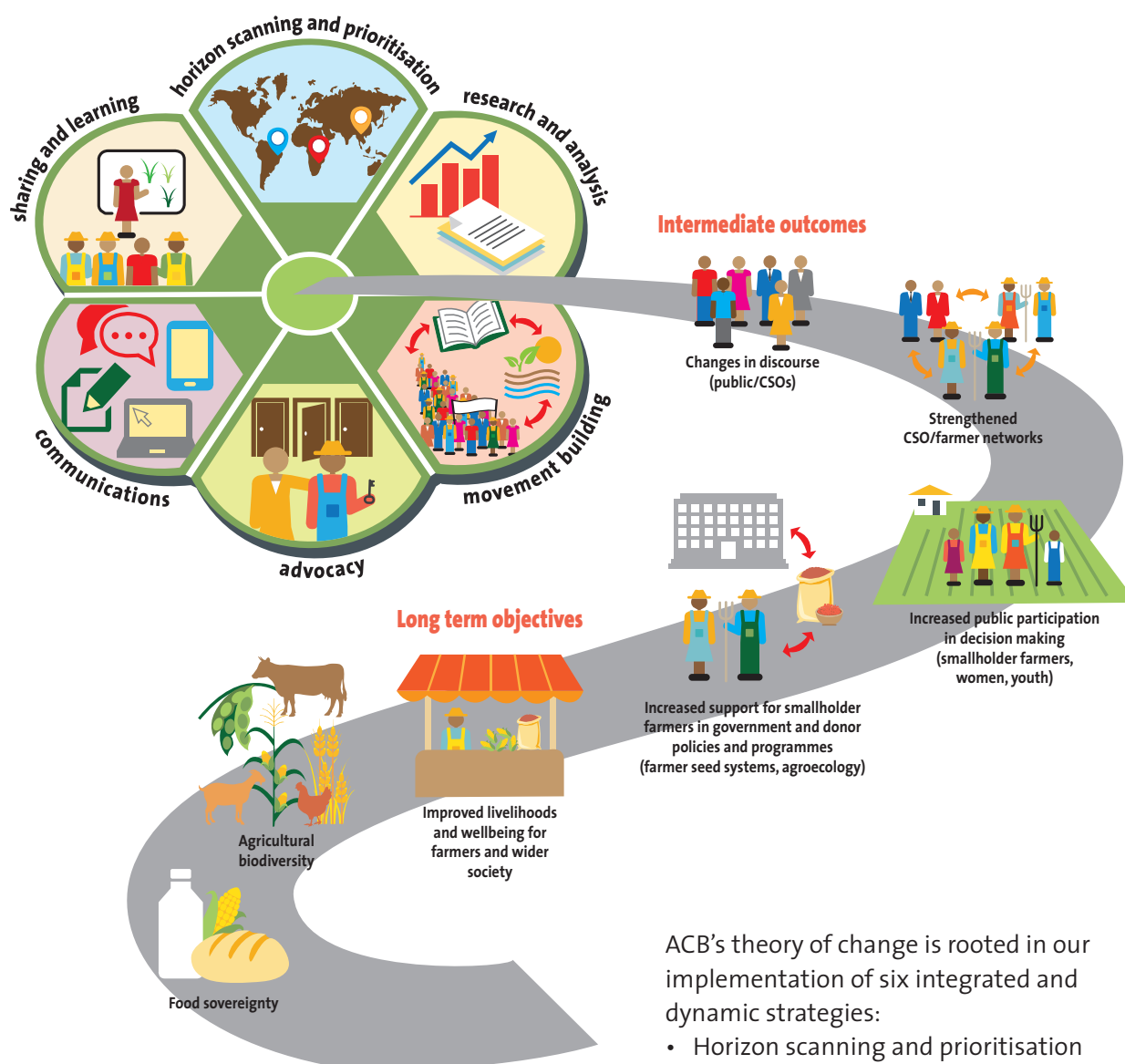
## What we do

The ACB has a long and respected track record of opposing the aggressive push of the Green Revolution on the African continent, and the national and regional institutional architecture driving this. At the same time, the ACB works with partners to deepen a shared understanding of, and realise transitions to, agroecological farming practices that provide an alternative to the corporate capture of African seed and food systems.

## Programmes



# Theory of Change



ACB's theory of change is rooted in our implementation of six integrated and dynamic strategies:

- Horizon scanning and prioritisation
- Research and analysis
- Sharing and learning
- Movement building
- Communications
- Advocacy

Through these activities, we work in partnership with social movements, farmer associations, non-government organisations and other CSOs, promoting popular participation by opening up policy spaces and facilitating informed entry into policy processes at all levels, from on farm research and discussion to global policy negotiations. Our main area of focus is Southern Africa but with connections to East and West Africa and beyond the continent.

# Stakeholders

- Smallholder farmers and their organisations
- Non-governmental organisations (NGOs)
- Social movements working in smallholder agriculture, agroecology, seed and biodiversity
- Governments
- Public sector institutions
- Academic and other researchers
- Donors
- General public and consumers

## Partnerships

ACB has a large network of partners in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, on the continent, and internationally.

### Main National Partners

**Malawi** – Commons for Ecojustice (CEJ), Development Fund of Norway (DF) Malawi

**Mozambique** – União Nacional de Camponeses (UNAC), Acção Acadêmica para o Desenvolvimento das Comunidades Rurais (ADECRU), Livaningo, Justiça Ambiental (JA)

**South Africa** – Trust for Community Outreach and Education (TCOE), Biowatch, South African Food Sovereignty Campaign (SAFSC)

**Tanzania** – Mtandao wa Vikundi vya Wakulima Tanzania (MVIWATA), Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT)

**Zambia** – Zambia Alliance for Agroecology and Biodiversity (ZAAB) and members, including Community Technology Development Trust (CTDT) and Kasisi Agricultural Training Centre (KATC)

**Zimbabwe** – Zimbabwe Seed Sovereignty Programme (ZSSP) and members, including Zimbabwe Smallholder Organic Farmers' Forum (Zimsoff) and Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Zimbabwe

### Main International Partners

Third World Network (TWN)

ETC Group

Friends of the Earth (FoE) International

Food First Information and Action (FIAN) International

Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA)

Rural Women's Assembly (RWA)

Action Aid International (AAI)

East and Southern African Farmers' Forum (ESAFF)

La Via Campesina Africa (LVC Africa)

# Overview of strategic achievements

In terms of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and biosafety our strategic approach has resulted in victories scored against Monsanto and the inroads made on issues of cutting-edge global importance, such as the intended release of gene drive organisms in Africa. The same can be said for our work on digital sequence information (DSI), which we have challenged under the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA, the Treaty) – discussions also with relevance to our work under the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and issues related to access and benefit sharing (ABS) of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

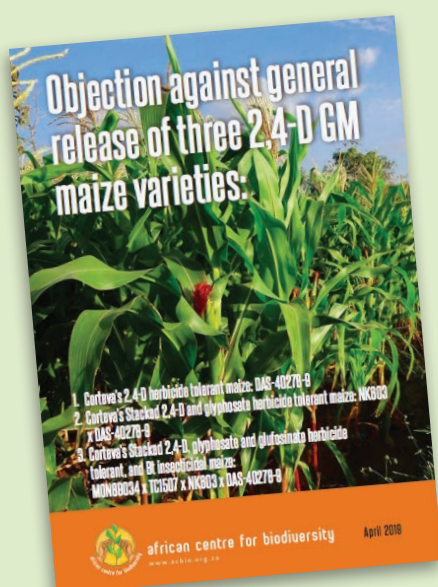


## GM, biosafety and new technologies

On genetic modification (GM) and biosafety, we witnessed a renewed push in regard to transgenic techniques focusing on food and fibre crops, including indigenous and staple foods, as well as for the first time on the continent, the release of GM insects. At the same time, there were significant gains by those opposing the expansion of GM crops in Africa.

### GM Maize

In South Africa (SA), an Appeal Board upheld the GM Executive Council (EC) decision to reject a Monsanto application for the release of a GM drought tolerant triple stacked maize variety, MON 87460 x MON 89034 x NK 603. The Council had found that the data provided by Monsanto was insufficient to demonstrate the claimed drought tolerant and insect resistant efficacy of the GM event.





*The upholding of this decision is a major victory for those opposed to expansion of GM into African agriculture, and is a blow to Monsanto's efforts to push ineffective drought tolerant GM varieties into Africa, through the Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) project, and capture the maize markets on the continent.*

The ACB also lodged an appeal against the decisions by the South African government to allow the commercial growing of the single drought tolerant trait, MON 87460.

There are field trials involving crops genetically engineered to be tolerant to the toxic chemical, 2,4-D. The ACB ensured public mobilisation and objections to Dow AgroSciences application to commercialise a triple stacked GM maize seed variety, and to the application by Pioneer Hi-Bred to conduct field trials of RNAi gene silencing maize variety in SA (DP-566113-9). A decision on the latter is still pending.

### **Resistance to GM in Africa**

We continued to strongly support our colleagues and network partners on the continent, with ongoing resistance evident in **CSO activities in Zambia, Mozambique, Tanzania, Nigeria, and Burkina Faso**. Several countries came out with **public statements opposing GM**, including by officials in **Ghana, Uganda and Zimbabwe**. In September, the Ghanaian Minister of Food and Agriculture said **GM technology is not suitable** and not needed. The ACB, in collaboration with Testbiotech Germany and the Third World Network (TWN), assisted Food Sovereignty Ghana in appealing against the spate of trials there, including in regard to GM rice and cowpea, which may signal a turning point in the GM cowpea push on the continent.

### **Resistance against GM Potato in Uganda**

Connections were made with Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Rwanda in regard to the GM potato push in that country. Also, new information was unearthed by the ACB pertaining to the GM potato push in Uganda, via *cisgenesis* techniques using South African genetic constructs held by the International Potato Centre in Peru. The ACB brokered connections between Ugandan activists and allies in Peru to work further on this issue.

### **Critique of Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) Harmonised Biosafety Law**

A Francophone West African workshop resulted in the establishment of a group to monitor GM threats and the ACB produced a critique of the ECOWAS Harmonised Biosafety law. This engagement unlocks opportunities to bring Anglophone and Francophone networks from the ECOWAS region together in 2020.

Despite gains, strong pressure remains on African governments to adopt GM technologies in agriculture.

In **South Africa**, the EC approved a number of stacked GM varieties for commercial planting. **Kenya** announced plans for the commercial planting of GM cotton from November 2019. The International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA) reported on the commercial planting of insect resistant (IR) GM cotton in **eSwatini**, with approvals for the planting of IR cotton granted in **Nigeria, Ethiopia, Kenya and Malawi**. There were reports from Malawi on multi location open field trials of Bt cowpea. Plans to plant GM in **Uganda** were reported, despite President Museveni's stated opposition and there were reports of work on GM potato in Rwanda.

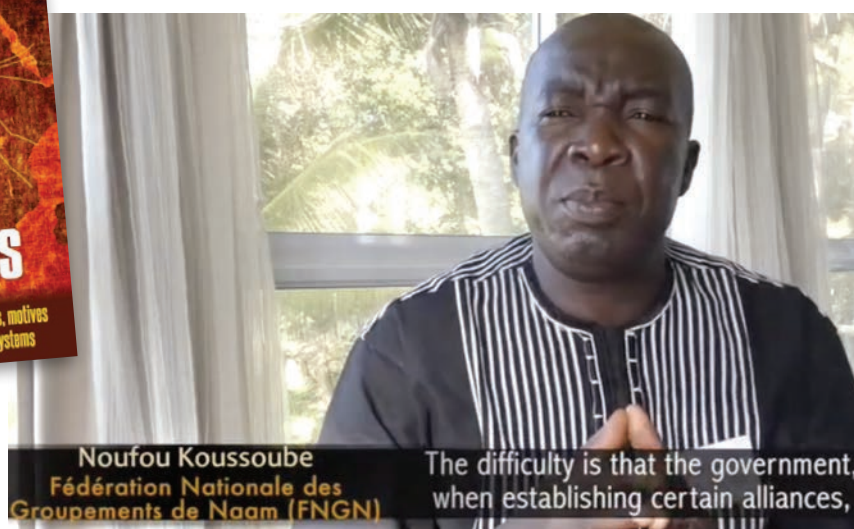
Ongoing lack of transparency in governments regarding GM plans and results of trials, and increasing authoritarianism and repression of CSOs (in particular in Malawi, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, and to a lesser extent Zambia) poses a significant challenge to advocacy efforts.

### **GM 2.0 technologies**

There is also a continuing global push for developing, testing and releasing new GMO using second generation technologies that include synthetic biology, genome editing and gene drives.

### **Resistance against GM mosquitoes in West Africa**

At the forefront is the rapid and unregulated roll-out of gene drive technologies, specifically in the Target Malaria project in Burkina Faso and elsewhere. The ACB was instrumental in spearheading a continental-wide campaign focusing on the Target Malaria project. We laid the groundwork through mobilising significant CSO and wider opposition to GM mosquito trials, in 2018, which culminated in attending, together with network partners, the CBD Conference of the Parties-Meeting of the Parties (COP-MOP) in November of that year. There, the ACB working with others to influence the decision on gene drives, urging precaution and reinforcing the priority of seeking free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) and approval from potentially impacted communities and indigenous peoples, before even considering the environmental release of gene drive organisms.





Despite this advocacy, the first release proceeded at the start of July 2019 and plans are afoot for further releases, thus we will continue this work. There are significant agricultural and ecological implications for the commercialisation of these new technologies, even if they currently are being tested outside of agriculture.

### **Launch of a network of concerned African Scientists**

The ACB has been instrumental in facilitating and catalysing the launching of a network of concerned African scientists, which will play a key role in biosafety discourses on the continent.

### **Advances in advocacy and influencing decision making: 2016-2019**

Since 2016, the ACB has worked with 68 CSOs/networks on advocacy on GMOs, with 24 national CSOs/networks in SADC, from Eswatini, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and four regional networks operating in SADC.

We disseminated 23 reports/briefings, and 37 other publications (including alerts and videos) to an audience that reached 50 000+, and four permit applications were opposed.



## **Seed sovereignty: Seed laws and policies, farmer seed systems and agroecology**

### **Farmer managed seed systems**

There has been a shift in the narrative towards farmer managed seed systems (FMSS) and away from their description and conceptualisation as informal seed systems. Through the coalescing of various CSO and development agencies to support the recognition, strengthening and support of FMSS, new thinking has been initiated around alternative farmer-led systems for quality standards of farmer seed. African government officials, especially those from gene banks, are beginning to acknowledge that FMSS are marginalised and criminalised, and that the system is inequitable and should change.

### **Seed and Plant Variety Protection (PVP) laws**

The ACB has worked on national and regional seed and PVP policies and FMSS, through activities in South Africa, Zambia and Malawi.

Work done in partnership with other organisations in South Africa over previous years on the **Plant Improvement Act (PIA)** and the **Plant Breeders' Rights Act (PBRA)** bore fruit. This took the form of raised awareness of farmer seed in the South African context and a loose but enduring decentralised network of practitioners and advocates for farmer seed systems, agroecology and food sovereignty.



Our close engagement with the SA government resulted in draft Regulations on exemptions for smallholder farmers from breeders' rights restrictions, meaning that these farmers may condition, save, exchange and sell protected varieties for further propagation. The exemption excludes GM varieties. **This is a direct adoption of ACB's submission on the exemptions and can be considered a significant advance in allowing space for smallholder farmers to produce and sell protected seed without restriction, (if adopted in the final Regulations).** This engagement has entailed face-to-face discussions and inclusion in our meetings, as well as our substantive work in terms of policy analysis and comments, and our networked advocacy with CSOs on farmer seed.

### **Regional convening around farmers' rights and FMSS**

The ACB has taken on a more multi-stakeholder advocacy approach to the convening of dialogues on farmer's rights and FMSS. At regional level, the ACB engaged with national governments and civil society from Angola, eSwatini, Namibia, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe and the SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre (SPGRC) on the issue of **registration of farmer varieties**. The ACB, in partnership with PELUM Zimbabwe, worked with the SPGRC to host a dialogue at Victoria Falls in December to discuss **registration of farmers' rights in the Southern African Development Community (SADC)**. Representatives from Seed Services and national and regional gene banks, CSOs and farmers from 10 SADC countries participated.





In August we hosted an expert dialogue on **production quality controls in farmer seed systems**, in Zanzibar, **Tanzania**.



Planned follow up work includes a multi-stakeholder exchange to Brazil, as well as a possible exchange between Zanzibar and Togo on farmer seed systems. These workshops are taking the discussion considerably forward in the region in regard to the **implementation of farmers' rights** and the issue of **registration of populations and farmers' varieties**.





In SA, the ACB contributed to building provincial and national farmer seed and agroecology networks. We developed closer links with organisations and networks in the Eastern Cape and Limpopo provinces, with emerging processes to define priorities and ways of working together. These contribute to wider agroecological networks that are developing elsewhere and at national level that the ACB is also part of.





## Farmer Innovation Platforms in Zambia

In Zambia, the ACB continued to work closely with the **Zambian Alliance on Agroecology and Biodiversity (ZAAB)** and its members to develop **Farmer Innovation Platforms** as sites of farmer-led practice and advocacy that offer smallholder farmers opportunities for exchange and direct participation, from local to national levels. By anchoring the platforms in public sector institutions, the goal is to institutionalise and promote participatory experimentation, sharing and exchange between farmers on sustainable organic agriculture/agroecology and farmer seed.



The ACB and ZAAB co-hosted multi-stakeholder dialogues in each of the four agroecological zones in Zambia and supported training on agroecology, soil fertility, farmer seed, and advocacy. Farmer seed systems and agricultural biodiversity feature strongly in this work, as well as a call to shift producer support towards agroecological programming.

In **Malawi**, the ACB supported the launch of the **Malawi Agrobiodiversity Network (MAGNET)**, which aims to promote conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity, and to promote and develop a farmer seed systems policy.



### **Agroecology as a viable option**

Energy is building to propose agroecological alternatives for smallholder farmer support. In August, the ACB participated in a CSO meeting convened by Biowatch to look at ways to catalyse CSO and farmer activity on agroecology in South Africa. The ACB also entered into engagements with other organisations, locally and in the region, on curriculum development on farmer seed for agroecology.



The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) South Africa invited the ACB to participate in a high-level UN and government delegation to visit the Songhai Agroecology Centre in Benin. Following the visit, the FAO requested that the ACB conduct a feasibility study for an Agroecology Centre in the Eastern Cape, adapting the Songhai model to the local context.





### Influencing seed laws and policies

ACB has contributed, along with CSO and government, to make progress towards the following objectives:

- Securing agricultural biodiversity through positively influencing seed laws and policies.
- Empowering African governments and CSOs to advocate for farmer seed systems.
- Having policies and programmes to protect, support and strengthen farmer seed systems in place or on government agendas.

Positive influence on seed laws and policies (or at least reducing the negative elements of these policies) was realised in South Africa, and Malawi.

The African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO) Plant Variety Protection (PVP) Protocol was adopted in 2017. The following year, when the focus shifted to the Regulations, the ACB, with African CSOs, achieved some success in restricting ARIPO, due to dogged and unfailing advocacy work outside of the official process.

Since then, empowerment is evident from the number of CSOs/networks and governments actively involved in promoting farmer seed systems and agricultural biodiversity conservation and use. In 2016, we identified 31 CSOs/networks involved in research and advocacy work on FMSS. This had risen to 86 national level CSOs/networks and in 9 regional networks SADC in 2019, which the ACB has had some direct engagement with. Government and public sector at local, provincial, national and regional levels participated in learning and advocacy events on farmer seed systems.

### International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA/the Treaty) negotiations

*The ACB played a key role in ensuring that a catastrophic global deal for farmers was blocked at the Treaty's eighth Governing Body (GB) meeting in Rome in November.*

Such a deal would have handed over genetic resources to the corporate sector that are under the control of the state but still belong to indigenous and local communities, as well as those in protected areas, etc. In the lead up to this meeting we published two papers that elaborated on how the Treaty failed to address modern ways of sharing plant genetic resources.





*At issue is how to get the Treaty in step with new modes of sharing and using genetic resources. Today, rather than sending packets of seeds by airmail, plant breeders send genomic and protein sequences, epigenetic information and other data, collectively referred to as DSI [digital sequence information], around the world electronically, and upload these to internet databases. Such access and use of genetic resources are not covered by the language of the Treaty's current SMTA [Standard Materials Transfer Agreement], imperilling the objective of benefit sharing. The SMTA must be updated to include DSI if the Treaty is to be a viable benefit-sharing agreement.*

With no agreement reached on DSI and effective benefit sharing, this will remain an issue of contention in negotiations on the CBD post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.







### **Ad-Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights (AHTEG-FR) and lobby meeting in Kigali, September**

The Africa group developed a strong position on farmers' rights as a direct result of ACB interventions on access to the benefit sharing fund of the Treaty.

We supported the training of African CSOs and ensured that African farmers and civil society participated actively at the meeting. The ACB lobbied the African Group at their preparatory meeting in Kigali, Rwanda in September; and we published briefing docs, which were translated and widely disseminated.

The ACB was honoured to chair the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC's) side event on farmers' rights at the Treaty negotiations in Rome.



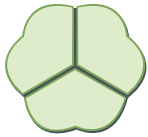
Governments in Eswatini, Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe have adopted or moved towards adopting plans and programmes to support farmer seed systems and agricultural biodiversity conservation and use. Currently there are five contracting parties and seven signatory parties to the ITPGRFA, and countries in the region overwhelmingly voted in favour of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants.

Following an invitation from the AU, ACB participated in the **African Group of Negotiators (AGN)** preparatory meeting for the **African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN)**. The South African Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) requested a report by the ACB from the meeting to be shared with them. In December, DEFF released a number of documents with a call for submissions, including a review of indicators, alignment between the post-2020 framework and the Cartagena Protocol, and draft implementation and capacity building plans.



ACB started working in earnest on the CBD post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, where we will advocate for targets and timeframes on phasing out GM and chemicals, and for agroecology to be part of the framework. We had some engagement with continental CSOs working on the issue.





## Corporate expansion in African agriculture

As part of work on FISP, seed and GM, the ACB has monitored and shared updated information on corporate expansion in seed and agrochemicals on the continent. CSOs across the region have embraced the critique of excessive corporate and financial concentration as part of their arguments for transformation towards more sustainable and equitable food systems.

### Farm Input Subsidy Programmes (FISPs)

During this phase we concentrated our attention on building a critique of FISPs and developing alternative proposals, which was successfully achieved. The FISPs are being brought into question from various quarters, including from donors, governments and civil society organisations (CSOs).

The FISPs and farmer support are generally still quite politically entrenched, remaining the dominant form of farmer support in Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe, for example. The ACB facilitated and contributed to regional discussions about diversification, and support for more ecological forms of production, and there is significant CSO interest in the topic across the region, especially linked to the idea of financing for agroecology.

We also highlighted key threats arising from corporate expansion. CSOs have taken up these critiques, especially through the work on seed policies and laws and on GM and new technologies. Although alternatives for smallholders are not yet widely available, there is a much stronger active CSO presence in contesting corporate expansion, and proposing alternatives.



### **CSO networks have developed a critique of FISPs and proposed specific alternatives**

In SADC, 25 national organisations/networks from Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and four regional CSOs/networks actively participated in research, learning and advocacy on critiquing FISPs and proposing alternatives. Specific alternatives have converged on advocacy for transitioning from Green Revolution FISPs to diversification and reallocation of agricultural support funds towards agroecological programmes, practices and products.

Concrete examples from farmers, CSOs and other stakeholders have included:

- Piloting incentive payments for the adoption of measurable and verifiable core agroecology practices (e.g. minimum soil disturbance, intercropping or crop rotation, permanent ground cover)
- Training (farmers and extension workers) on agroecological practices (especially on farmer seed, organic soil fertility, organic pest and disease management)
- Facilitated farmer to farmer exchanges
- Boreholes and sustainable irrigation
- Production of quality farmer seed, seed fairs and seed banks for farmer seed.

Farmer seed systems and agricultural biodiversity feature strongly in this work, and the ACB co-sponsored some training during the reporting period at one of the sites in Zambia (Kalulushi, Copperbelt) which included sessions on soil fertility, farmer seed, and advocacy.

This work will continue in 2020, with an emphasis on bringing farmer representatives from the FISPs into advocacy processes with ZAAB, specifically on transitioning from the FISP towards support for agroecology, incorporating farmer seed systems.



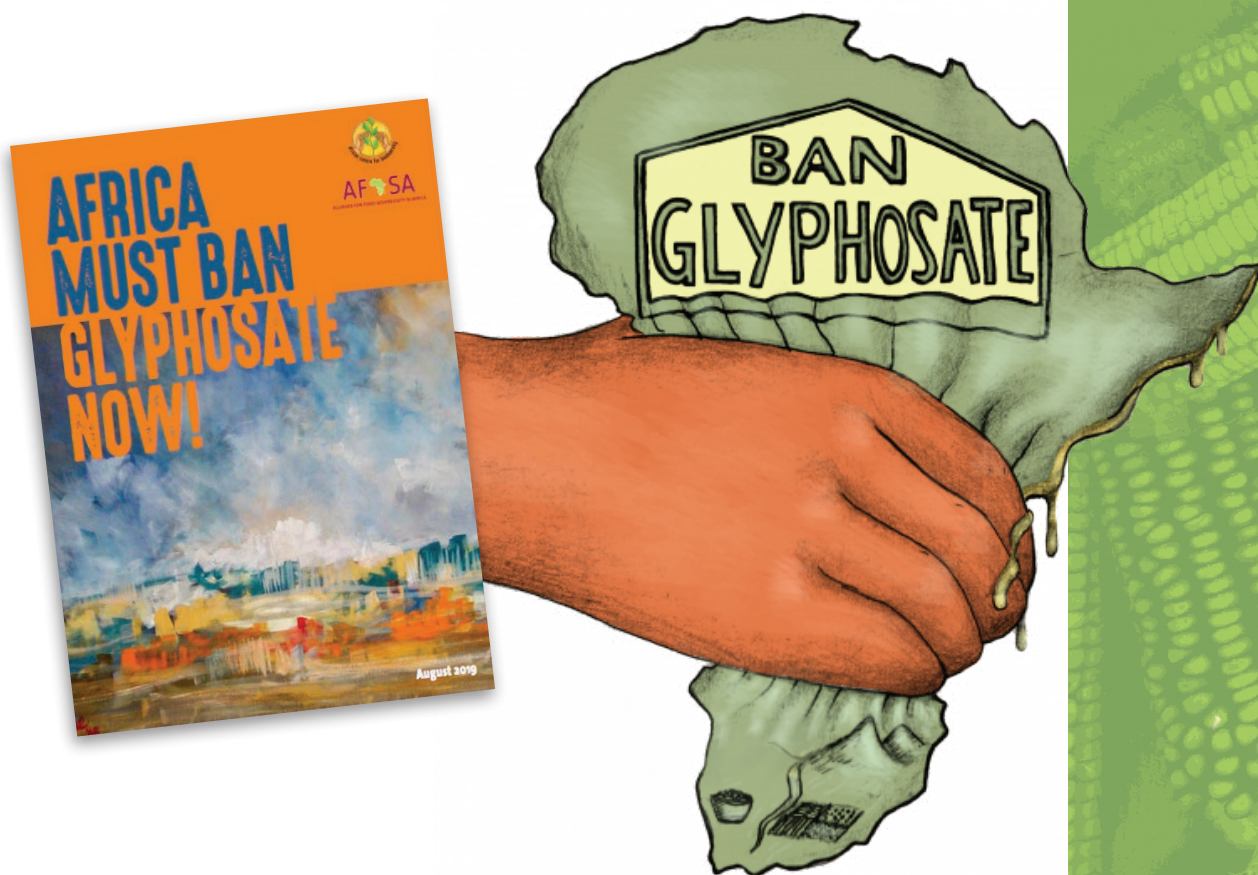


### Continent wide call for a ban of glyphosate

There was significant CSO action calling for a ban on toxic pesticides use in agriculture. Most notable was the fallout from studies on the cancer-causing effects of glyphosate, after the US Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry confirmed the cancer risks.

Calls for a ban on glyphosate quickly gaining traction, with a number of independent campaigns, emerging after court cases in the United States (US) indicated Monsanto was responsible for the health impacts of glyphosate on users. Bayer, which bought Monsanto, is seeking to make pay-outs to settle the court cases.

The resulting global outcry triggered a spate of bans around the world, including in Togo in Africa, where the Minister of Agriculture announced a total ban in December, with more in the pipeline. The ACB wrote a paper to support a continental wide ban on glyphosate, and initiated a campaign, which was launched in September 2019, in collaboration with the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA).



## Rapid Response Fund (RRF)

The RRF provides funding for CSO response and participation in unanticipated policy processes at short notice.

We have an alert system in place, whereby we inform members of our network of policy, legislative and regulatory initiatives that relate to seed, IP and trade regimes, and this fund enables a quick response to alerts, when needed.

Between 2016 and 2019, more than 695 individuals, 133 CSOs, including government, have been involved in response to alerts on SA and Malawi seed law processes; ARIPO; SADC and East African Community (EAC) seed law harmonisation; Union for the Protection of New Plant Varieties (UPOV); ITPGRFA; FAO and CSO Agroecology; Global Alliance on the Future of Food (GAFF) Seeds of Resilience; seed law monitoring; and farmers' rights and farmer seed systems.





# Staff and Board Members

As of January 2020, ACB's staff comprised:

6 Research and Advocacy (4 women)

3 M&E and communications (3 women)

3 Admin and finance (2 women),

Total operational staff 12 (9 women)

(One research/advocacy and one admin staff are part-time.)

In 2019, the ACB staff was as follows:

## Programme Team

Mariam Mayet	Executive Director
Dr Stephen Greenberg	Senior Researcher/ Research Coordinator
Sabrina Nafisa Masiinjila	Research and Advocacy Officer (based in Tanzania)
Linzi Lewis	Research and Advocacy Officer
Rutendo Zendah	Research and Advocacy Officer
Andrew Bennie	Research and Advocacy Officer (part-time)

## Communications

Deidre May	Communications Coordinator (joined in February 2019)
Fatima Gabru	Communications Officer (left the ACB end of November)

## Monitoring and Evaluation

Sibusiso Nkosi	M&E Officer (left the ACB end of April)
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## Admin and Finance Team

Vinern Naidoo	Administration Officer
Hettie Dreyer	Accounting Officer
Rosanne van der Merwe	Part time Administrative Assistant

## Staff changes in 2019

The following staff members left the ACB: Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Officer Sibusiso Nkosi and Communications Officer Fatima Gabru.

At the end of 2019, the ACB hired three new staff members to begin in early 2020: M&E Officer Juliet Mwale, Accounting Officer Carol Diplock, and Communications Officer Tamara Reddy.

## Ad-hoc external consultants

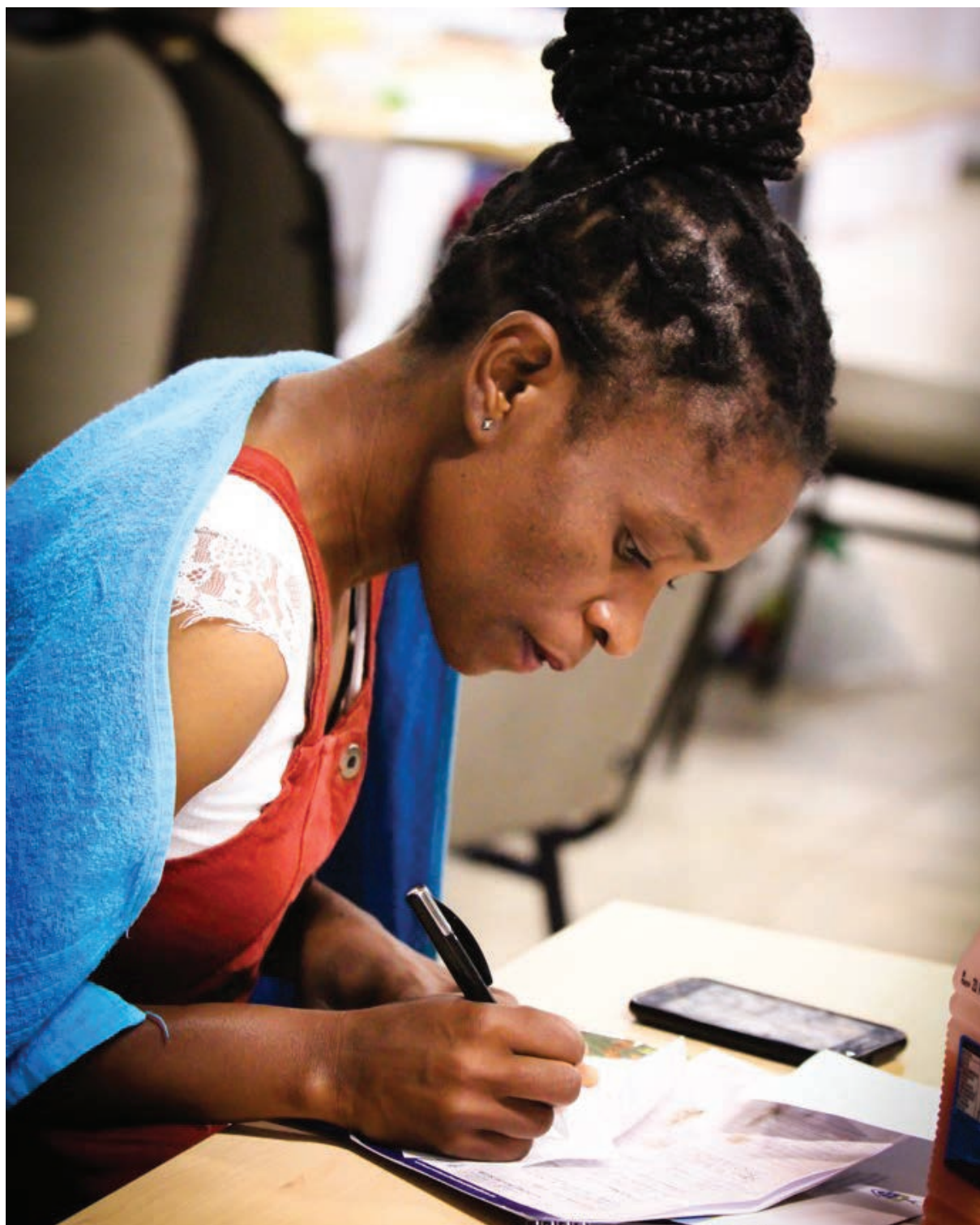
At times, the ACB commissions scientists and experts to collaborate through researching and writing reports, mainly to assist us with GMO applications and new GM technologies.

## ACB Board Members in 2019

John Wilson	Chairperson, based in Zimbabwe
Million Belay	Based in Ethiopia
Dorah Marema	Based in South Africa
Famara Diedhiou	Based in Senegal
Mariann Bassey Orovwuje	Based in Nigeria
Mariam Mayet	Non-executive board member, based in South Africa

## Publications

Publications are disseminated to our mailing lists in English, as well as on our French, Portuguese and other language lists, where relevant, as well as being widely circulated on at least eight list serves, including AFSA, Farmers Seed Rights, SA Food Sovereignty, GM Watch, TWN, ETC Group, Synbio Watch and other specialist lists, organisations' own mailing lists and via individuals. Publications are also shared on various social media platforms.





# Acronyms

ABS	Access and benefit sharing
ACB	African Centre for Biodiversity
AFSA	Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa
AGN	African Group of Negotiators
AHTEG-FR	Ad Hoc Technical Experts Group on Farmers' Rights
AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
ARIPO	African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation
AU	African Union
CBD	UN Convention on Biological Diversity
CFTA	Continental Free Trade Area
COGTA	Ministry of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (SA)
COPAC	Cooperative and Policy Alternatives Centre
COP-MOP	Conference of the Parties-Meeting of the Parties
CSO	Civil society organisation
DALRRD	Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (SA)
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs (SA)
DEFF	Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (SA)
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
DSI	Digital sequence information
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West Africa States
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FIPs	Farmer Innovation Platforms (Zambia)
FISP	Farm input subsidy programme
FMSS	Farmer managed seed systems
FR	Farmers' rights
GAFF	Global Alliance for the Future of Food
GB	Governing Body
GM	Genetically modified
GMO	Genetically modified organism
IP	Intellectual property
IPC	International Planning Committee on Food Sovereignty
ITPGRFA	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
LVC	La Via Campesina
MATs	Mutually agreed transfers
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
MLS	Multilateral system
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	Non-government organisation
OPV	Open pollinated variety
PBR	Plant breeders' right
PBRA	Plant Breeders' Rights Act (SA)
PGRFA	Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
PIA	Plant Improvement Act (SA)
PVP	Plant variety protection

RRF	Rapid Response Fund
SA	South Africa
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SASA	Strengthening agro-biodiversity in Southern Africa
SPGRC	SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre
Synbio	Synthetic biology
TCOE	Trust for Community Outreach and Education
TWN	Third World Network
UPOV	Union for the Protection of New Plant Varieties
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WEMA	Water Efficient Maize for Africa
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organisation
ZAAB	Zambia Alliance for Agroecology and Biodiversity







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