

# ACB publications and media report

September 2024 – February 2024



**AFRICAN CENTRE**  
FOR BIODIVERSITY

Programme 1: GM and biosafety and new technologies publications released, September 2023 – February 2024

Publication Title	Type	Lang	Date publication	Reposts/ reach	Mail list General (G) Media (M)	Mail open	Mail click	Web view	FB Reach (FR) Share (FS) Engagement (FE) / X Impressions (XI) Engagement (XE)/
Review and deregistration of toxic pesticide 2,4-D in terms of the Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act 36 of 1947	Submission	Eng	28 November 2023	After this submission went out, we made this public on our website in the webpost below.					
Call on South Africa to deregister agrototoxin 2,4-D	Web post	Eng	7 December 2023		2801	899	159	183	444 (FR), 13 (FE), 380 (XI), 12 (XE)
Request for intervention on drought and herbicide resistant GM wheat	Submission	Eng	26 January 2024	This was a submission in three languages to seven UN Special Rapporteurs, which were published with the press release below.					
Solicitud de intervención sobre trigo transgénico resistente a la sequía y al herbicida glufosinato de amonio	Submission	Esp	26 January 2024						
Pedido de intervenção sobre trigo transgénico resistente à seca e ao herbicida glufosinato de amônio	Submission	Pt	26 January 2024						

No to GM wheat!	Press release	Eng	30 January 2024	Mention: GM Watch Mirror: GRAIN Coverage: Pagina 12, GM Watch	3504	698	377	212	490 (FR), 22 (FE), 2877 (XI), 113 (XE)
Game-changer for regulation of genome editing and new tech as SA's Ag Minister overrules Industry and Appeal Board	Press release	Eng	5 February 2024	Mirror: Biosafety Information Centre Mention: GM Watch Mention: Informationsdienst Gentechnik	2362	383	169	605	89 (FR), 18 (FE), 2446 (XI), 110 (XE)

**International, regional and national meetings attended/hosted by ACB, on GM and biosafety, September 2023 – February 2024**

Date	Title of meeting	Host Name	Attended by	Description
3 October 2023	GM Wheat Meeting	ACB	Mariam Mayet, Deidre May, Sindy Peters	ACB hosted an online meeting with organisations based in the Global South on the current status of food safety issues around wheat and pesticides and how they could collaborative address some of the challenges.

**Programme 3: Corporate expansion, publications released, September 2023 – February 2024**

Publication Title	Type of Publication	Lang	Date of publication	Reposts/ Reach	Mail list General(G) Media (M)	Mails opened	Mail clicks	Web views	FB Reach (FR) Share (FS) / Twitter Impressions (TI) Engagement (TE)
Financialisation, dematerialisation, digitalisation & distancing of Africa's agriculture	Briefing	Eng	19 September 2023		4578	1011	75	484	89 (FR), 2 (FE); 509 (XI), 24 (XE)
Rise of the digital economy in Africa (part 2)	Fact sheet	Eng	19 September 2023						
Just Transition in the South African Food System: Synthesis report on pre-dialogue consultations	Report	Eng	19 September 2023						

Ambitious action to phase out world's most dangerous pesticides urged	Press release	Eng	26 September 2023		4751	1080	50	135	130 (FR), 5 (FE); 82 (TI), 5 (TE)
Just transition and adaptation in the food system: national policy dialogue	Web post	Eng	28 September 2023	Institute for Economic Justice	3186	575	78	199	832 (FR), 27 (FE); 1021 (TI), 70 (TE) (campaign totals)
Fact sheet 1: Towards a just transition	Fact sheet	<b>Web versions:</b> English, Afrikaans, Sepedi, Xhosa, Zulu <b>Mobile versions:</b> English, Afrikaans, Sepedi, Xhosa, Zulu	28 September 2023						
Fact sheet 2: Need for a just transition in SA's food system	Fact sheet	<b>Web versions:</b> English, Afrikaans, Sepedi, Xhosa, Zulu <b>Mobile versions:</b> English, Afrikaans, Sepedi, Xhosa, Zulu	28 September 2023						
Fact sheet 3: Climate change emissions in the food system	Fact sheet	<b>Web versions:</b> English, Afrikaans, Sepedi, Xhosa, Zulu <b>Mobile versions:</b> English,	28 September 2023						

		Afrikaans, Sepedi, Xhosa, Zulu							
Fact sheet 4: Impacts of climate change on the food system	Fact sheet	<b>Web versions:</b> English, Afrikaans, Sepedi, Xhosa, Zulu <b>Mobile versions:</b> English, Afrikaans, Sepedi, Xhosa, Zulu	28 September 2023						
Fact sheet 5: Overview of the agricultural CCAMP	Fact sheet	<b>Web versions:</b> English, Afrikaans, Sepedi, Xhosa, Zulu <b>Mobile versions:</b> English, Afrikaans, Sepedi, Xhosa, Zulu	28 September 2023						
Fact sheet 6: Towards a just and climate-resilient food system	Fact sheet	<b>Web versions:</b> English, Afrikaans, Sepedi, Xhosa, Zulu <b>Mobile versions:</b> English, Afrikaans, Sepedi, Xhosa, Zulu	28 September 2023						

NBS, the myth of a solution for our multiple crises: Financialization of nature won't solve the crisis – agroecology will	Submission	Eng	15 October 2023	Published in CBD Alliance, ECO					
World Food Day 2023: Working towards a just food system for all	Web post	Eng	16 October 2023					16	150 (FR), 18 (FE)
Governments urged to consider the interconnectedness between agricultural biodiversity, farmers' rights, food systems and climate change	Submission	Eng	17 October 2023	Published in CBD Alliance, ECO					
ACB attends 25th SBSTTA meeting in Kenya - 19 October	Web post	Eng	19 October 2023					24	55 (FR); 97 (TI), 9 (TE)
Ultra-processed food in Africa	Web post	Eng	8 November 2023					1146	
Introduction to UPF	Fact sheet	Eng	8 November 2023	Platform for African – European Partnership in Agricultural Research for Development	4401	968	120		81 (FR), 3 (FE), 133 (XI), 12 (XE)
UPF consumption in Africa	Fact sheet	Eng	13 November 2023		4390	833	104		143 (FR), 45 (XI)
Just Transition in the SA Food System - Thematic synthesis and priorities	Report	Eng	4 December 2023						
Civil Society Just Transition Framework for the Food System	Other	Eng	4 December 2023						

National Dialogue on Just Transition and Adaptation in the Food System in SA: Synthesis of presentations	Other	Eng	4 December 2023						
Dictatorship of UPF food companies over African diets and food markets	Fact sheet	Eng	8 February 2024		2171	349	77		66 (FR), 5 (FE) 365 (XI), 20 (XE)
African Perspectives on Agroecology now available for free online	Web post	Eng	9 February 2024					53	1061 (FR), 31 (FE) 306 (XI), 32 (XE)
Multi-pronged capture of consumer markets in Africa by UPF companies	Fact sheet	Eng	16 February 2024		1950	335	58		61 (FR), 2 (FE) 75 (XI), 7 (XE)

**General media coverage of ACB work on Corporate Expansion, September 2023 – February 2024**

Date	Article Title	Publication Name	Description
1 October 2023	South Africa's commercial farming sector since 1994	Amandla	In this feature article, ACB's Dr Stephen Greenberg provides an overview of the commercial farming sector in South Africa under apartheid and the changes made since 1994 in the post-apartheid era. He also looks at how the food system has been restructured and potential alternatives, such as agroecology.
31 October 2023	Justice in nature conservation: limits and possibilities under global capitalism	Climate and Development	In this journal article, in which Aby L. Sène argues that "justice whereby the rights and self-determination of Black and Indigenous peoples are upheld is incompatible with global conservation", ACB is cited as an African-led organisation that is working to protect Africa's biodiversity by resisting corporate-industrial expansion in the continent's food and agriculture systems while working towards food sovereignty and agroecology.
1 November 2023	From local initiatives to coalitions for an effective agroecology strategy: lessons from South Africa	Sustainability	ACB's Dr Stephen Greenberg is the lead author on this paper which provides an in-depth case study of the importance of promoting agroecological transitions. Following a qualitative research methodology based on a literature review for context, preparatory discussions with local contact points, and semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions with local actors in the field, the paper describes, analyses and characterises the agroecological transitions in the Overberg District in the Western Cape.
1 December 2023	Critiques of Gates Foundation agricultural interventions in Africa	US Right to Know	In this article, putting forward a critique of the Gates Foundation's agricultural interventions in Africa, the work of experts and expert organisations from around the world is cited, with links to reports and news articles documenting these concerns.  The ACB's work over many years, including its most recent publications, are cited in the article, highlighting the numerous problems associated with the Gates-led "green revolution" for Africa.
18 January 2024	Agriculture in a changing climate: we only have a future with agroecology	Climate.Table (EN)	Mariam Mayet wrote an op-ed for Table Media on how promoting climate-smart agriculture as a climate solution is misleading and noted that agroecology is essential if humanity wants to have a future on the planet.

23 January 2024	Landwirtschaft im Klimawandel: Nur mit Agrarökologie haben wir eine Zukunft	Climate.Table (DE)	Mariam Mayet wrote an op-ed for Table Media on how promoting climate-smart agriculture as a climate solution is misleading and noted that agroecology is essential if humanity wants to have a future on the planet.
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#### Webinars and events hosted by ACB on monitoring Corporate Expansion, September 2023 – February 2024

Name	Type	Lang	Date	Mail list General(G) Media (M)	Mail open	Mail click	Attendees	FB Reach (FR) Share (FS) / Twitter Impressions (TI) Engagement (TE)	You Tube/ Print
National Policy Dialogue on a Just Transition and Adaptation in the South Africa Food System	Live event	ENG	20/09/2023-22/09/2023				78 in-person participants 32 online		
Looking forward from National Dialogue on Just Transition and Adaptation in the SA Food System	Webinar	ENG	04/12/2023				40		

#### Online broadcasting coverage/webinars/interviews featuring ACB's work on Corporate Expansion, September 2023 – February 2024

Date	Title of Webinar	Host Name	Description
6-8 November 2023	National Farm Worker Platform	Women on Farms Project	Women on Farms Project (WFP) hosted its annual National Farm Worker Platform (NFWP), 6-8 November 2023. This year, NFWP focused on the current state of landlessness, hunger and health of workers who are precariously employed on farms. The theme was 'Dignity and decent livelihoods through a just transition of the agricultural system'. ACBs Mariam Mayet joined the panel on alternatives to the dominant industrialised agricultural model practiced in South Africa and shared the thinking and strategy behind the People's Pesticide Tribunal.

#### International, regional and national meetings attended/hosted by ACB, on Corporate Expansion, September 2023 – February 2024

Date	Title of meeting	Host Name	Attended by	Description
1 September 2023	Preparation for Global Farmers' Rights Symposium	ACB, International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty, FIAN International	Mariam Mayet, Sabrina Masinjila	ACB, the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) (Biodiversity Working Group), and FIAN International hosted a meeting for African governments and civil society organisations attending the Global Symposium on Farmers' Rights in September in New Delhi, India, to share and prepare priority areas for engagement and contributions.
12-15 September 2023	Global Farmers' Rights Symposium	Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare in	Rutendo Zendah-Chirape	The Global Symposium on Farmers' Rights was organised by the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of the Food and Agriculture Organization. It was attended by



		collaboration with PPVFR Authority, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources		<p>more than 500 delegates from 60 countries, including the National Focal Points of the International Treaty, more than 150 farmers, and more than 100 foreign participants.</p> <p>ACB attended the symposium as a continuation of our work on farmers' rights under the Plant Treaty, giving political support to African CSOs and governments on various issues pertaining to farmers' rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty.</p>
11-13 October 2023	Biovision regional workshop on development of national agroecology strategies (NAS) in East and Southern Africa	Biovision, the Agroecology TPP, and the Agroecology Coalition	Dr Stephen Greenberg	Biovision hosted a regional workshop on the development of national agroecology strategies (NAS) in East and Southern Africa. Participants included reps from CSOs and government officials involved in the development of NAS in their countries.
16-19 October 2023	CBD's 25th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA)	Convention on Biological Diversity Alliance	Sabrina Masinjila	ACB participated in the Convention on Biological Diversity's 25th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) in Nairobi, Kenya. This was an important convening following the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in December 2022. Key items on the agenda include biodiversity and climate change. As a subsidiary body of the COP, SBSTTA is to report regularly to the COP on all aspects of its work.
17 October 2023	Affirming precaution on geoengineering and other dangerous distractions (SBSTTA side event)	ETC Group, AfriTAP	Sabrina Masinjila	ACB's Sabrina Masinjila spoke at a side event at the 25th SBSTTA meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, hosted by the ETC Group and HOMEF Nigeria in collaboration with the CBD Alliance, AfriTAP, and the Hands Off Mother Earth! Alliance. The event aimed to affirm the CBD's leadership in taking precautionary decisions on geoengineering, urging for the world to take real climate action and avoid false solutions.
19-20 October 2023	Swiss Cooperation Partners meeting	Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency	Rutendo Zendah-Chirape	The ACB was invited to attend the Swiss Cooperation Partners meeting held in Harare, Zimbabwe, 19-20 September. The meeting agenda included sharing news from the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency; discussing important context developments and emerging priorities; narrow-in outcome orientation, monitoring, and evaluation topics; and fostering collaboration and synergies among Swiss-supported initiatives for the Cooperation Programme for Zambia and Zimbabwe 2023-2026. ACB attended the meeting as an SDC partner under the Strengthening Agro-Biodiversity in Southern Africa (SASA) project.
8-9 November 2023	3rd National Ecological Organic Agriculture Conference (NAEOAC)	Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement	Sabrina Masinjila	ACB's Sabrina Masinjila attended the 3rd National Ecological Organic Agriculture Conference (NAEOAC) in Dodoma, Tanzania, and participated in a panel discussion on agrobiodiversity and improved nutrition.

22 November 2023	Multiple Perspectives, One Goal: Food System Transformation		Dr Stephen Greenberg	Joining other experts on the South African food system in a collaborative webinar, ACB's Dr Stephen Greenberg presented on the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) on Food Security and Nutrition's 13 principles as a framing for agroecology. The webinar explored the complexity of the food system, its interconnected challenges as well as what type of interventions should be taking place.
23-24 November 2023	Agroecology core group planning meeting	ACB, SPP, TCOE, Biowatch, LandNNES, Tshintsha Amakhaya, AFRA, EMG	Mariam Mayet, Dr Stephen Greenberg, Sindy Peters	ACB's Mariam Mayet, Dr Stephen Greenebrg and Sindy Peters attended a meeting of the Agroecology advocacy group in Cape Town, hosted by partners ACB, SPP, TCOE, Tshintsha Amakhaya, Biowatch, AFRA, EMG. The meeting, which also hosted small-scale farmers, focused on the way forward for the group in terms of focus work areas over the coming year.