

ACB communications and media report

April - December 2024



AFRICAN CENTRE
FOR BIODIVERSITY

Programme 1:

GM & Biosafety

Web publications



Sabrina Masinjila attended the 26th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 26) under the CBD, where Parties are convening to discuss Risk Assessment for genetically engineered (GE) gene drive mosquitoes. In this blog, she discusses the expansion of gene drive mosquito projects in Africa and the need for international and national biosafety regulations.

Web publications

13 May 2024

GMOs: two decades of laying out the facts

Even though first-generation genetically modified (GM) agricultural crops have faced significant setbacks and outright failures over the last two decades, a new push for second-generation GM crops has emerged. Despite the destructive role of industrial agricultural expansion in biodiversity loss and human health, we are seeing a resurgence in its momentum, with false solutions such as these being offered. This has been accompanied by propaganda that perpetuates the narrative that GM crops are needed for food security.

Their ongoing promotion raises questions about the motivations behind their introduction and highlights the need for critical research into the implications of these biotechnologies.

Download and read some of the fact sheets we've published over the last 20 years on GM crops.

GMOs in South Africa Series

**An introduction to GM seeds:
why they're so different to what
we know**

An introduction to GM seeds

What is a GM crop?

Since farming began, people have worked with nature to breed plants and animals to meet human needs. Usually this breeding can only happen within the same species. In the last 30 years, scientists have used genetic engineering to create plants and animals with novel characteristics.

This post highlights and links to some of the fact sheets we've published over the last 20 years on GM crops.

Submissions



**SURPLUS
PEOPLE
PROJECT**



Submission regarding the Draft Regulations for Hazardous Chemical Agents (HCA), made in terms of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, No 85 of 1993, published on 5 April 2024 for public comment

Summary

- a. The administrative action taken by the Minister of Employment and Labour by issuing these draft Regulations impacts the fundamental human rights of farmworkers and

ACB and its partners made a submission to the Director General the Department of Employment and Labour regarding the Draft Regulations for Hazardous Chemical Agents (HCA), made in terms of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, No 85 of 1993, published on 5 April 2024 for public comment.

Statements



5 July 2024

Stop chemical war on bodies of farm workers, farm dwellers and their children!

Statement rejecting the Draft Regulations for Hazardous Chemical Agents published on 5 April 2024, under the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act No 85 of 1993)



ACB published a joint statement that rejects the South African regulations on hazardous chemicals.

Publications



3 September 2024

‘Black Box’ Biotechnology – Integration of artificial intelligence with synthetic biology

ACB, together with Third World Network and ETC Group, produced a briefing paper, researched and written by Jim Thomas, addressing ‘generative’ AI tools which are now being applied to generate novel digital sequences for GMOs and proteins.

Publications



Mentions



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September 05, 2024

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'Black Box' Biotechnology

Integration of artificial intelligence with synthetic biology

This briefing paper, from the African Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), together with Third World Network (TWN) and ETC Group, is a timely warning about the risks, hype and inequities underpinning generative biology, ahead of the Convention on Biological Diversity's COP 16, which will be held in Cali, Colombia, 21 October–1 November 2024.

- You can also view a [vlog by Jim Thomas](#), who researched and wrote the briefing, in which he gives an overview of the issues.

theAnalysis.news

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BIG TECH | ENVIRONMENT

Big Digital Tech Moves Into Synthetic Biology: The Generative AI Rush/Black Box Biotech – Pt 1/2

By Lynn Fries • Posted on October 8, 2024 • October 30, 2024 3:23

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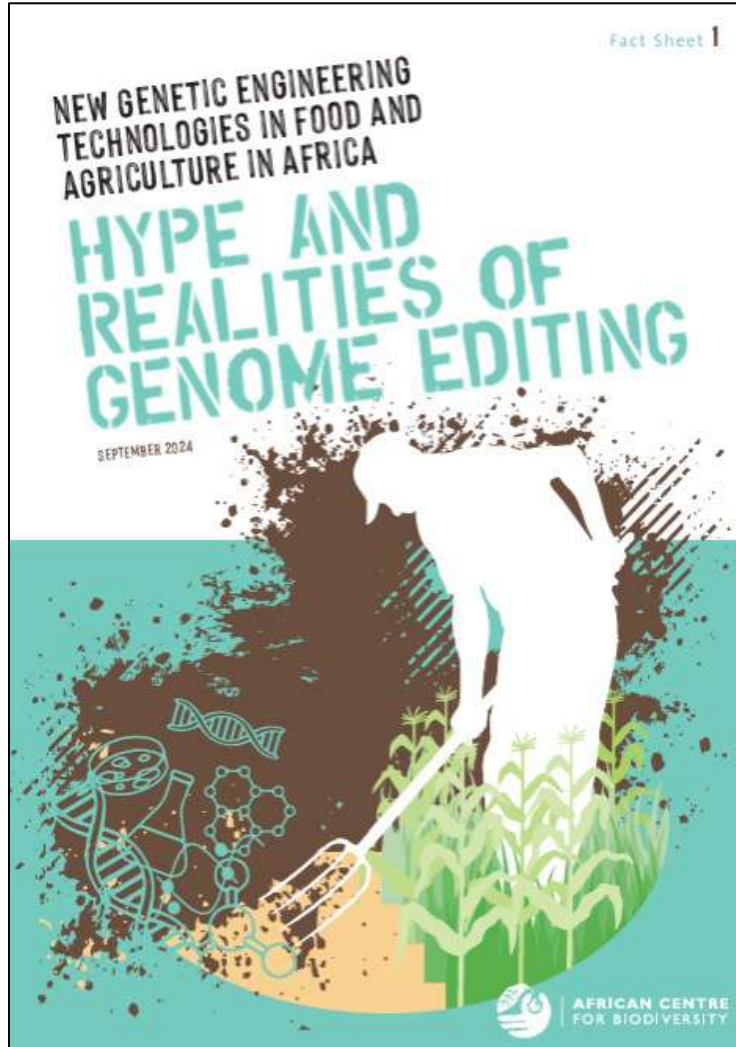
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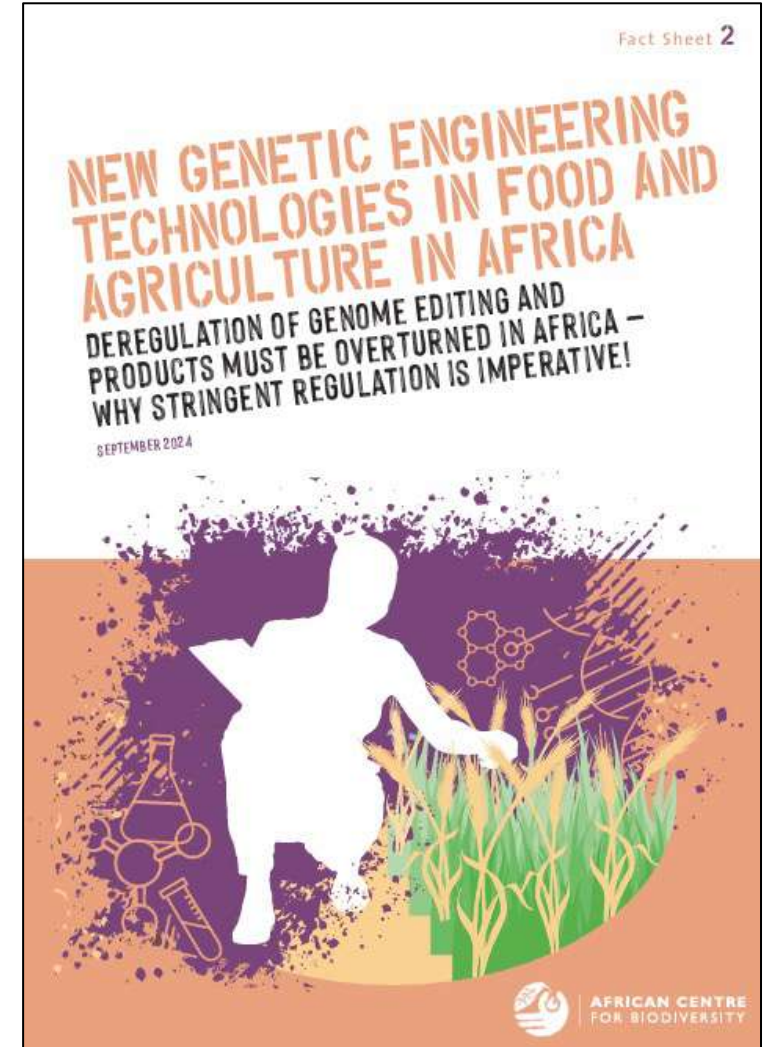
Black Box Biotech P2/2

Integration of Artificial Intelligence with Synthetic Biology: Addressing the risks, hype and inequities underpinning Generative Biology

Publications



In light of the major deregulation push globally concerning genome editing, including in several countries in Africa, ACB produced two updated factsheets on this dangerous distraction from real agricultural and food systems solutions for Africa.



Publications



Objections to the Application by Trigall Genetics SA for permission to conduct field trials in South Africa in respect of drought tolerant and 'glufosinate tolerant' 'HB4' wheat: IND-00412-7

Submitted by the
African Centre for
Biodiversity



GM wheat is set to be grown in field trials in SA during 2025 and 2026, at three locations in the Western Cape and one in the Northern Cape following an application for field trials by Trigall Genetics in August 2024. ACB submitted objections to the application for field trials, as we found it to be fatally flawed, and thus it should be rejected.

Publications



VANESSA BLACK



HELEN DAY



ADAM RUMBALL

Over the years, a diverse range of artists and graphic designers have illustrated and designed the covers and content pages of our publications and our factsheets, and collaborated on the design of our logo and brand identity. To honour their contributions, we collated some of their art on our website.



LISOLOMZI PIKOLI



BAYNHAM GOREDEMA



ISAAC ZAVALE

Press releases



22 October 2024

Groundbreaking judgment of the Supreme Court of Appeal in ACB vs Monsanto/Bayer and the State

Commercial approval of GM drought-tolerant maize set aside

After nine long years of arduous litigation by the ACB, a full bench of the Supreme Court of Appeal set aside several layers of decision-making regarding the approval of the application by Monsanto, now Bayer, for commercial release of its drought-tolerant genetically modified (GM) maize, MON87460.

Mentions



News and comment on genetically modified foods and their associated pesticides

News

Resources

South Africa: Commercial approval of C
tolerant maize set aside

Published: 23 October 2024

Dr. Rath Health Foundation
RESPONSIBILITY FOR HEALTH, PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

About Us Dr. Rath Dr. Niedzwiecki Paul A. Taylor Cellular Medicine Preventive Healthcare Movement of Life Business with Disease

South Africa's Supreme Court of Appeal Rules
Against Monsanto on Genetically Modified Maize

Published by Dr. Rath Health Foundation at November 8, 2024

Tags Categories

News

After a nine-year legal battle, a full bench of South Africa's supreme court of appeal has set aside the commercial approval of a genetically modified variety of maize.

[Source: mg.co.za]

Comment

This landmark decision by South Africa's Supreme Court of Appeal overturns the country's commercial approval of Monsanto's GM maize variant, MON87460. The ruling, issued by a panel of five judges, followed a prolonged legal challenge led by the African Centre for Biodiversity, which argued that the Monsanto company, now owned by Bayer, had received approval for its maize without adequate scrutiny of the potential environmental and health risks.

The judgement nullifies previous approvals granted in South Africa by the country's executive council for GMOs, an appeal board, and the minister of agriculture, food and fisheries, as well as a 2023 high court ruling, marking South Africa's first judicial decision addressing GMOs and setting a significant precedent for future cases.



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Supreme Court of Appeal blocks Monsanto's
GMO maize, citing flaws in government
safety oversight



Written by

Dominic Naidoo

Environmental Writer



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FEATURES

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GMO debate reignited as SA sets
new precedent in court

By Kaija Hamilton

5 Nov 2024

Following nearly a decade of legal challenges led by the African Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), the Supreme Court of Appeal (SCA) in Bloemfontein, South Africa, has reached a significant ruling.



Source: Pexels

Mentions

South Africa apex court reverses GMO approval

Why South Africa's apex court reversed GMO approval

Appèlhof stuit Bayer se verspreiding van GM-mieliesaad, kap regering

31 Okt 2024

Elise Tempelhoff

NETWERK24

Kommentaar

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Luister na artikel



resents a watershed moment in the country's approach to

Rutendo Speaks Pan Africanist

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SOUTH AFRICA'S SUPREME COURT REVERSES GMO APPROVAL DUE TO SAFETY CONCERNS.



22 October 2024

Groundbreaking judgment of the Supreme Court of Appeal in *ACB vs Monsanto/Bayer and the State*

Commercial approval of GM drought-tolerant maize set aside

Mentions



Home · News · South Africa · Court says GMO regulator didn't follow proper procedure

Court says GMO regulator didn't follow proper procedure

By Lindi Botha | 24 October 20

NORTON ROSE FULBRIGHT

The Supreme Court of
drought-tolerant maize
Executive Council (EC)
their risk assessment

General Insurance Banking Healthcare

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Financial Institutions Legal Snapshot

South Africa and global insurance, financial institutions, banking and general law know-how

Administrative decisions on environmental issues (genetically modified maize) are subject to the precautionary principle



By Felix Le Roux on October 28, 2024



Mail & Guardian

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NATIONAL / 28 OCTOBER 2024

SCA rules against Monsanto on genetically modified maize

By Sheree Bega



South Africa ranks among the top 10 countries globally for the adoption of GM crops. (File photo by Rajesh JANTILAL/AFP via Getty Images)

Mentions

The Rainbow

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SOUTH AFRICA'S SUPREME COURT REVERSES GMO APPROVAL DUE TO SAFETY CONCERNS.

BY EDITOR · OCTOBER 28, 2024

South Africa Today

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Home » Environment » Groundbreaking judgment of the Supreme Court of Appeal in *ACB vs Monsanto/Bayer Commercial*

Groundbreaking judgment of the Supreme Court of Appeal in *ACB vs Monsanto/Bayer Commercial* approval of GM drought-tolerant maize set aside

October 24, 2024

f x w t o

ENSight

10 DEC 2024
BY ASLAM MOOSAJEE AND ZAMEER OMAR

The application of the precaution in the approval of GMOs

In *African Centre for Biodiversity NPC v Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Others*, the Supreme Court of Appeal (“SCA”) issued permit to conduct activities in respect of genetic organisms (“GMOs”) and remitted the decision to application for reconsideration.

Statutory framework

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South African court orders re-evaluation of Monsanto's decade-long maize variety permit

Published October 28, 2024



Send Press Release

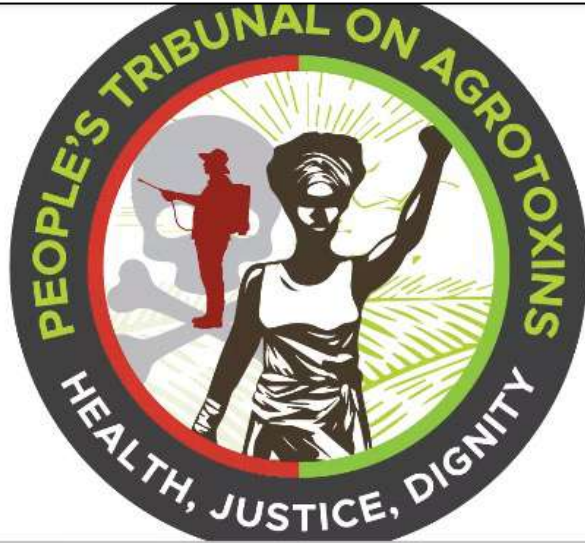
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LATEST DIGITAL MAGAZINE



Approval of GM drought-tolerant maize set aside

Petitions



22 November 2024

Petition – Reckless endangerment: Hold South African government and chemical industry to account for deaths and serious illnesses from toxic pesticides on the farm and in food

ACB and other partners in the South Africa People's Tribunal on Agrotoxins launched a petition to hold the South African government and chemical industry to account for deaths and serious illnesses from toxic pesticides on the farm and in food. Among other demands, we called for a ban on Terbufos with immediate effect.

Letter of demand



ACB and a group of organisations, academics, and unions sent a letter of demand to Minister of Agriculture, Mr John Steenhuisen, requiring him to immediately ban Terbufos. The coalition called on the Minister to indicate his willingness to undertake the steps set out in the letter within 21 days of the date of the letter, but we granted an extension to end of February 2025.

Letter



6 December 2024

One year later and no substantive response to our call for a review of 2,4-D

Minister Steenhuisen, when can we expect the Registrar to respond?

With no substantive response forthcoming from the Registrar: Act No. 36 of 1947, Mr Jonathan Mudzunga, after calling for a review of the registration of 2,4-D in South Africa, despite substantiation in a further submission, and persistent follow up for over a year, ACB sent a letter to the Minister of Agriculture, Mr John Steenhuisen, asking him to urgently intervene.

Mentions



ACB's research on the impacts of glyphosate is quoted in this article which reports that the pesticide is being used on the invasive water lettuce clogging the Vaal River.

Mentions

Eswatini Observer Thursday April 11, 2024

ESWATINI REVIEWING NBSAP TO ALIGN WITH SADC

BY NOKUZOLA THWALA
Mbabane

ESWATINI is in the process of reviewing, updating and aligning its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan with that of SADC.

The NBSAP will capture some of the priorities agreed by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Member States, as well as the potential threats faced by biodiversity.

This was shared by Soil and Water Conservation Engineer, Colani Thewer Mkhabela, who said biodiversity faced several dynamic threats, including climate change, habitat loss, invasive species, and emerging diseases.

He said these threats were continuously evolving, necessitating a proactive and adaptive approach to conservation strategies.

Mkhabela, together with Eswatini National Trust Commission Director of Parks, Thulani Methula, are representing Eswatini in a three-day workshop to validate the SADC Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) held in Cape Town.

The workshop is hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) in collaboration with SADC under the European Union (EU) funded capacity Building.

More than 80 representatives from the environment and agriculture sectors, development partners and the private sector will review and validate the revised draft BSAP.

Mkhabela said a regular and thorough review of the existing strategy would allow for the identification of gaps, the incorporation of new scientific knowledge and the adjustment of tactics to address emerging challenges in the country.

"By embracing a dynamic and responsive approach, conservation efforts can better anticipate and mitigate the impacts of evolving threats, safeguarding biodiversity for current and future generations."

Ecosystems

As ecosystems are interconnected and intricately linked, the review process will ensure that strategies remain relevant, resilient, and effective to the ever-changing landscape of environmental challenges," he said.

Aiding, he said the key outcomes they would like to see in the action plan should have well-defined priority areas and rationale, objectives, targets, strategies and activities expanding from the biodiversity pillars.

He said reviewing the SADC BSAP (2025-2035) was crucial to ensure its relevance, inclusivity, and success by capturing evolving needs and aspirations of the people and region.

He added that the inclusive approach fostered ownership and collaboration, and further enhanced the strategy and capacity to tackle emerging issues for positive social impact in the SADC region.

"The workshop provides a platform to take into account traditional knowledge and practices of indigenous and local communities with biodiversity conservation issues."

The reviewed SADC BSAP will cover a 10-year period (2025-2035) and will be aligned with the African Union's Biodiversity strategy and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework," stated Mkhabela.

"Moreover, he said the BSAP will offer the opportunity to address the main drivers of biodiversity loss, such as over-utilisation and inappropriate use of external inputs in agriculture and climate change, to the benefit of the people of Southern Africa."

He also stated that the BSAP would guide the review and update of National Biodiversity Strategies and Actions Plans, which are critical for the SADC Member States to meet their obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity and other related Multilateral Environmental Agreements.



...SADC member States now ready for implementation

SADC Environment and Climate Unit Senior Programmes Officer Sibongile Mavimbela, is happy with the process of reviewing the BSAP coming to an end after more than two years.

Mavimbela said she was positive that SADC Member States were now ready for implementation.

She applauded this process, stating that, out of all the strategies that were developed under the guidance of the SADC Secretariat, this was the most inclusive and rigorous, resulting in a high-quality product.

"It's been a long journey, where we have had a series of consultative processes with member States, CBD focal points and agriculture biodiversity focal points, biodiversity stakeholders and more," said Mavimbela. Meanwhile, SADC Chairperson Aristides Pereira from Angola, highlighted that the validation workshop was a key milestone in implementing the whole of society approach envisaged in the Global Biodiversity Framework.

The FAO ACP MEAs 3 Global Coordinator, Kimarah Tempelman added that FAO, through the EU-funded ACP MEAs 3 programme, was grateful for having been given the opportunity to technically and financially support the BSAP revision process.

She said the BSAP would be crucial for the integration of biodiversity in agriculture and for accelerating the transformation of agrifood systems to make them more inclusive, resilient and sustainable.

“It's been a long journey, where we have had a series of consultative processes with member States

From 8 to 10 April 2024, more than 80 representatives from SADC Member States, environment and agriculture sectors, development partners and the private sector will review and validate the revised draft SADC BSAP.

Mentions



ACB is mentioned as a supporter in the fight against GMOs.

Mentions



ACB is mentioned as an advocate for seed management to remain with farmers, rather than companies that can patent seeds.

Mentions

JournalNG

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News

Civil Society Urges Precaution As UN Body Considers Risky New Genetic Technologies

Coverage of the 26th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), mentioning Sabrina Masinjila as the anchor of the webinar.

Mentions

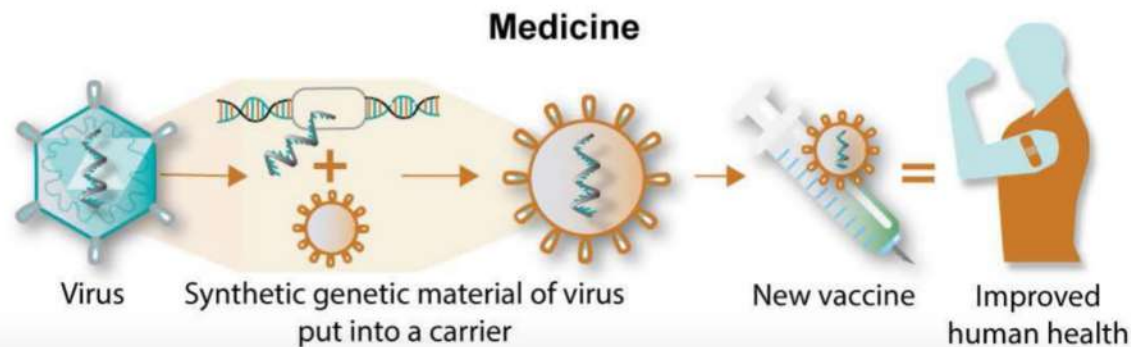
NEWVISION

BUKEDDE AMAWULIRE KAMPALA SUN

Is Uganda, Africa ready for emerging synthetic biology technologies, experts weigh in

🕒 Jun 22, 2024

Atwine told New Vision online that, with regulations in place, Uganda and other African countries will benefit from the many beneficial possibilities that synthetic biology offers.



This article makes reference to ACB and a report published in 2018 in which we critique and express biosafety concerns about gene drives including the possibility of broader ecological, health, social and/or economic impacts.

Mentions

Malaria Journal

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Review | [Open access](#) | Published: 19 June 2024

Assessing CRISPR/Cas9 potential in SDG3 attainment: malaria elimination—regulatory and community engagement landscape

[Aleksandra Snuzik](#)

[Malaria Journal](#) **23**, Article number: 192 (2024) | [Cite this article](#)

456 Accesses | [Metrics](#)

Abstract

Elimination of malaria has become a United Nations member states target: Target 3.3 of the sustainable development goal no. 3 (SDG3). Despite the measures taken, the attainment of this goal is jeopardized by an alarming trend of increasing malaria case incidence. Globally, there were an estimated 241 million malaria cases in 2020 in 85 malaria-endemic countries, increasing from 227 million in 2019. Malaria case incidence was 59, which means effectively no changes in the numbers occurred, compared with the baseline 2015. Jennifer Doudna—co-inventor of CRISPR/Cas9 technology—claims that CRISPR holds the potential to lessen or

ACB and Gene Watch are mentioned as part of stakeholder and community participants who engaged in this assessment.

Mentions

These articles cover a protest that took place on Friday, 5 July which linked to a joint submission - signed by ACB - regarding the Draft Regulations for Hazardous Chemical Agents as well as the DAs move to eliminate minimum wage which will have dire impact on agricultural workers.

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Farmworkers call for a ban on pesticides and reject the DA's Steenhuisen as Agriculture Minister

Story by Shakirah Thebus • 6mo • 3 min read

L Farmworkers call for a ban on pesticides and reject the DA's Steenhuisen as Agriculture Minister
 © Provided by Cape Argus

[illegible]

Mentions



This article covers a coalition of farmworker trade unions and civil society organisations, which have rejected the department of employment and labour's draft regulations on hazardous chemical agents under the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Mentions

23 Augustus 2024

SUIDERNUUS / SOUTHERN POST

3

Uruguayan firm wants to do field trials of GM wheat at Proteem and Swellendam

Mathabo le Roux & Anri Matthee

So far, South Africa's wheat production has escaped genetic tampering. However, an Uruguayan firm, Trigall Genetics, is seeking permission to conduct trials of a wheat variety that has been genetically modified to resist "environmental stress" factors such as drought in four locations in South Africa.

The firm wants to do confined field trials in Proteem, Swellendam and Moorreesburg in the Western Cape and Hopetown in the Northern Cape on HB4 wheat. The strand has been genetically engineered through microparticle bombardment of the wheat variety Cadenza, to tease out a trait it is claimed will shield crop yield against extreme weather events.

South Africa approved the import of HB4 wheat for food, feedstock and processing in 2022. However, GM wheat cultivation does not yet have the green light.

According to the ISAAA,* only three countries have approved HB4 for commercial cultivation – Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay. Uruguay has not okayed the commercial cultivation of HB4, although it is a biotechnology firm domiciled there which will seek approval for the trials in South Africa.



Photo: Michael Gäbler / under licence CC BY-SA 3.0.

To date genetic crop modification in South Africa has predominantly focused on engineering herbicide tolerance and insect resistance, according to an article published by the African Centre for Biodiversity (ACB).

to meet almost half our demand. Most of these imports come from Canada, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Ukraine and the USA, according to the department of agriculture and forestry. Ross Kettles of the Nuweiaars Wetlands SMA

ACB's work on GMOs is cited in an article on Trigall Genetics, which is seeking permission to conduct trials of a wheat variety in Proteem, Swellendam and Moorreesburg in the Western Cape and Hopetown in the Northern Cape on HB4 wheat.

Mentions

INFOSperber
sieht, was andere übersehen.

Mittwoch, 21. September 2024

AKTUELLES ÜBER UNS THEMEN

A photograph showing a dirt path in a slum area. Several people, including children, are walking along the path. The background shows makeshift buildings made of corrugated metal and wood.

Wo die Lebensbedingungen prekär sind, sterben mehr Menschen an Krankheiten, insbesondere Kinder. Daran ändern die Gentechnik-Projekte nichts. © [menierd](#) / [Depositphotos](#)

Afrika als Versuchslabor für umstrittene Gentechnik

Josef Estermann / Martina Frei / 4.09.2024 Genveränderte Mücken sollen Malaria ausrotten. Risikoabschätzung und Aufklärung fehlen, Bedenken werden vom Tisch gewischt.

In this article on how risk assessment and information on using genetically modified mosquitoes to eradicate malaria are lacking and concerns are brushed aside, ACB's report Gene drive organisms: What Africa should know about actors, motives and threats to biodiversity and food systems is cited.

Mentions

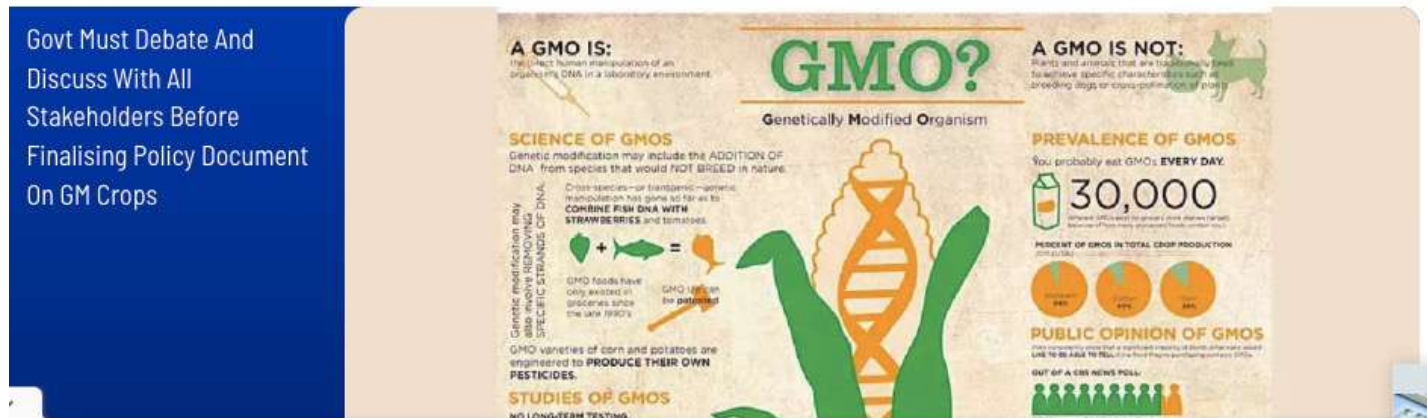


Mariam interview on GM potatoes with Thomas Bless, Gen-ethic Network. The central theme of the interview would be the theft of data (biopiracy) from farmers in the Andes region and the attempts to integrate genetically modified plants through "development" projects in other countries.

Mentions

Govt Must Debate And Discuss With All Stakeholders Before Finalising Policy Document On GM Crops

Brian Dowd-Uribe, editor of a social science journal, has been relentlessly questioning claims made by GM scientists



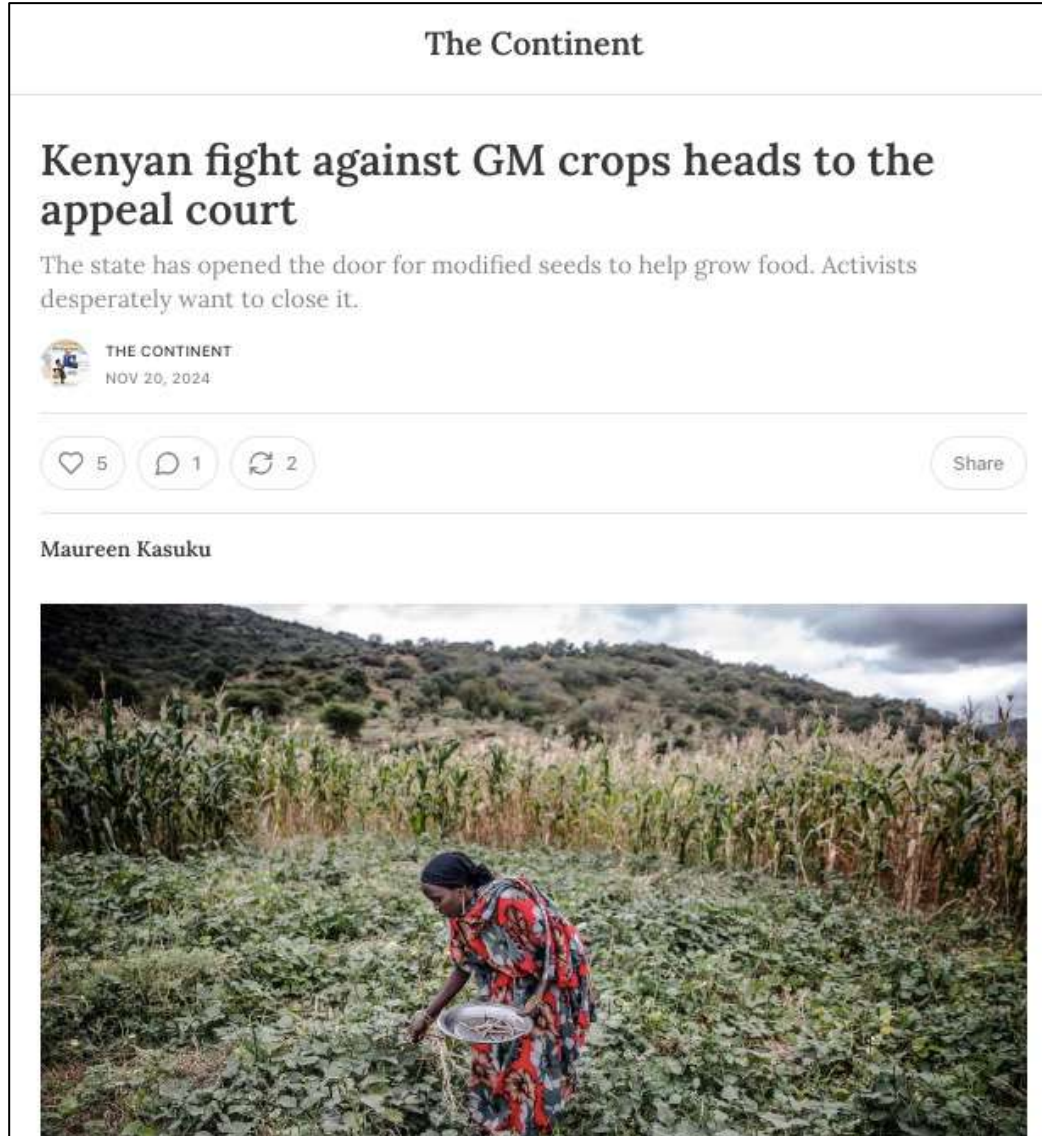
Mariam Mayet's comments on the Bonus Eventus network are noted in this article by Devinder Sharmer, a food policy analyst and an expert on issues related to the agriculture sector. The article looks at the history of GM crops and pesticides being pushed on developing country markets.

Mentions



ACB's court case win against the government and Bayer (Monsanto) is cited in this article which looks at the lack of adequate long term risk assessment with regards to GMOs in Nigeria.

Mentions



ACB's Mariam Mayet is quoted in an article on the legal fight against GM crops in Kenya. She notes that neighbouring countries have declared their opposition to GM seeds and crops.

Mentions


The Economist

Menu Weekly edition The world in brief Search

Middle East & Africa | The non-appliance of science

Why GM crops aren't feeding Africa

Despite decades of research, few countries grow them there



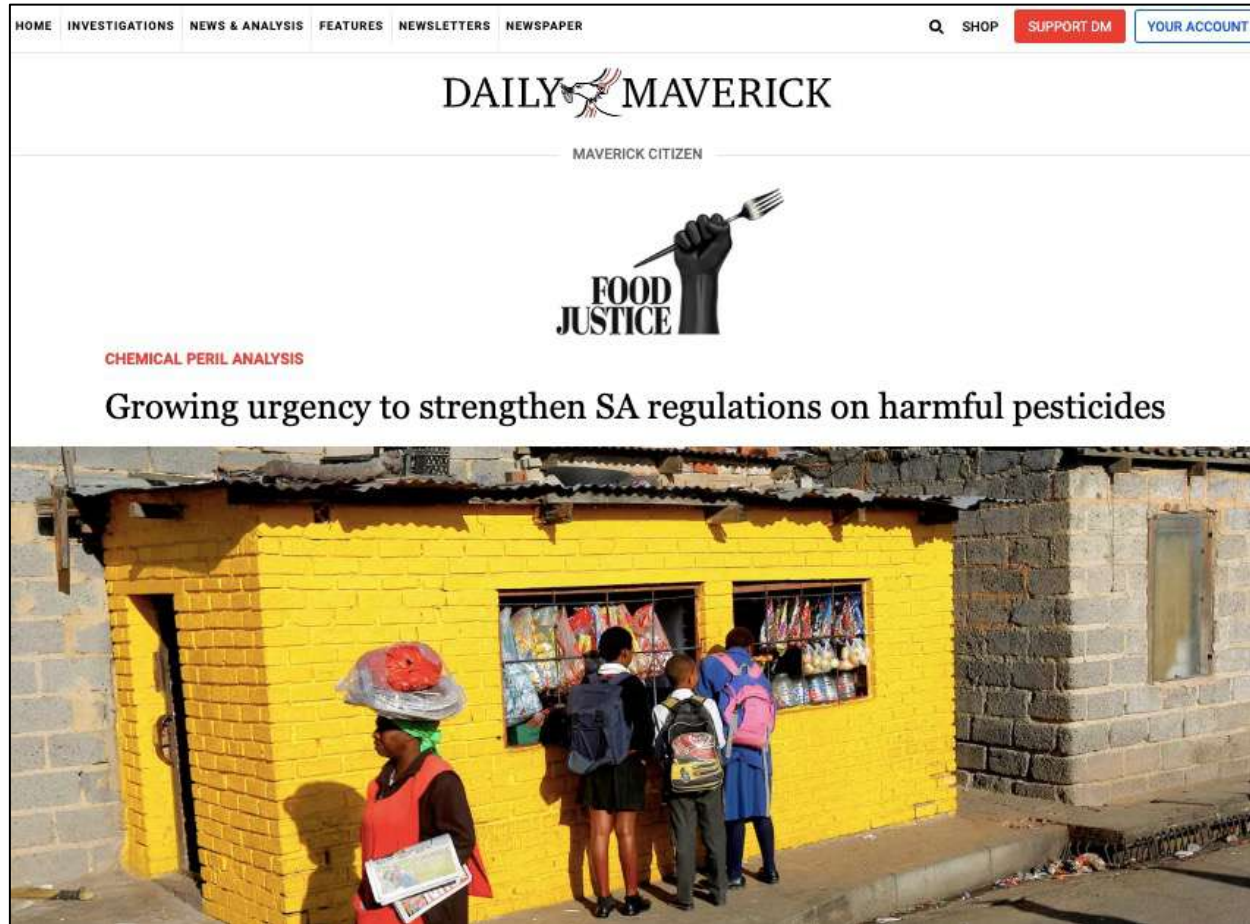
Mariam Mayet was interviewed for this article on the "struggle" to bring GM crops to Africa.

Mentions



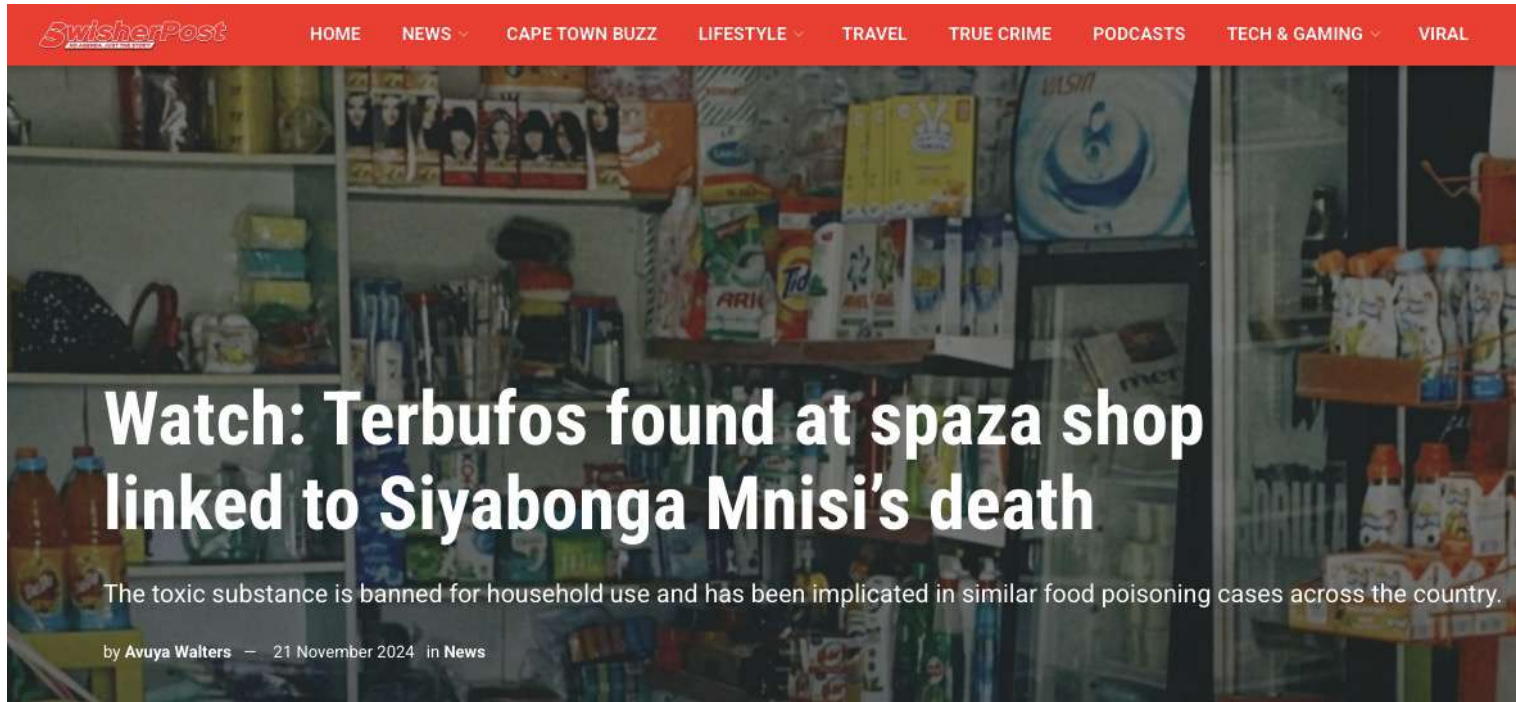
This article links to UnPoison's press release published on the ACB website which provides a list of highly hazardous pesticides still in use in South Africa.

Mentions



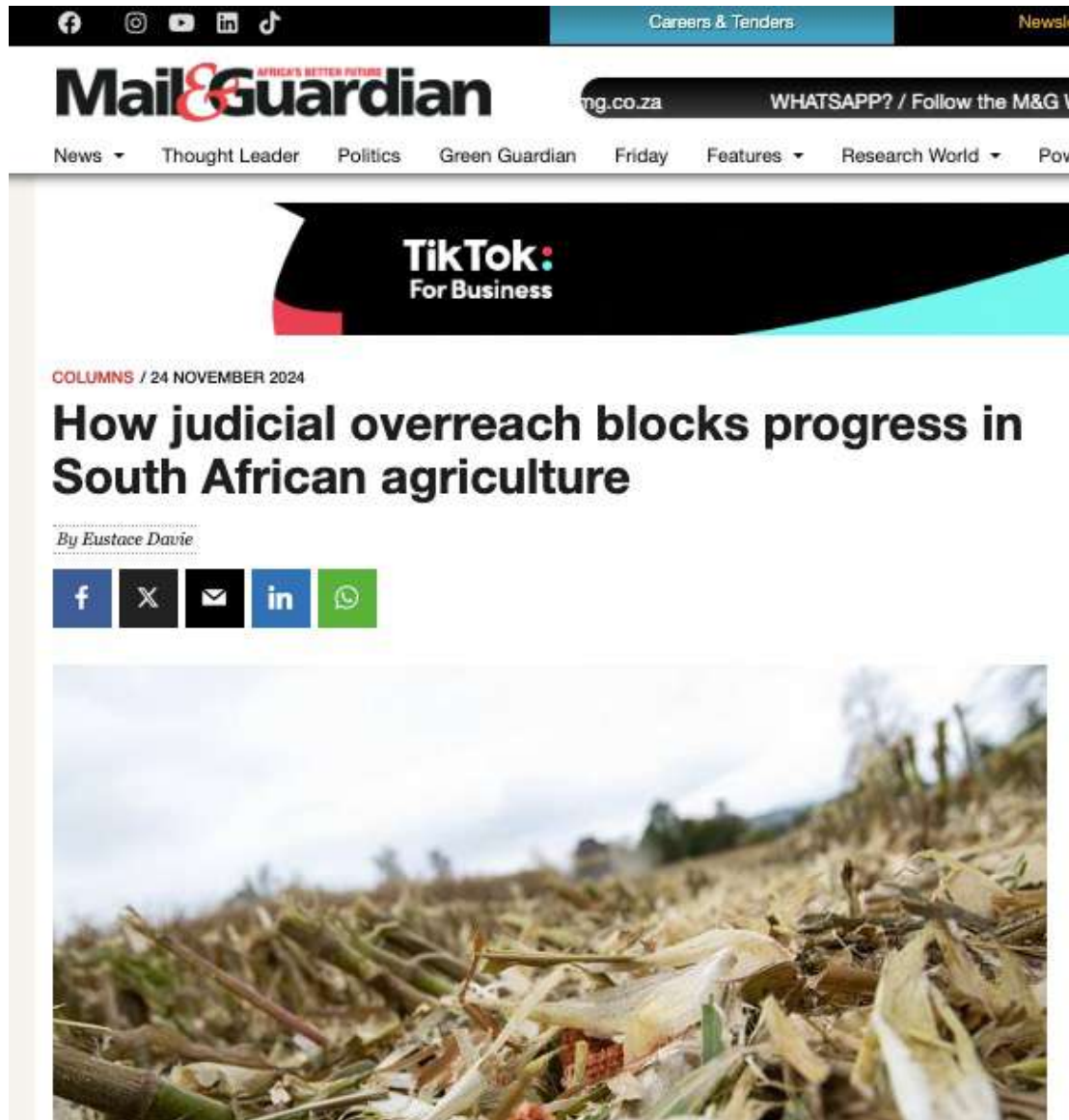
This article unpacks the double standards when it comes to highly hazardous pesticides. It cites the Pesticide Tribunal's press release on the use of terbufos in SA. And links to UnPoison's press release published on the ACB website which provides a list of highly hazardous pesticides still in use in South Africa.

Mentions



This article links to UnPoison's press release published on the ACB website which provides a list of highly hazardous pesticides still in use in South Africa.

Mentions



This column by Eustace Davie, a Director and Board member of the Free Market Foundation, describes the Supreme Court win over the government and Bayer (Monsanto) as judicial overreach.

Mentions



Rutendo Matinyarare writes on his experience of a hearing in Nigeria investigating the impact of GMOs on health and the environment. ACB's Supreme Court win is mentioned in the article and how the approval for the production of MON 87460 in Nigeria was probably rubber-stamped as well.

Mentions



This article notes that political parties NPP, NDC in Ghana are open to GMOs in the food system. Since April 2024, Ghana's National Biosafety Authority has approved the commercialisation of 14 new GMO crops.

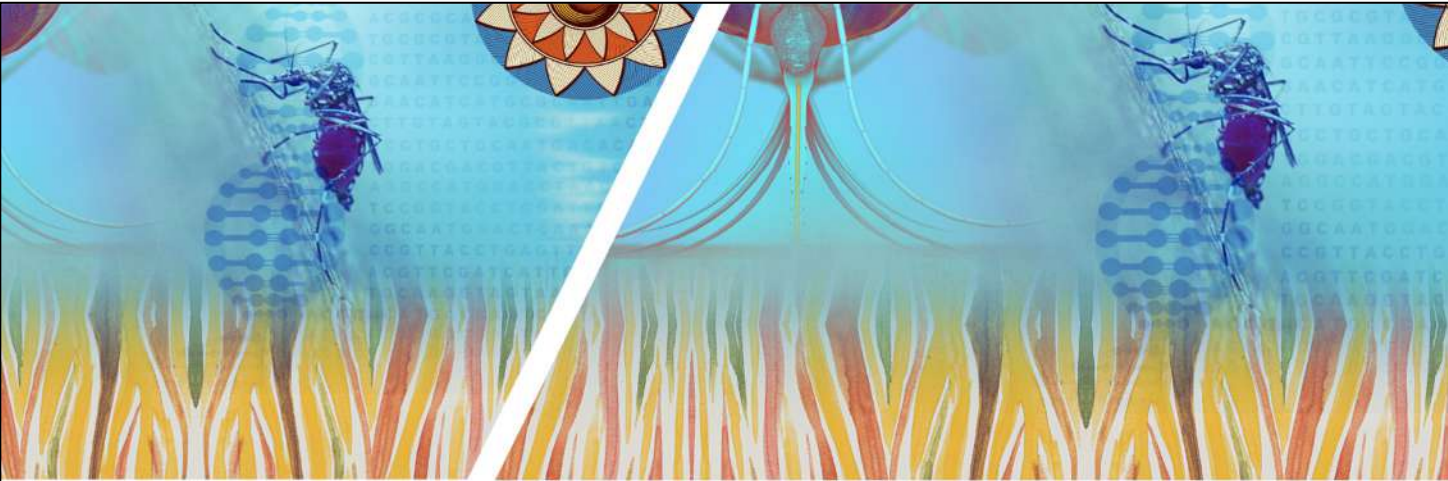
The Centre for Indigenous Knowledge and Organisational Development (CIKOD), however, is cited as cautioning the country from embracing it, referring to ACB's recent court case win at the Supreme Court.

Mentions



ACB's briefing paper, Oxitec's failed GM mosquito releases worldwide: Forewarnings for Africa and the Target Malaria project, is mentioned in this article reporting on Oxitec wanting to release genetically modified *Aedes Aegypti* mosquitoes in Queensland.

Webinars, meetings and events hosted by ACB



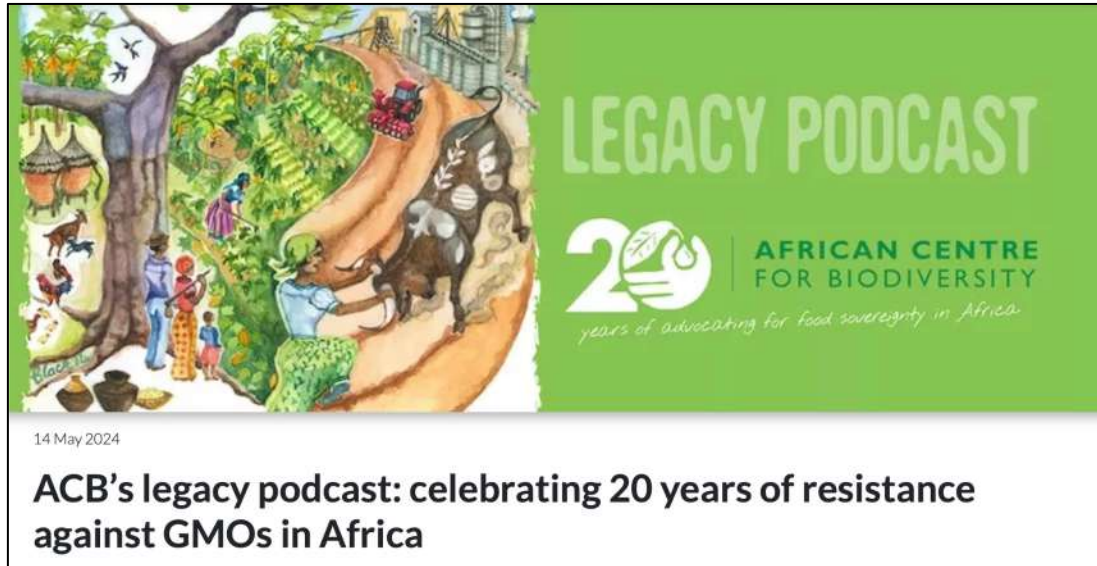
The African Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) warmly invites you to a webinar

Gene Drive Mosquitoes

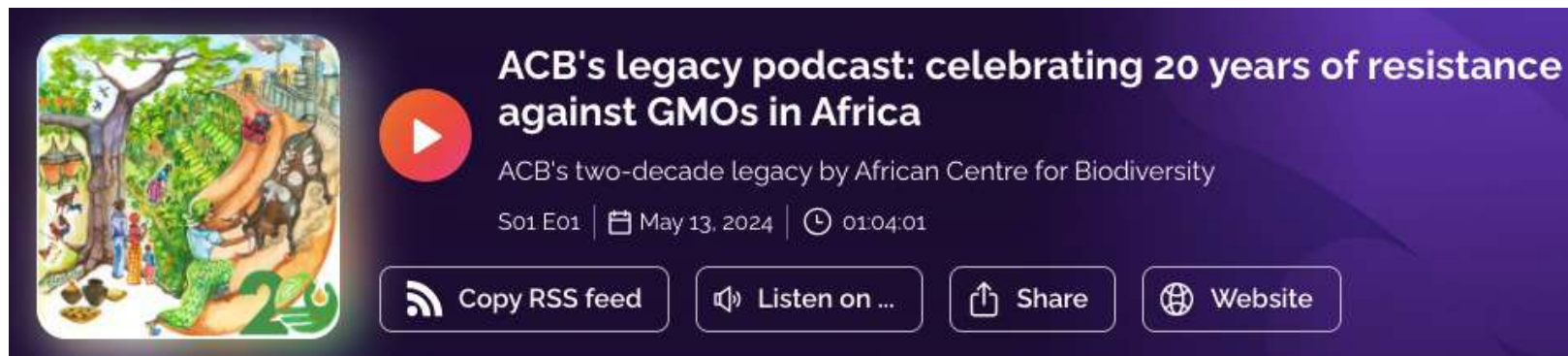
26 April 11:00 – 14:00 (EAT, UTC + 03:00)

The webinar provided context on the financialisation of malaria on the African continent, creating a basic understanding for civil society organisations on what gene drives are; where the experiments are being undertaken; the risks and adverse impacts of gene drive mosquitoes; and regulation of gene drives under the Cartagena Protocol for Biosafety.

Web publications



This first podcast in the series is hosted by ACB Research and Advocacy Officer Sabrina Masinjila, and features our Executive Director and founder Mariam Mayet as well as Haidee Swanby who worked for ACB for a decade.



Meetings and events



The Biodiversity and Biosafety Association of Kenya (BIBA-K) and ACB hosted a regional meeting in Nairobi, bringing together a small group of civil society actors from Zambia, Kenya and Tanzania who are engaged in food systems, to build capacity, discuss, learn and share on the Global Biodiversity Framework and the key issues to consider for its implementation to ensure the transformation of food systems.

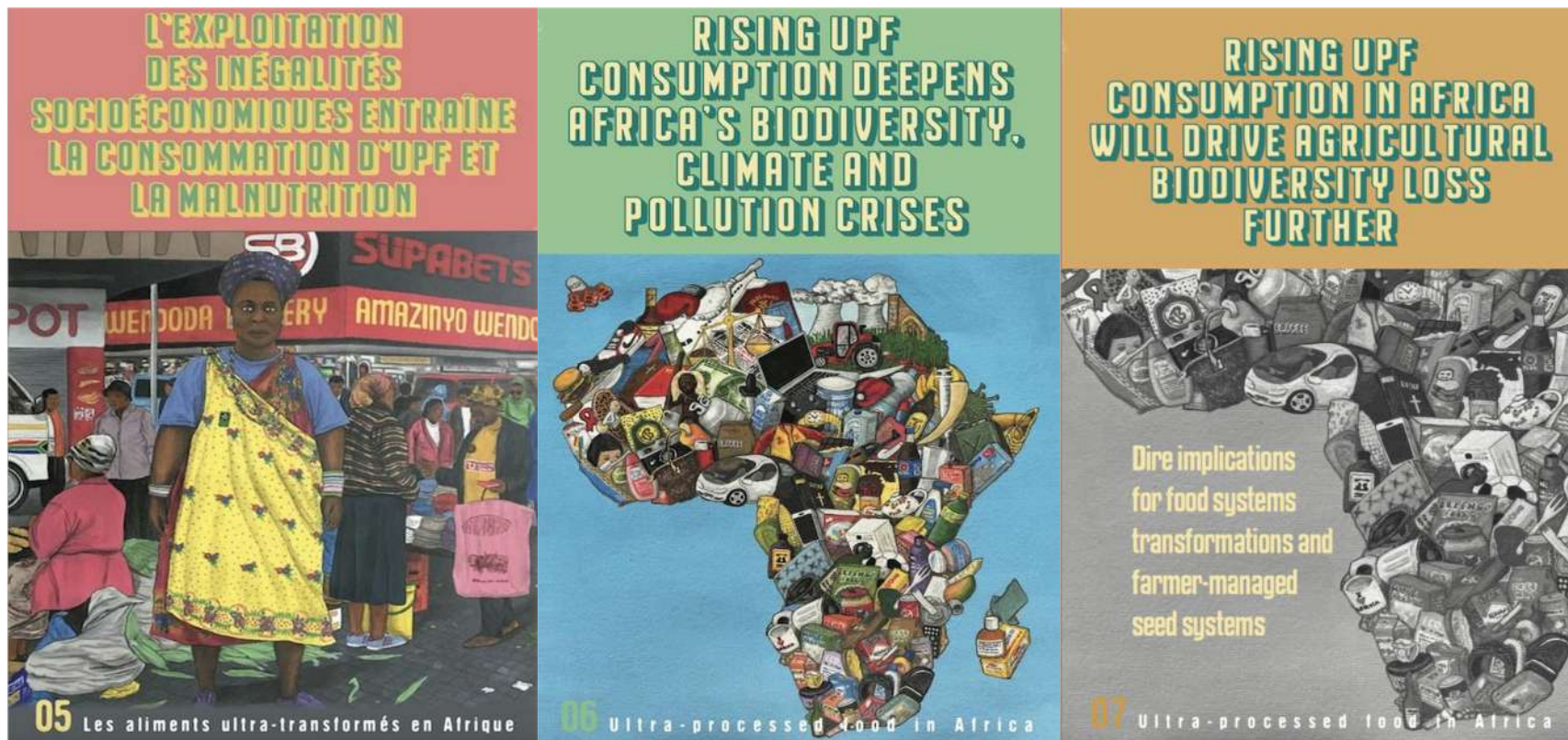
Meetings and events



At the International Farmer Seeds Gathering 2024, ACB shared the current status on what is happening in Africa with regards to genome editing, deregulation, and implications to the future of food and agricultural systems on the continent.

Programme 3: Corporate Expansion

Publications



In this series focusing on ultra-processed food (UPF) on the African continent, ACB explores the impacts of shifting dietary patterns, with increasing reliance on low-cost, ultra-processed foods (UPFs) globally, and in Africa in particular, in the context of an urgent call for a just, agroecological food system transition.

Publications



8 March 2024

Ultra-processed food in Africa

Implications for just agroecological transitions of food and agricult

A series by the African Centre for Biodiversity

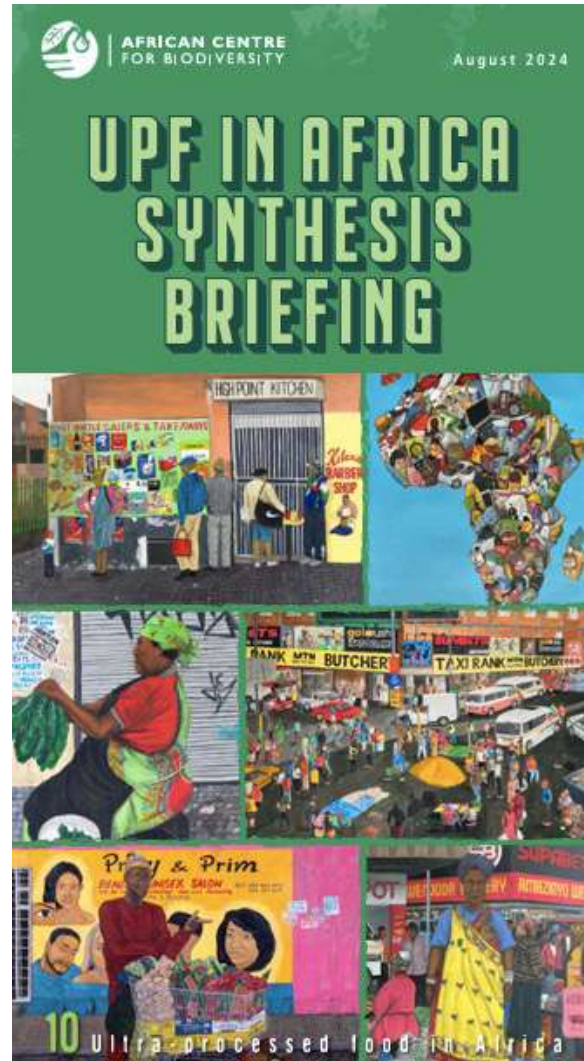
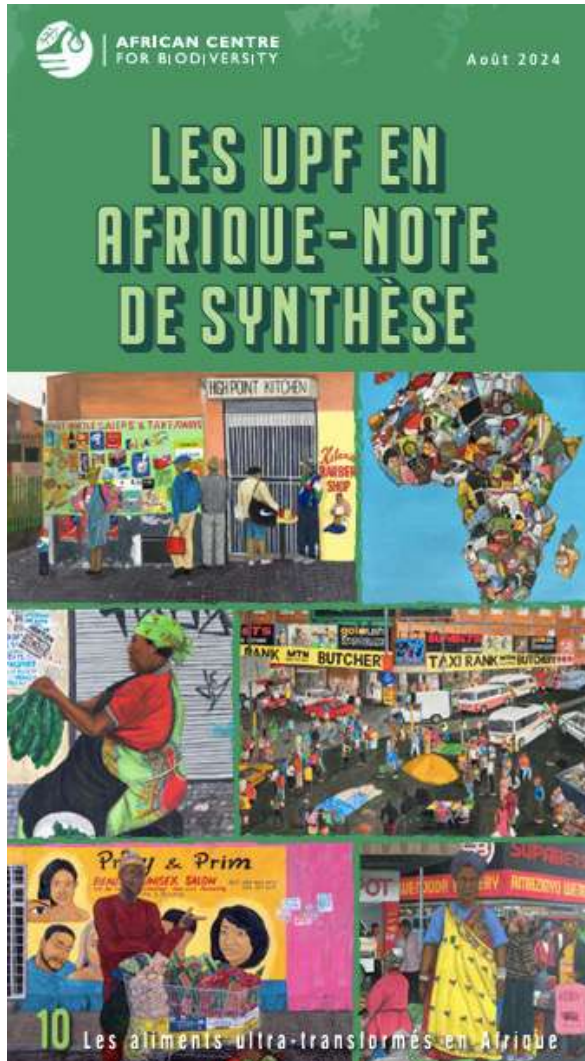


4 April 2024

Rising ultra-processed food consumption deepens Africa's biodiversity, climate and pollution crises

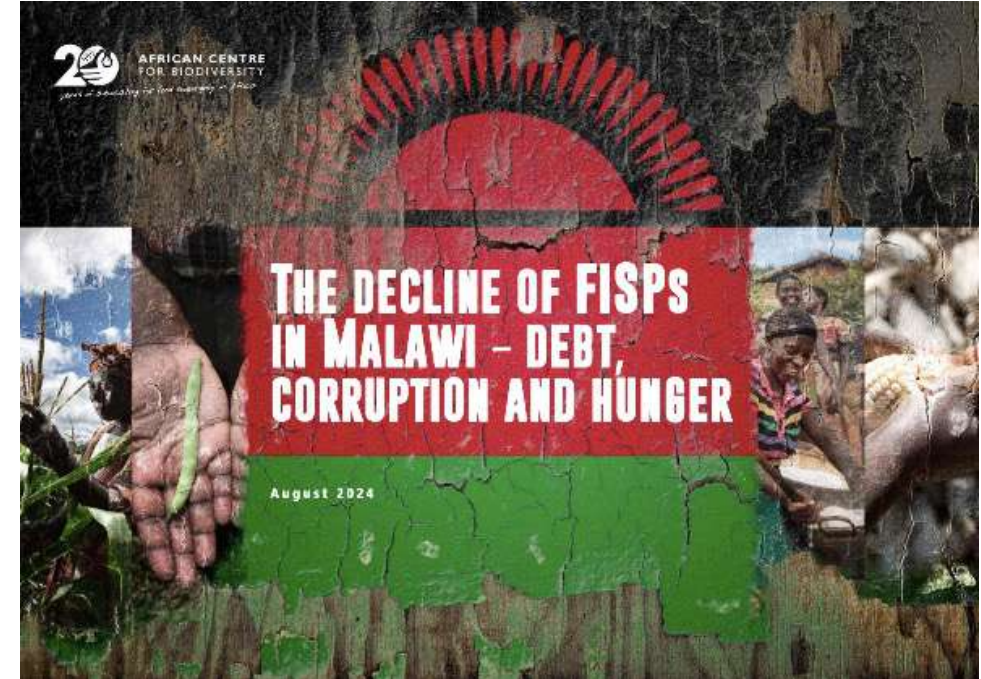
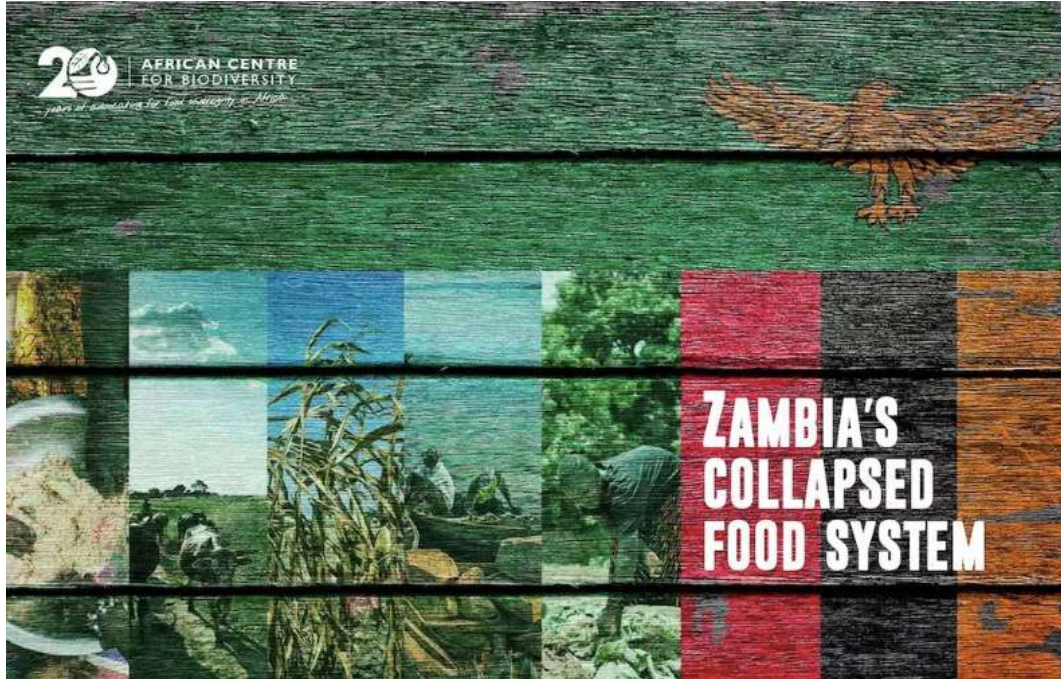
A series by the African Centre for Biodiversity

Publications



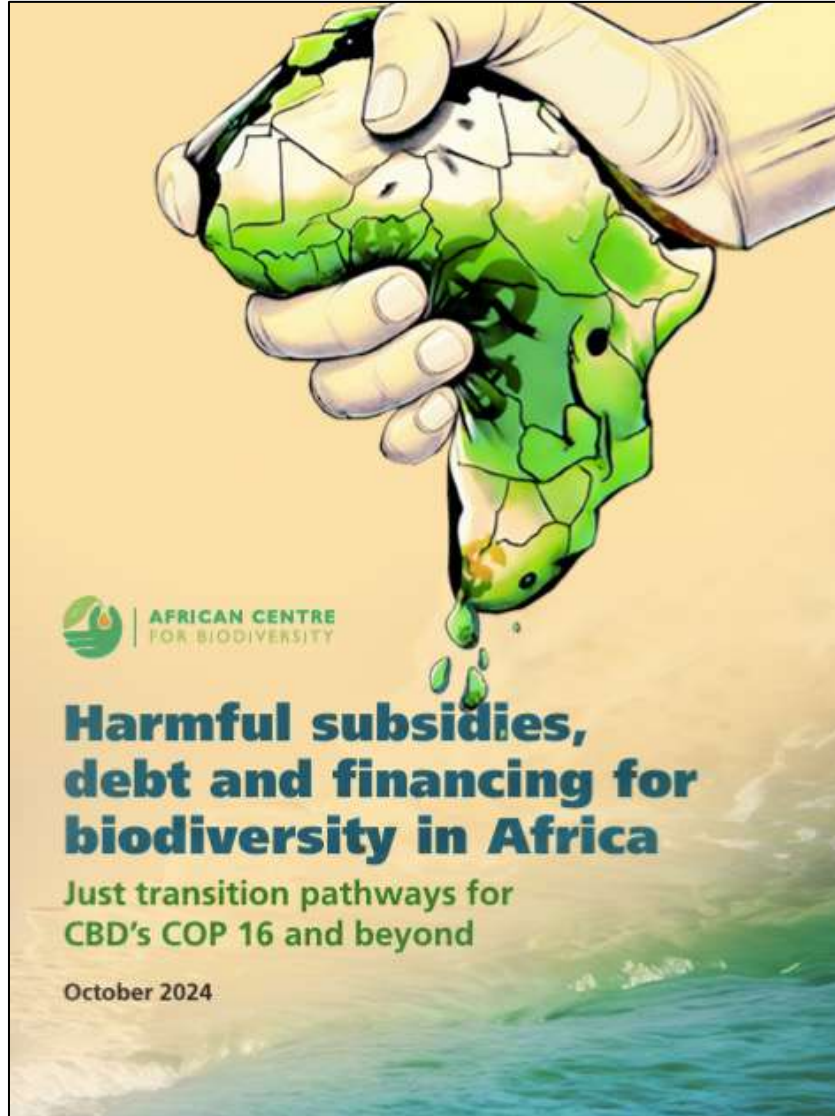
Factsheet 10 is the final in our series that considers the different dimensions of ultra-processed foods (UPFs) and highlights the serious environmental, social, economic and health implications of the expansion of UPF consumption in Africa.

Publications



ACB published two briefing papers on farm input subsidy programmes (FISPs) in Zambia and Malawi, which examine particularly how they've contributed to the brewing food crisis and how they could evolve to truly support smallholder farmers to meet their needs and contribute to food sovereignty for both nations.

Publications



This briefing provides an overview of some of the structural obstacles to effectively fund environmental protection, as well as the threats and opportunities. It becomes clear that solutions for financing environmental protection cannot be considered separately from systemic reform of the international financial architecture or an end to African debt peonage.

Publications



1 November 2024

Civil society coalition says: Heads must roll for Terbufos regulatory failure

ACB, as part of a coalition of civil society organisations and unions concerned with the impacts of pesticides, in a joint press release called on the South African government to take urgent, effective action to prevent further tragedies in vulnerable communities following the tragic deaths of six children in Soweto.

Mentions



Read Up. Rise Up



Civil society coalition says: Heads must roll for Terbufos regulatory failure

Mail & Guardian
AFRICA'S BETTER FUTURE

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NATIONAL / 10 NOVEMBER 2024

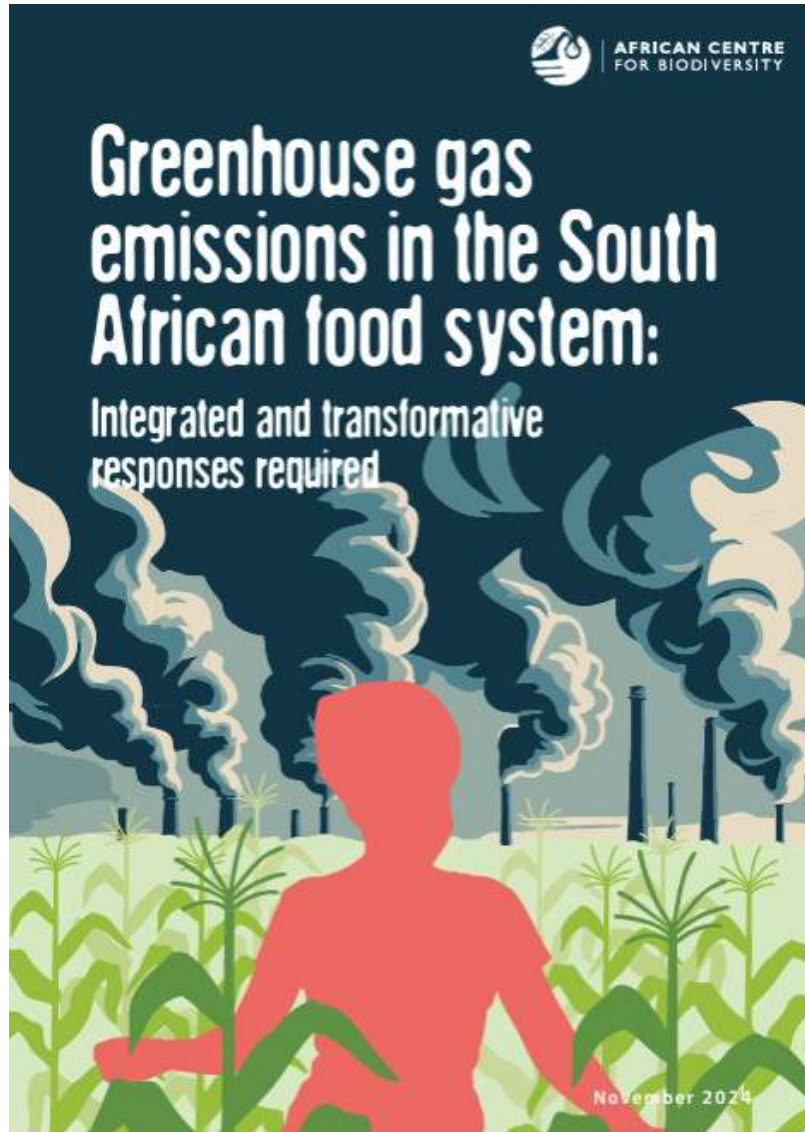
Civil society coalition wants heads to roll over Terbufos deaths

By Sheree Bega

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Publications



The agri-food system is estimated to produce about 18% of South Africa's total emissions. 49% of this is from livestock and emissions from crop production. Another 41% is from energy use and transport in the food system. Other food systems emissions include organic waste disposal, industrial processes, and refrigeration. This paper provides a detailed breakdown of emissions across these categories, as well as proposing entry points for emissions reductions.

Mentions

food security threat 1/3

LIVE



GLOBAL CLIMATE CRISIS

SOUTH AFRICA FACES SERIOUS FOOD SECURITY THREAT

eNCA.com

06 52

RAMOKGOPA GIVES UPDATE ON PREPAID METER RECODING

AFRICA NEWS

NAMIBIANS HEAD TO PO

JOHANNESBURG 16 / 29

PRETORIA 19 / 32

POLOKWANE 18 / 32

MBOMBELA 19 / 34

Mentions

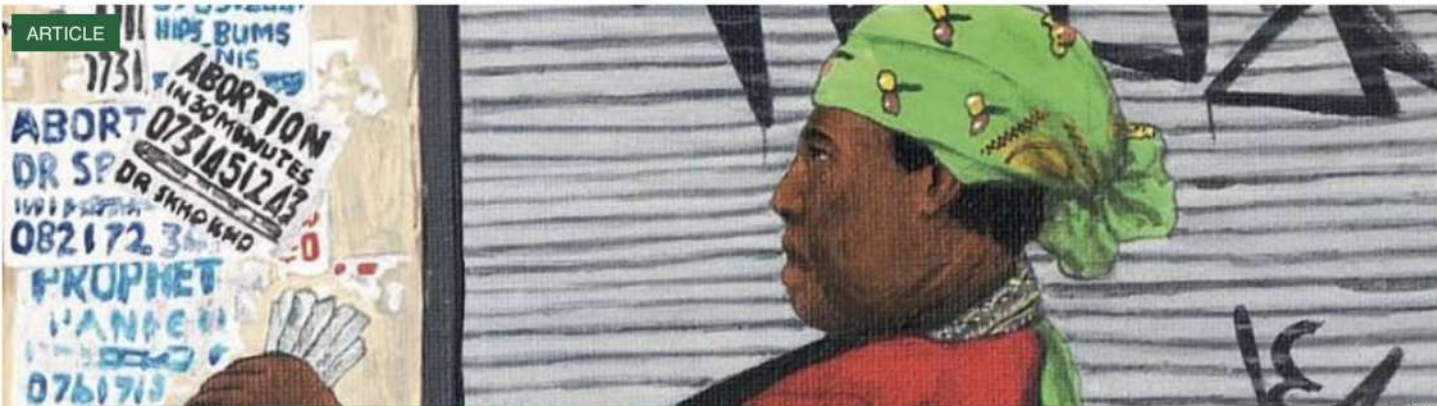


Mariam Mayet wrote an op-ed for Table Media on how promoting climate-smart agriculture as a climate solution is misleading and noted that agroecology is essential if humanity wants to have a future on the planet.

Mentions

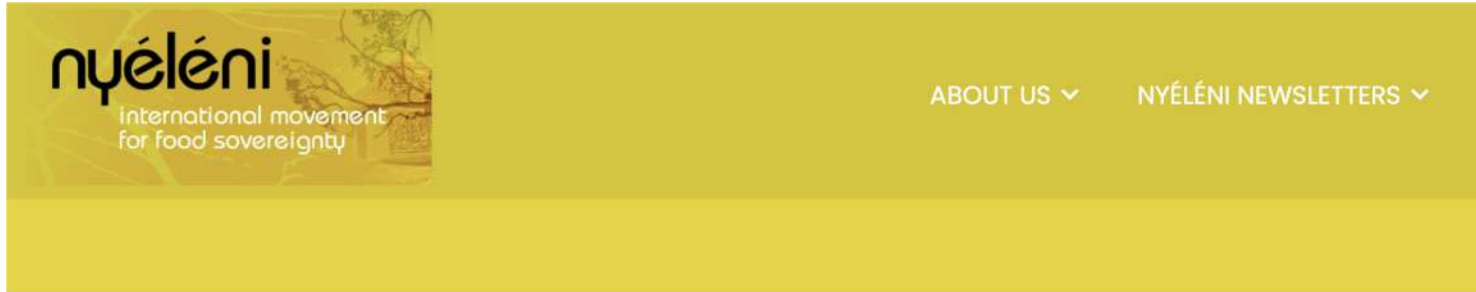
A Malnourished Food System: Harmful Impacts Of Upf Consumption On Health And Nutrition In Africa

By The African Centre for Biodiversity



Modern Ghana, an online publication, posted ACB's UPF factsheet 8 which looks at the harmful Impacts of UPF consumption on health and nutrition in Africa.

Mentions

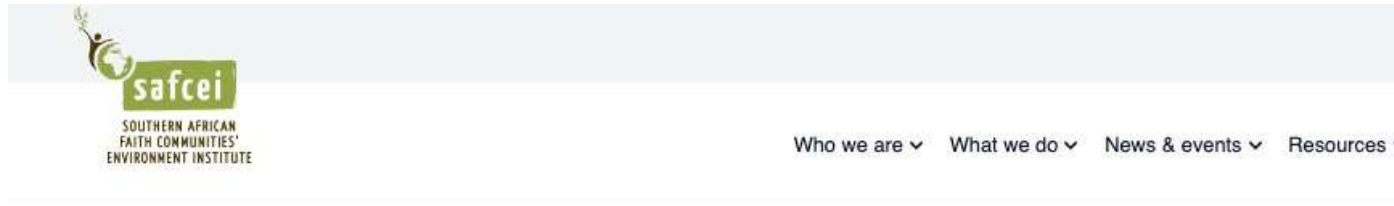


Newsletter no 55 – Ultra-processed food, a “corporate diet”



Nyeleni quotes and makes reference to a number of publications on the topic of UPF and it's implications around the world. They include a link to the factsheet post on ACB's website.

Mentions



Regional Women's FLEAT in Johannesburg: Empowering Women Faith Leaders in Environmental Advocacy

Published: Jul 30, 2024

Fleat Agreoeology Food-And-Climate-Justice



SAFCEI article on its three-day in-person Regional Women's Faith Leader Environmental Advocacy Training (FLEAT) in Johannesburg. ACB's Dr Stephen Greenberg is mentioned as having discussed Just Transitions in the Southern and East African food systems.

Mentions

sábado, 3 de agosto de 2024

RESISTÊNCIA e RESILIÊNCIA:

Mulheres na Luta pela Terra e Territórios contra o Neocolonialismo em África e no Caribe

Jessica Fernandez, investigadora Garífuna, diplomata na Missão Permanente da República das Honduras na ONU. Mestre em Relações Internacionais pela Universidade de Coimbra. Candidata a doutora em Estudos de Desenvolvimento



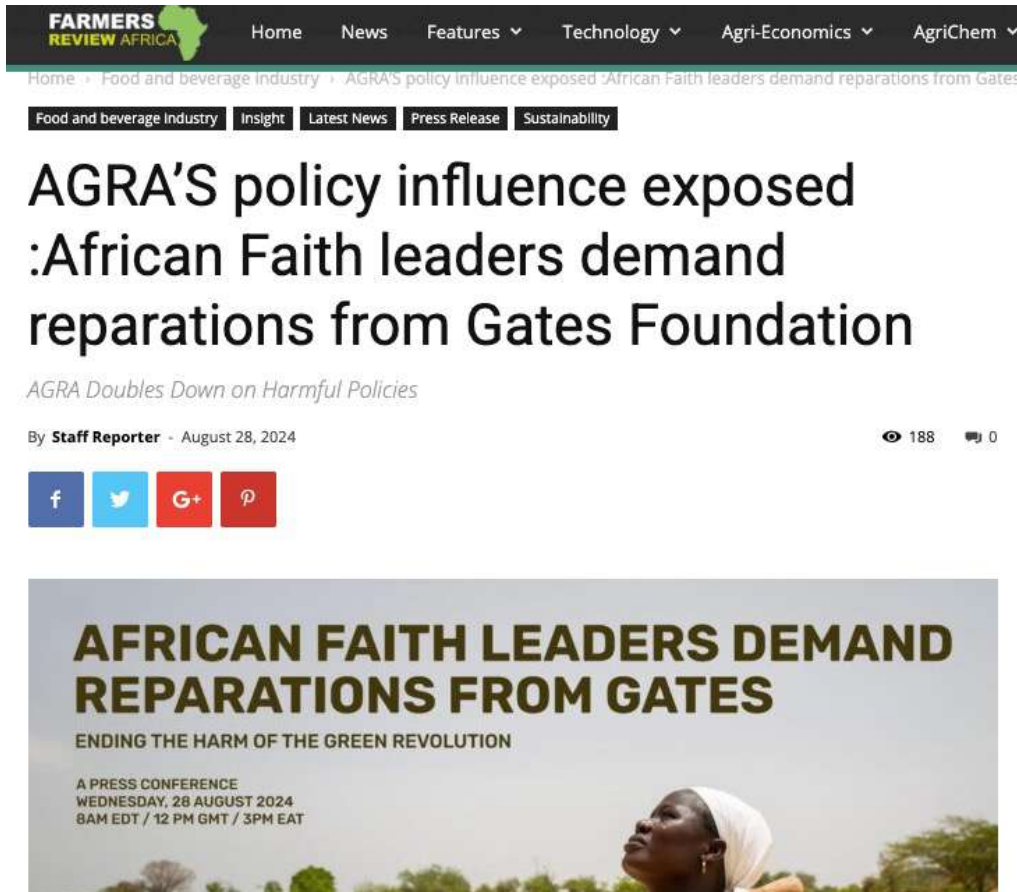
In this blog, ACB's Mariam Mayet is mentioned as a prominent activist defending the rights of peasant women.

Mentions



In a press advisory with the details of a press conference as African faith leaders prepared to issue an open letter to the Gates Foundation demanding reparations for causing extensive damage to Africa's food systems with its aggressive push for industrialised agriculture, ACB's briefing paper on the collapse of Zambia's food system due to the FISP is mentioned.

Mentions



Farmers Review Africa published an article following an AFSA press conference releasing its briefing paper revealing how AGRA is using its power to exert undue influence on local, national and continental policymaking. In the article, ACB's briefing paper on FISPs in Zambia is cited.

Mentions



News

Inside
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Insights

AGRA on the spot over use of chemical fertilisers



Thursday 29th August, 2024 08:30 AM | By Milliam Murigi




A fertilizer is a natural or synthetic, chemical-based substance containing one or more nutrients essential for enhancement of plant growth and soil fertility. PHOTO/Print

People Daily published an article following an AFSA press conference releasing its briefing paper revealing how AGRA is using its power to exert undue influence on local, national and continental policymaking. The article quote's AFSA's Million Belay as mentioning ACB's briefing paper on FISPs in Zambia during the event.


Mentions



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 BETA




Why African Groups Want Reparations From The Gates Foundation


Christine Ro Contributor 
Christine Ro is a journalist covering science and development.

  0

Sep 2, 2024, 02:00am EDT


Updated Sep 2, 2024, 11:54am EDT



Mariam Mayet, in Tim Schwab's *The Bill Gates Problem*, is quoted in this article as having said that the Gates Foundation has mobilised so much funding and influence for an industrial model of agriculture, that it has crowded out alternatives.


Mentions

THE SOUTH AFRICAN


S SPORT CULTURE LIFESTYLE BUSINESS & FINANCE VIDEO WIN

Instant noodles and 'garage' pies to disappear from SA's shelves?

The days of quick meal solutions such as instant noodles may be numbered as awareness is raised about tl

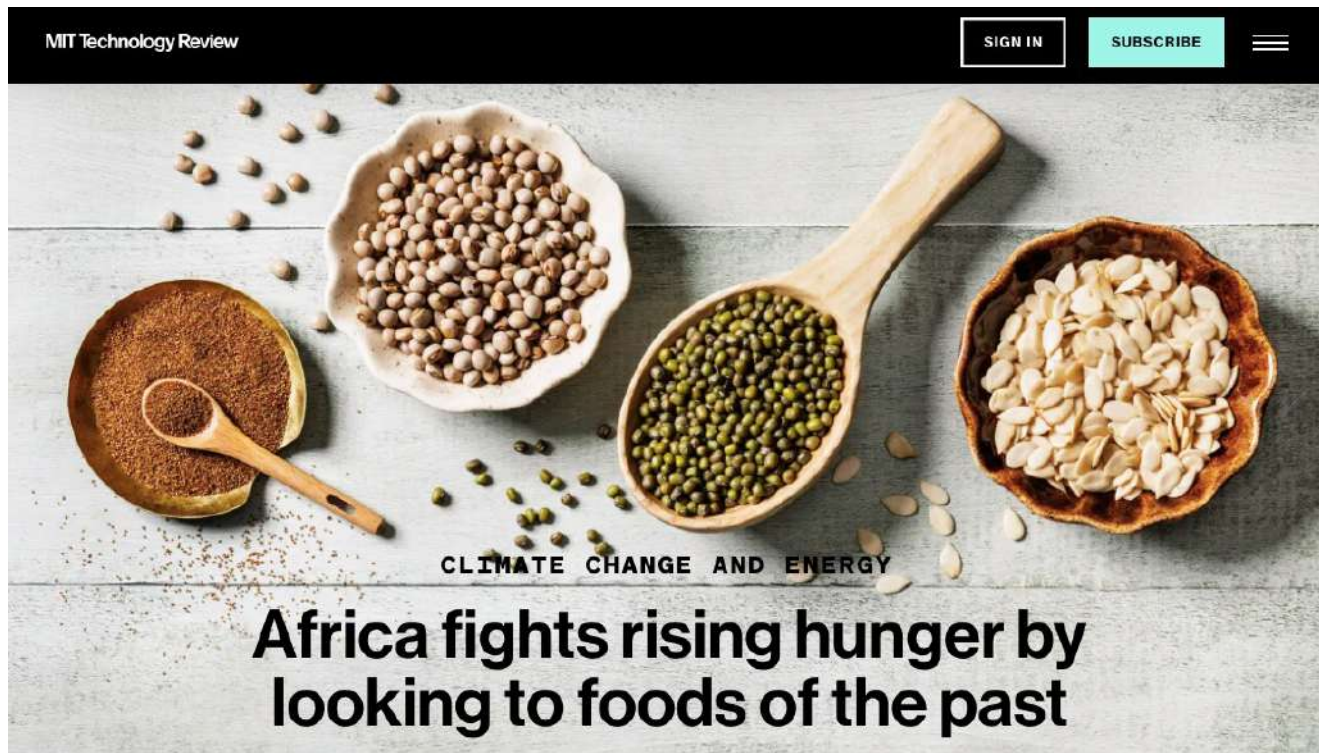


By **Marzanne Janse van Rensburg**
25-09-24 09:24
in **News**



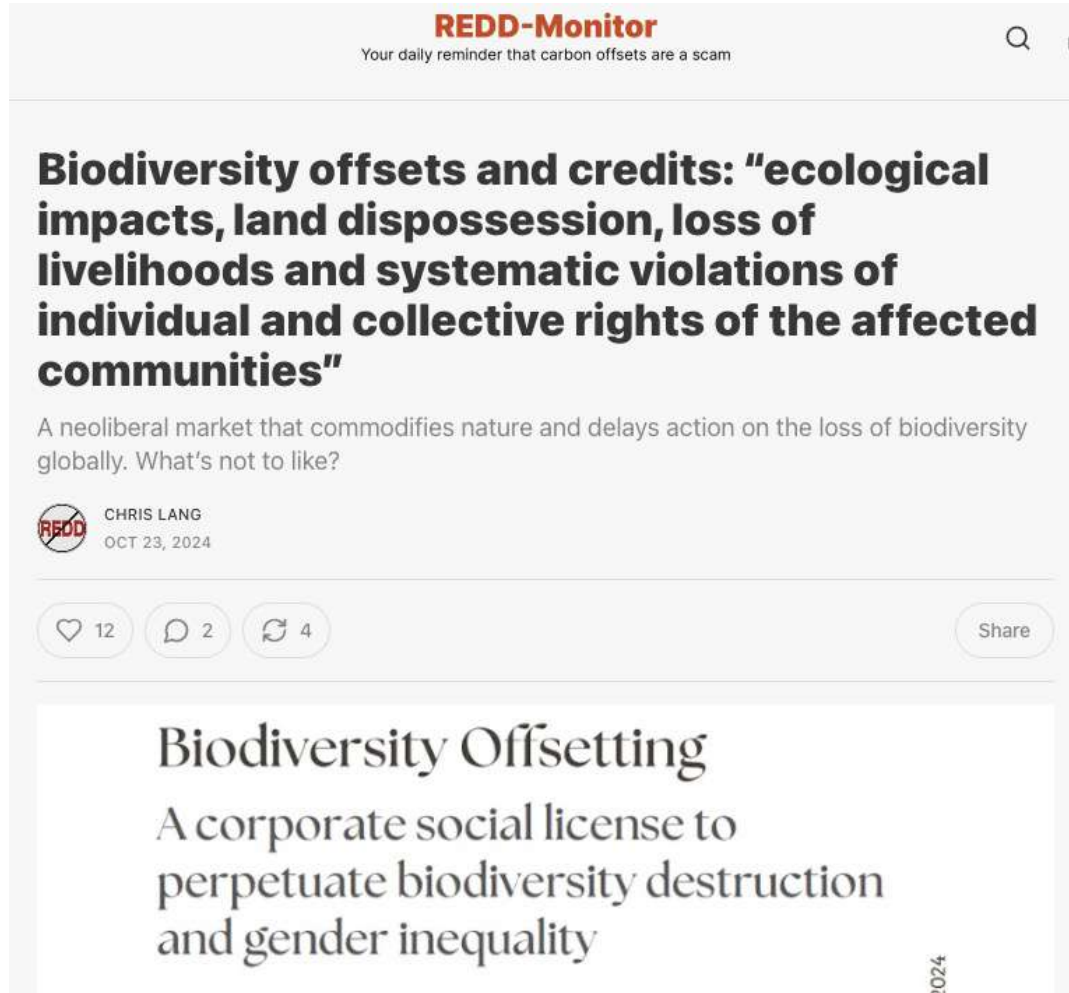
This article links to and mentions information included in ACB's UPF factsheet series.

Mentions



ACB's Sabrina Masinjila is quoted in an article on the Vision for Adapted Crops and Soils (VACS) initiative featured on the MIT Technology Review website. She criticises the support of Bayer and raises concerns that VACS could open the door to multinational companies' use of African crops' genetic sequences for their own private interests or to develop varieties that demand application of expensive, environmentally damaging pesticides and fertilisers.

Mentions



ACB is mentioned in this as one of the 200 organisations that signed on to a statement opposing biodiversity offsets and credits.

Mentions



This article reveals more about an industrialised smear campaign, with big backing in the United States. The campaign wrote and distributed more than 3500 profiles on people and organisations who have been critical of GMOs and factory-made pesticides, branding them as being “opportunistic stakeholders” in a “protest industry”. Mariam Mayet, who was included on this list, was interviewed for the article.

Mentions



Mariam Mayet contributed an article on the invasion of ultra-processed foods in Africa in FIAN Belgium's 8th edition of Beet The System!, its annual magazine tackling junk food. For the 8th edition, the magazine explores in depth the impact of the agri-food industry on food choices and how it imposes its fast-food and low-cost model.

Webinars attended by ACB



**HEALTH OF MOTHER
EARTH FOUNDATION**
WWW.HOMEF.ORG

**CONVERSATIONS ON
FOOD AND
OUR CULTURE**
with Mariam Mayet



JUNE 14, 2024
Register to join this conversation via **zoom**

12.00NOON WAT

Health of Mother Earth Foundation hosted a webinar, Conversations about Food and our Culture, Mariam Mayet was the keynote guest and speaker.

Events attended by ACB



Workshop on recent research on seed patents at the European Patent Office, concrete examples of how patents hinder breeders' freedom, and possible courses of action at national and international levels. In addition, from an African perspective, we will learn how this patent frenzy intersects with the evolving discourse on genome editing, including DSI and large datasets, deregulation, and impacts on agricultural biodiversity, farmers' rights, and seed and food systems in Africa.

Events attended by ACB



ACB attended and participated in the Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP16) alongside other meetings under the UN Biodiversity Conference of the Conference of Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the Conference of Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilisation, in Cali, Colombia.