## ACB communications and media report

## September 2024-February 2025



Programme 1: GM & Biosafety

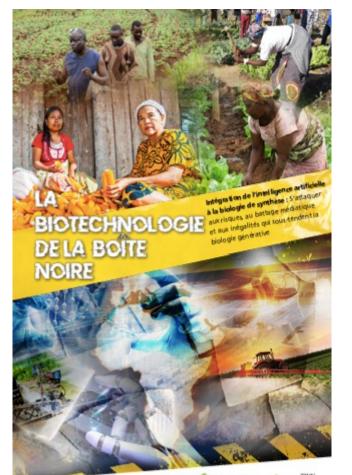


3 September 2024

'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.

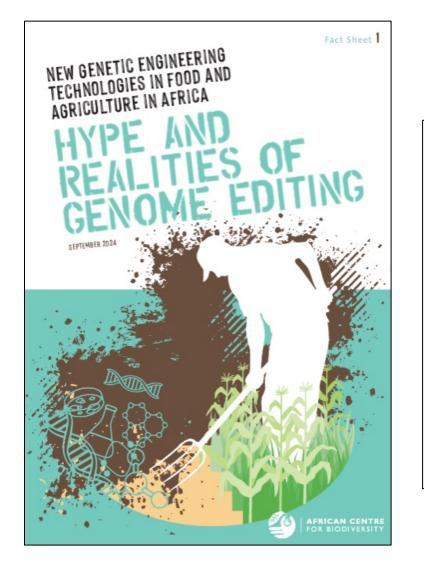




SEPTEMBRE 2024







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.

Fact Sheet 2 IUST BE OVERTURNED IN AFRICA -WHY STRINGENT REGULATION IS IMPERATIVE! SEPTEMBER 2 OR BIODIVERSIT

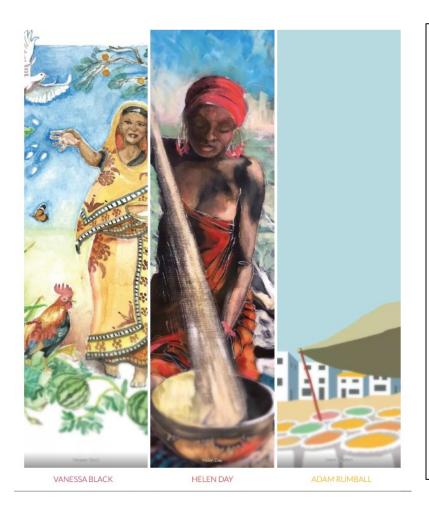


Objections to the Application by Trigall Genetics SA for permission to conduct field trials in South Africa in respect of drought tolerant and 'glufosinate tolerant' 'HB4' wheat: IND-ØØ412-7

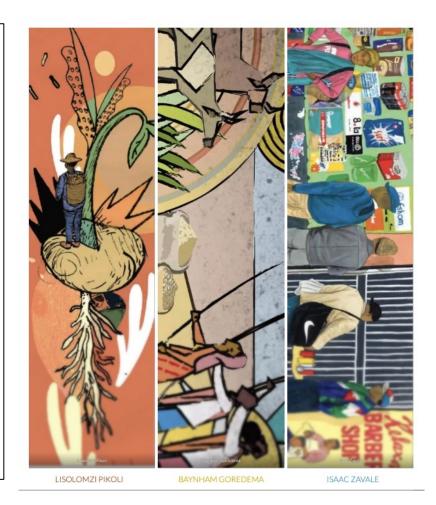
Submitted by the African Centre for Biodiversity



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.



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.



### 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 droughttolerant genetically modified (GM) maize, MON87460.

**GM**WATCH

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NEWS ~	OPINION	BUSINESS ~	LIFESTY	LE ~	ENTERTAINMENT ~	SPORT ~	TRAVEL ~
		BUSIN	IFCC				

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







### GMO debate reignited as SA sets new precedent in court

By Katja Hamilton

#### 5 Nov 2024 ( C) @ f X in ( ) :

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

News and comment on genetically modified foods and their associated pesticides Written by Dominic Naidoo News Environmental Writer South Africa: Commercial approval of C 🗱 BIZCOMMUNITY 🛤 tolerant maize set aside Resources • Education Published: 23 October 2024 Energy & Mining Dr. Rath Health Foundation \_\_\_\_\_ Entrepreneurship ESG & Sustainability **RESPONSIBILITY FOR HEALTH, PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE** Finance opeal in A Healthcare Paul A Taylor Movement of Life Dr. Niedzwiecki Cellular Medicine Preventive Healthcare HR & Management ICT South Africa's Supreme Court of Appeal Rules Legal ♥3 an Centre for Biodiversity Lifestyle Against Monsanto on Genetically Modified Maize urt of Appeal (SCA), sittiu Logistics & Transport Published by L Dr. Rath Health Foundation at ③ November 8, 2024 Tags V Categories V Manufacturing Il layers of decision-maki Enter your search News Comment , now Bayer, for commer Property This landmark decision by South Africa's Supreme Court of Appeal M) maize, MON87460. Sig Retail 🗠 Contact After a nine-year legal battle, a full bench of South Africa's overturns the country's commercial approval of Monsanto's GM maize supreme court of appeal has set aside the commercial approval variant, MON87460. The ruling, issued by a panel of five judges, of a genetically modified variety of maize. the first instance, Judge followed a prolonged legal challenge led by the African Centre for Biodiversity, which argued that the Monsanto company, now owned by FEATURES Bayer, had received approval for its maize without adequate scrutiny

About Us

Features

GMO

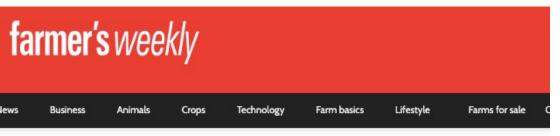
Cellular Medicin

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.

**BizTrends** IMC Conference IAB Bookmarks Awards Orchids and Onions Prism Awards





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 General Insurance Executive Council (EC) their risk assessment

General Insurance Banking Healthcare

### 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

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NATIONAL / 28 OCTOBER 2024

### SCA rules against Monsanto on genetically modified maize

By Sheree Bega

Home

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



Stand No. 459613/3 New Chilenje-641 Box 31765 Lusaka - Zambia Tel: + 260 211 266 789 Cell: + 260 955 / 977 199 447 / 969 964 4 Email: rainbownewszambia2012@gmail. derricksinjela@gmail.com/ sinjela@yah www.derricksinjela.blogspot.com www.rainbownewszambia.com





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#### not guilty to 34 felony counts

indictment related to hush money

prities detain suspect over

millions at risk from Chinese

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

BY EDITOR · OCTOBER 28, 2024

ILLING

MAGAZINE 
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**ENS**ight

10 DEC 2024 BY ASLAM MOOSAJEE AND ZAMEER OMAR

## The application of the precautior in the approval of GMOs

In African Centre for Biodiversity NPC v Minister of Agr Fisheries and Others, the Supreme Court of Appeal ("t issued permit to conduct activities in respect of genetiorganisms ("GMOs") and remitted the decision to appr reconsideration.

Statutory framework

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

Published October 28, 2024



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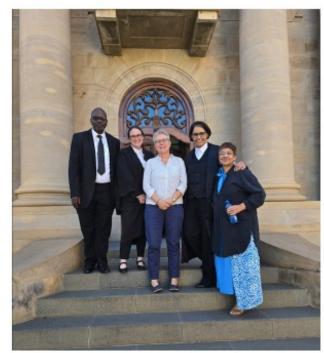
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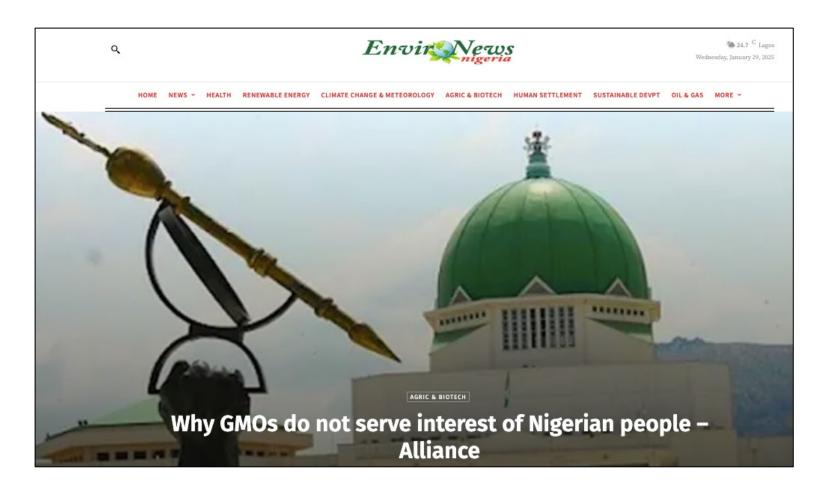
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Groundbreaking judgment of the Supreme Court of Appeal in ACB vs Monsanto/Bayer Commercial approval of GM drought-tolerant maize set aside

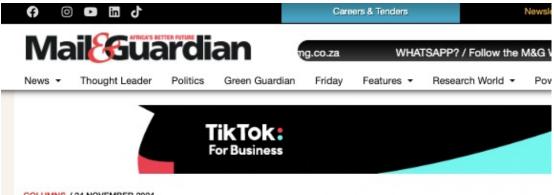




Approval of GM drought-tolerant maize set aside



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.



COLUMNS / 24 NOVEMBER 2024

## How judicial overreach blocks progress in South African agriculture

By Eustace Davie





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.



Wo die Lebensbedingungen prekär sind, sterben mehr Menschen an Krankheiten, insbesondere Kinder. Daran ändern die Gentech-Projekte nichts. © <u>menierd / Depositphotos</u>

### 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.



HINGEHÖRT & NACHGEFRAGT - INFORMATIONEN UND KRITIK ZU FORTPFLANZUN... Startseite Alle Episoden Abonnieren

# 31: Tolle Knolle? Über gentechnisch veränderte Kartoffeln und Biopiraterie

24. October 2024



Subscribe

 31: Tolle Knolle? Über gentechnisch veränderte Kartoffeln und Biopiraterie

 Interview mit Mariam Mayet vom African Centre For Biodiversity

 00:00:00
 Image: Centre For Biodiversity



All episodes

**6** (i)

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

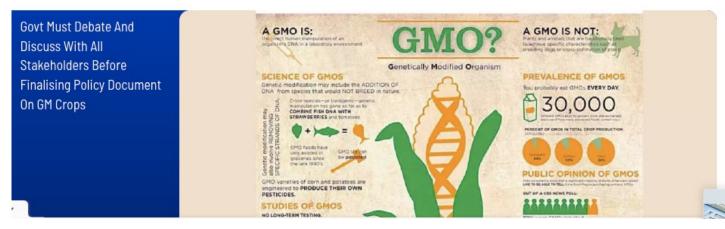
Mariam interview on GM potatoes

countries.

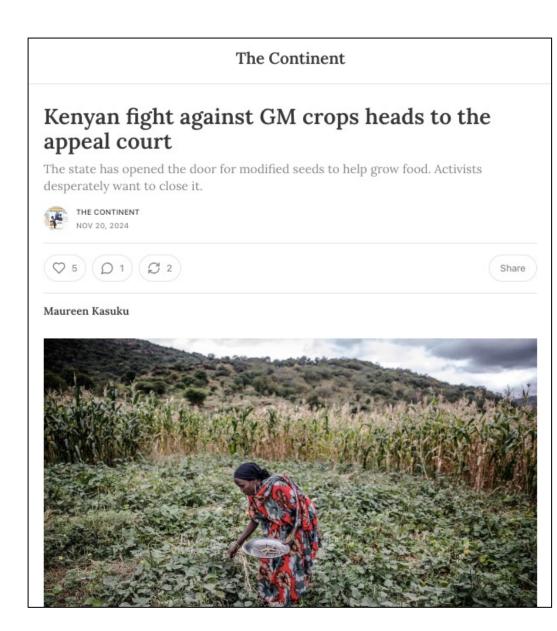
BIZZ Home News Industry - Economy - Markets - Wealth - Banking - Tech

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

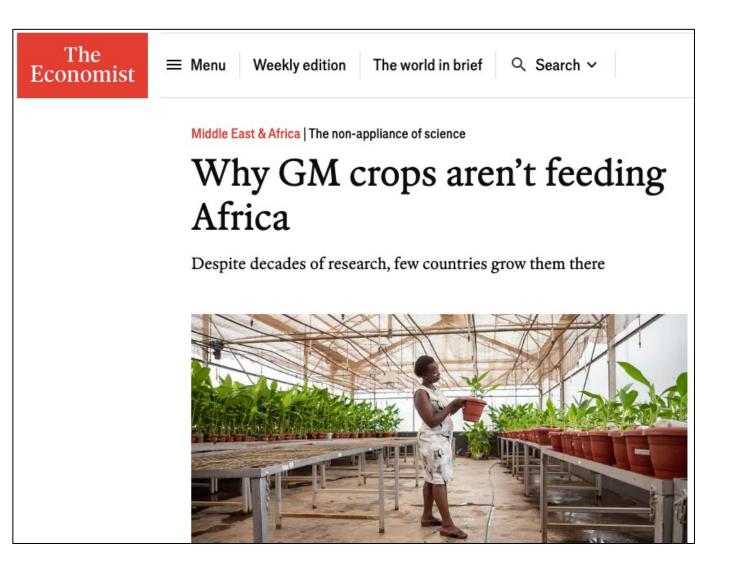
Brian Dowd-Uribe, editor of a social science journal, has been relentlessly questioning claims made by GM scientists



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.



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.



Mariam Mayet was interviewed for

this article on the "struggle" to

bring GM crops to Africa.

# MSINGI

NOW READING NIGERIA'S GMO CRISIS EXPOSED VIA PUBLIC HEAR

FOOD HEALTH

## NIGERIA'S GMO CRISIS EXPOSED VIA PUBLIC HEARINGS.

DECEMBER 1, 2024



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.

## GRAPHIC ONLINE WS SHOWBIZ POLITICS SPORTS LIFESTYLE BUSINESS - IVIDEOS FEATU Debate over: NPP, NDC accept GMO with caution

Severious Kale-Dery / Dec - 02 - 2024, 08:37 / 6 minutes read



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.



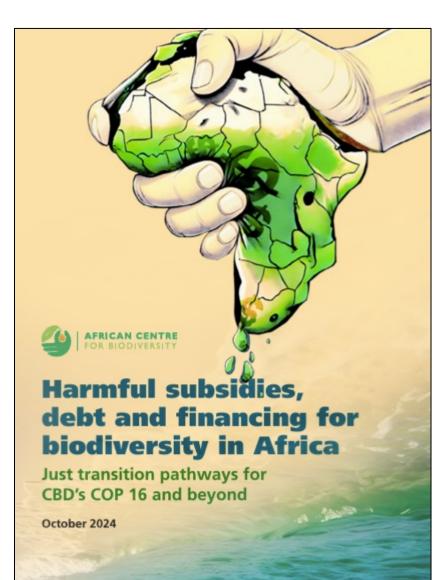
ACB's briefing paper, Oxitec's failed GM mosquito releases worldwide: Forewarnings for Africa and the Target Malaria project, is mentioned in this article reporting on Oxitec wanting to release genetically modified Aedes Aegypti mosquitoes in Queensland.

### Meetings and events

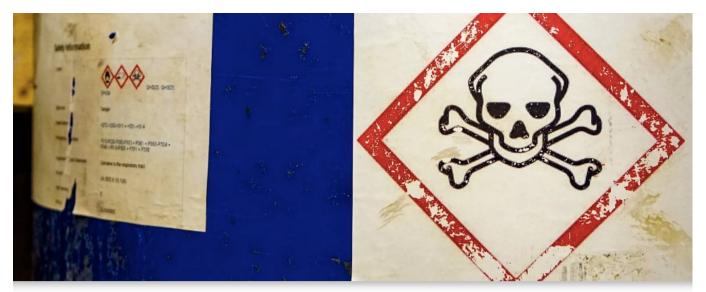


The Biodiversity and Biosafety Association of Kenya (BIBA-K) and ACB hosted a regional meeting in Nairobi, bringing together a small group of civil society actors from Zambia, Kenya and Tanzania who are engaged in food systems, to build capacity, discuss, learn and share on the Global Biodiversity Framework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

Programme 3: Corporate Expansion



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.

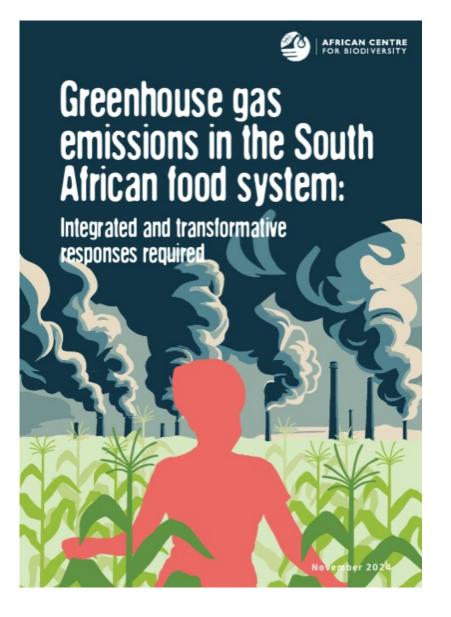


1 November 2024

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.

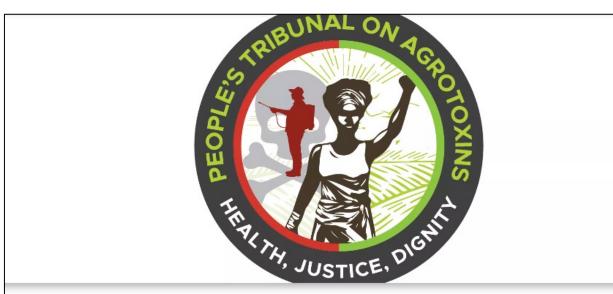




The agri-food system is estimated to produce about 18% of South Africa's total emissions. 49% of this is from livestock and emissions from crop production. Another 41% is from energy use and transport in the food system. Other food systems emissions include organic waste disposal, industrial processes,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



## 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



5 December 2024

Ban Terbufos and HHPs or face legal action Minister Steenhuisen, says civil society alliance 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.

## Web post



16 January 2025

Media campaign highlights urgent need to ban Terbufos, HHPs

In December 2024, the ACB, alongside its coalition partners, submitted a letter of demand to Minister of Agriculture John Steenhuisen urgently appealing for the immediate ban of Terbufos. To amplify this call, we launched an extensive media campaign to expose the persistent regulatory failures and conflicts of interest that continue to jeopardise public health and safety. View the coverage <u>here</u>.

## Letter



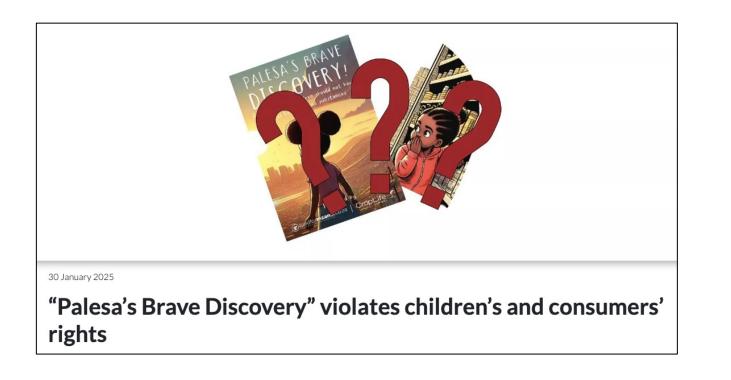
6 December 2024

## 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?

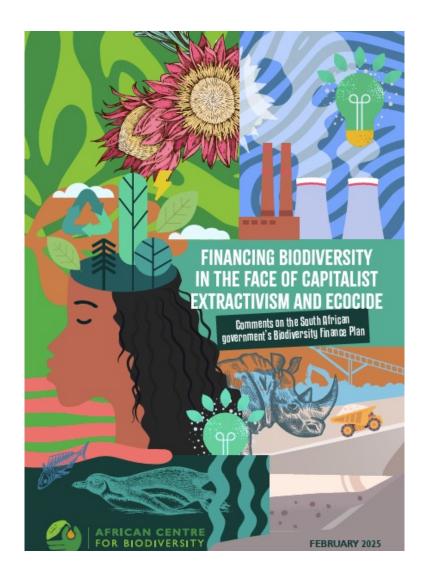
With no substantive response forthcoming from the Registrar: Act No. 36 of 1947, Mr Jonathan Mudzunga, after calling for a review of the registration of 2,4-D in South Africa, despite substantiation in a further submission, and persistent follow up for over a year, ACB sent a letter to the Minister of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

## Web post

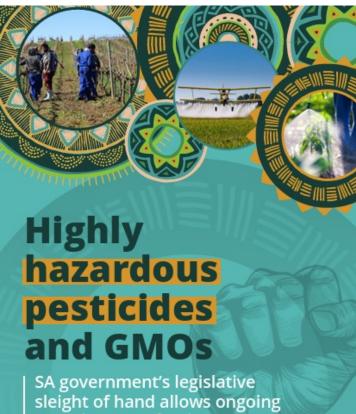


ACB, as part of the South African People's Tribunal on AgroToxins, submitted substantive complaints to the SA Human Rights Commission and the Advertising Regulatory Board, calling for the withdrawal of a comic book published by Food for Mzanzi and CropLife (representing the agrochemical industry), because it violates the rights of children and consumers.

## Web post



The South African government's 2017 Biodiversity Finance Plan (BFP) identifies possible financial "solutions" that can be clustered into five potential sources. This report considers each of these in detail, assessing possibilities and challenges, and proposes other options that can lead to a more open-ended transformative approach rather than entrenching financial power and the commodification of nature. Web post

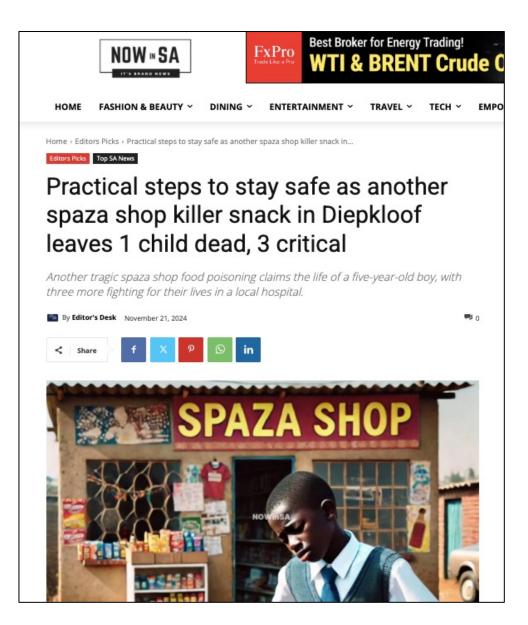


sleight of hand allows ongoing assault on our food system and people's health

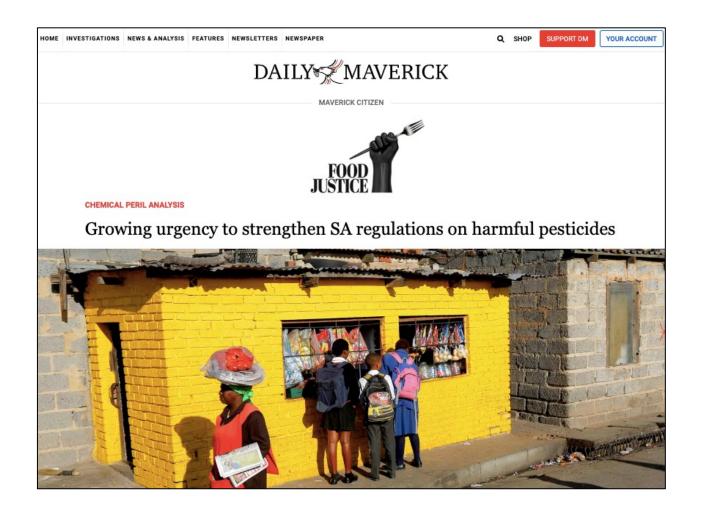


FEBRUARY 2025

The ACB submitted substantive objections to the South African government's attempt to backtrack on its commitments to phase out highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs), including glufosinate ammonium (GLA), by way of spurious and potentially unlawful "derogation" regulations.



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.



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.

#### HOME CAPE TOWN BUZZ LIFESTVLE TRAVE **TECH & GAMING** VIRAL Watch: Terbufos found at spaza shop linked to Siyabonga Mnisi's death The toxic substance is banned for household use and has been implicated in similar food poisoning cases across the country

by Avuya Walters — 21 November 2024 in News

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.

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# <sup>© BETA</sup> Why African Groups Want **Reparations From The Gates** Foundation

#### Christine Ro Contributor O

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.



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

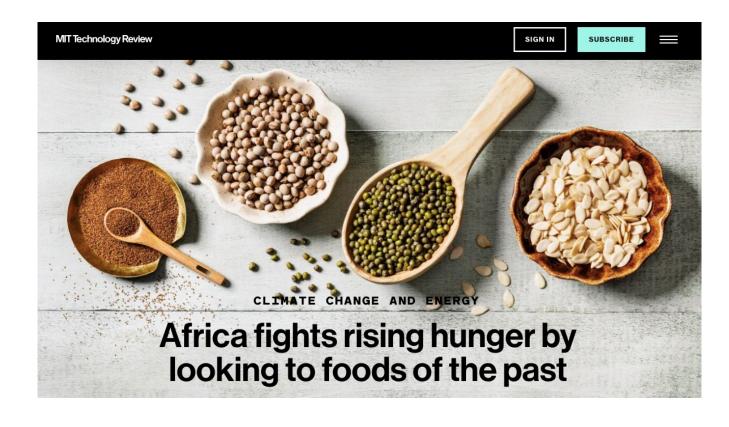
The days of quick meal solutions such as instant noodles may be numbered as awareness is raised about th



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.



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 critisises 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.

REDD-Monitor Your daily reminder that carbon offsets are a scam

Qí

#### Biodiversity offsets and credits: "ecological impacts, land dispossession, loss of livelihoods and systematic violations of individual and collective rights of the affected communities"

A neoliberal market that commodifies nature and delays action on the loss of biodiversity globally. What's not to like?



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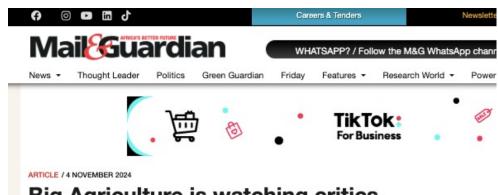
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## **Biodiversity Offsetting**

A corporate social license to perpetuate biodiversity destruction and gender inequality ACB is mentioned in this as one of the 200 organisations that signed on to a statement opposing biodiversity offsets

and credits.



# Big Agriculture is watching critics, pesticides and GMO food

By Lydia Namubiru, The Continent, Elena DeBre and Margot Gibbs





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.

#### PARTIE 1: PERSPECTIVES INTERNATIONALES

Afrique

et du droit à l'alimentation

Invasion des



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 lowcost model.

## Events attended by ACB



Mariam Mayet and Sabrina Masinjila attended the Farmers Seed Gathering in France. Mayet presented at a workshop on recent research on seed patents from an African perspective.

## 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.