

ACB publications and media report

September 2024-February 2025



AFRICAN CENTRE
FOR BIODIVERSITY

PROGRAMME 1: GM AND BIOSAFETY

GM and biosafety and new technologies publications released

Publication Title	Type	Publication date	Reposts/ reach	Mails delivered	Mails opened	Mail clicks	Web views/ Downloads	FB Reach (FR) Share (FS) Engagement (FE) / X Impressions (XI) Engagement (XE)
<u>'Black Box' Biotechnology – Integration of artificial intelligence with synthetic biology</u>	Web post	03/09/2024	Mirror: <u>ETC Group Biosafety Information Centre</u>				569	96 (FR), 5 (FE), 747 (XI), 95 (XE)
<u>'Black Box' Biotechnology – Integration of artificial intelligence with synthetic biology</u> (see below for Spanish and French version of this paper)	Briefing	03/09/2024	Mention: <u>The Analysis.news Global Political News</u>	1701	367	127		
<u>La caja negra de la biotecnología – Integración de la inteligencia artificial con la biología sintética</u>	Web post	06/09/2024					87	201 (FR), 14 (FE)
<u>La caja negra de la biotecnología – Integración de la inteligencia artificial con la biología sintética</u>	Briefing	06/09/2024		39	12	5		
<u>La biotechnologie de la « boîte noire » – Intégration de l'intelligence artificielle à la biologie de synthèse</u>	Web post	06/09/2024					94	61 (FR), 1 (FE)
<u>La biotechnologie de la « boîte noire » – Intégration de l'intelligence artificielle à la biologie de synthèse</u>	Briefing	06/09/2024		112	16	26		
<u>New Genetic Engineering Technologies in Food and Agriculture in Africa</u>	Web post	25/09/2024					200	480 (FR), 13 (FE), 54 (XI), 4 (XE)

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<u>New genetic engineering technologies in food and agriculture in Africa: Hype and realities of genome editing</u>	Fact sheet	25/09/2024		1530	347	97		
<u>Deregulation of genome editing and products must be overturned in Africa – why stringent regulation is imperative</u>	Fact sheet	25/09/2024		1530	347	97		
<u>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</u>	Objection	26/09/2024	Mention: <u>Freight News</u> <u>The Africa NatureNews</u> <u>Milling MEA</u> <u>Agence Ecofin</u>					
<u>Perilous GM wheat to be grown in SA: transgenic crop plants increasingly given a biosafety-free pass</u>	Press release	30/09/2024	<u>GM Watch Review</u>	1670	287	152	228	550 (FR), 49 (FE), 110 (XI), 9 (XE)
<u>Groundbreaking judgment of the Supreme Court of Appeal in ACB vs Monsanto/Bayer and the State</u>	Press release	22/10/2024	Mention: <u>ENSight</u> <u>The Rainbow Newspaper (Zambia)</u> <u>Milling MEA</u> <u>Mail & Guardian (snlibretransgenicos)</u> <u>Norton Rose Fulbright</u> <u>Farmer's Weekly</u> <u>South Africa Today</u> <u>GM Watch</u> <u>Rutendo Speaks</u> <u>Network24</u>	1666	586	183	4417	1920 (FR), 376 (FE), 327 (XI), 6 (XE)

Publication Title	Type	Publication date	Reposts/ reach	Mails delivered	Mails opened	Mail clicks	Web views/ Downloads	FB Reach (FR) Share (FS) Engagement (FE) / X Impressions (XI) Engagement (XE)
			The East African Bulawayo 24 News Politics Web Bizcommunity Pegasus Reporters Dr Rath Health Foundation IOL The New Dark Age RSG show Spektrum Mirror: ENSSER (GM Watch) The Zambian Observer					
<u>Arrêt inédit de la Cour de cassation dans l'affaire ACB contre Monsanto/Bayer et l'État</u>	Press release	23/10/2024		197	54	34	141	78 (FR), 4 (FE), 47 (XI), 4 (XE)
<u>Sentencia pionera del Tribunal Supremo de Apelación en el asunto ACB contra Monsanto/Bayer y el Estado</u>	Press release	23/10/2024		83	27	13	256	1085 (FR), 141 (FE), 55 (XI), 6 (XE)
<u>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</u>	Petition	22/11/2024	Interview: SAfm , SABC				75	9033 (FR), 1731 (FE), 112 (XI), 6 (XE)

Publication Title	Type	Publication date	Reposts/ reach	Mails delivered	Mails opened	Mail clicks	Web views/ Downloads	FB Reach (FR) Share (FS) Engagement (FE) / X Impressions (XI) Engagement (XE)
<u>Ban Terbufos and HHPs or face legal action Minister Steenhuisen, says civil society alliance</u>	Web post	05/12/2024	Mirror: <u>EnviroNews Nigeria</u>				174	115 (FR), 8 (FE), 69 (XI), 4 (XE)
<u>Letter of demand concerning the organophosphate Terbufos, addressed to Minister of Agriculture and The Registrar Act 36 of 1947</u>	Letter	05/12/2024	<u>South African Human Rights Commission</u> <u>Mail & Guardian SAfm</u> <u>Radio Turf</u> <u>Newzroom Afrika</u> <u>Smile FM</u> <u>PowerFM</u> <u>Cape Times</u> <u>CapeTalk</u> <u>eNCA</u> <u>Mirror of Cape Times: MSN</u>					
<u>One year later and no substantive response to our call for a review of 2,4-D</u>	Web post	06/12/2024					27	
<u>Wishing you peace, joy, and hope this holiday season</u>	Web post	10/12/2024					72	21 (FR), 0 (FE), 21 (XI), 1 (XE)

General media coverage of ACB work on GM and biosafety and new technologies

Date	Article Title	Publication	Description
04/09/2024	Afrika als Versuchslabor für umstrittene Gentechnik	<u>Info Sperber</u>	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 <u>report</u> Gene drive organisms: What Africa should know about actors, motives and threats to biodiversity and food systems is cited.

24/10/2024	Mariam interview with Gen-ethic Network	<u>Gen-ethic Network</u>	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.
09/11/2024	Govt Must Debate And Discuss With All Stakeholders Before Finalising Policy Document On GM Crops	<u>Bizz Buzz</u>	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.
19/11/2024	Why GMOs do not serve interest of Nigerian people – Alliance	<u>EnviroNews Nigeria</u>	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.
20/11/2024	Kenyan fight against GM crops heads to the appeal court	<u>The Continent</u>	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.
21/11/2024	Why GM crops aren't feeding Africa	<u>The Economist</u> (mirror: <u>Farming Portal</u>)	Mariam Mayet was interviewed for this article on the "struggle" to bring GM crops to Africa.
21/11/2024	Practical steps to stay safe as another spaza shop killer snack in Diepkloof leaves 1 child dead, 3 critical	<u>Now in SA</u>	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.
21/11/2024	Growing urgency to strengthen SA regulations on harmful pesticides	<u>Daily Maverick</u>	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.
21/11/2024	Watch: Terbufos found at spaza shop linked to Siyabonga Mnisi's death	<u>Swisherpost</u>	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.
24/11/2024	How judicial overreach blocks progress in South African agriculture	<u>Mail & Guardian</u>	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.

01/12/2024	Nigeria's GMO crisis exposed via public hearings	Msingi Afrika Magazine (mirror: EnviroNews Nigeria)	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.
02/12/2024	Debate over: NPP, NDC accept GMO with caution	Graphic Online	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
30/12/2024	Biotech firm backed by Bill Gates wants to release GM mosquitoes in Australia	Tott News	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.
16/02/2025	South Africa: Public Notice For Application For Release Of Genetically Modified Maize, Comments Invited From The Public	Lumiere Charity	This blog post covers Corteva's intention to submit an application for the general release of GM maize into SA's environment: TC1507 x MIR162 x NK603. ACB's court case against Monsanto/Bayer and the State is mentioned, as well as our previous objections against the general release of three 2,4-D GM maize varieties.

International, regional and national meetings attended/hosted by ACB on GM and biosafety

Date	Title of meeting	Host Name	Attended by	Description
05/10/2024	Hidden patented GMOs to give agribusiness total control of the food chain	Reseau Semences Paysannes, SOL and the Maison des Semences Maralpines (MSPM) in collaboration with the European network Let's Liberate Diversity!	Mariam Mayet and Sabrina Masinjila	Hidden patented GMOs to give agribusiness total control of the food chain. The current reforms to GMO and seed regulations are designed above all to deceive farmers and consumers, forcing them to grow and consume only patented GMOs that they do not want. In the absence of traceability, the few multinationals that hold over 90% of the patents on new genetic modification techniques (GMTs) will be able to confiscate all cultivated seeds, including farmers' seeds, both by patenting their "native genes" and by genetic contamination.

PROGRAMME 3: CORPORATE EXPANSION

Corporate expansion publications released

Publication title	Publication type	Lang	Date of publication	Reposts/Reach	Mails sent	Mails opened	Mail clicks	Web views/ Downloads	FB Reach (FR) Share (FS) Engagement (FE) / X Impressions (XI) Engagement (XE)
<u>Harmful subsidies, debt and financing for biodiversity in Africa</u>	Web post	English	18/10/2024					160	139 (FR), 9 (FE), 143 (XI), 18 (XE)
<u>Harmful subsidies, debt and financing for biodiversity in Africa</u>	Briefing	English	18/10/2024	<u>CBDA ECO</u>	1669	615	228		
<u>Civil society coalition says: Heads must roll for Terbufos regulatory failure</u>	Press release	English	01/11/2024	Mirror: <u>Vuka.news</u> Mention: <u>Mail and Guardian</u>				559	62 (FR), 6 (FE), 44 (XI), 2 (XE)
<u>Les subventions néfastes, la dette et le financement de la biodiversité en Afrique</u>	Web post	French	04/11/2024					26	43 (FR), 3 (FE), 32 (XI), 3 (XE)
<u>Les subventions néfastes, la dette et le financement de la biodiversité en Afrique</u>	Briefing	French	04/11/2024		197	32	2		
<u>Greenhouse gas emissions in the South African food system: Integrated and transformative responses required</u>	Web post	English	25/11/2024					50	90 (FR), 7 (FE), 87 (XI), 17 (XE)
<u>Greenhouse gas emissions in the South African food system:</u>	Briefing	English	25/11/2024	<u>eNCA interview</u>					

Publication title	Publication type	Lang	Date of publication	Reposts/Reach	Mails sent	Mails opened	Mail clicks	Web views/ Downloads	FB Reach (FR) Share (FS) Engagement (FE) / X Impressions (XI) Engagement (XE)
<u>Integrated and transformative responses required</u>									
<u>Media campaign highlights urgent need to ban Terbufos, HHPs</u>	Web post	English	16/01/2025					116	194 (FR), 2 (FS), 4 (FE), 36 (XI), 2 (XE)
<u>Food for Mzansi and CropLife's Palesa's Brave Discovery: A violation of Children's rights, rights protected under the Consumer Protection Act, and several Codes of conduct</u>	Complaint	English	28/01/2025		4452	1386	204		
<u>"Palesa's Brave Discovery" violates children's and consumers' rights</u>	Press release	English	30/01/2025					211	15608 (FR), 0 (FS), 137 (FE), 54 (XI), 2 (XE)
<u>Financing biodiversity in the face of capitalist extractivism and ecocide</u>	Web post	English	05/02/2025					61	254 (FR), 4 (FS), 9 (FE), 55 (XI), 0 (XE)
<u>Financing biodiversity in the face of capitalist extractivism and ecocide: Comments on the South African government's Biodiversity Finance Plan</u>	Briefing paper	English	05/02/2025		4176	1471	205		
<u>Highly hazardous pesticides and GMOs: SA government's legislative sleight of hand allows ongoing assault on our food system and people's health</u>	Objections	English	27/02/2025		4212	1555	868		
<u>On-going assaults on our food system and peoples' health</u>	Web post	English	03/03/2025					129	453 (FR), 5 (FS), 14 (FE), 614 (XI), 18 (XE)

General media coverage of ACB work on corporate expansion

Date	Article Title	Publication Name	Description
02/09/2024	Why African groups want reparations from The Gates Foundation	<u>Forbes</u> Mirror: <u>Head Topics</u> Mirror: <u>The Financial News 24/7</u>	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.
25/09/2024	Instant noodles and 'garage' pies to disappear from SA's shelves?	<u>The South African</u> Mirror: <u>MSN</u> , <u>SA People News</u>	This article links to and mentions information included in ACB's UPF factsheet series.
14/10/2024	Africa fights rising hunger by looking to foods of the past	<u>MIT Technology Review</u>	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.
23/10/2024	Biodiversity offsets and credits: "ecological impacts, land dispossession, loss of livelihoods and systematic violations of individual and collective rights of the affected communities"	<u>REDD-Monitor</u>	ACB is mentioned in this article as one of the 200 organisations that signed on to a statement opposing biodiversity offsets and credits.
04/11/2024	Big Agriculture is watching critics, pesticides and GMO food	<u>Mail & Guardian</u>	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.
13/11/2024	Invasion des aliments ultratransformés en Afrique	<u>FIAN Belgium</u>	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.

13/11/2024	Briefing session with 11th Hour journalism/media partners	11th Hour Project	Mariam Mayet participated in this briefing session with the 11th Hour Project's journalism/media partners, providing a brief primer on the green revolution, what it is, who is driving this agenda and how have they managed to have so, as well as new horizons and trends for agro-industrialization on the continent.
23/12/2024	Why African Groups Want Reparations From The Gates Foundation	<u>Timebomb 2000</u>	This blog cites ACB's Mariam Mayet in Tim Schwab's The Bill Gates Problem calling out the Gates Foundation for mobilising so much funding and influence for an industrial model of agriculture, that it has crowded out alternatives.
24/02/2025	Call for ban on lethal pesticide after child deaths	<u>IOL</u>	This article covers the South African People's Tribunal on AgroToxins' work leading up to the Tribunal, in particular its letter of demand to Agriculture Minister John Steenhuisen to ban Terbufos immediately.

International, regional and national meetings attended/hosted by ACB on corporate expansion

Date	Title of meeting	Host Name	Attended by	Description
04/10/2024	Patents on plants: implications for breeders, agricultural biodiversity & farmers' right - and possible solutions for Europe and Africa	Reseau Semences Paysannes, SOL and the Maison des Semences Maralpines (MSPM) in collaboration with the European network Let's Liberate Diversity!	Mariam Mayet and Sabrina Masinjila	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.
17/10/2024	National Stakeholder Consultation Workshop On Possible Measures For The Implementation Of The International Treaty On Plant Genetic Resources For Food And Agriculture	Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD)	Mariam Mayet	Mariam Mayet attended the stakeholder consultation on behalf of the ACB. Present were DALRRD staff, the Mopani Farmers' Association, and others from civil society. There were no industry representatives present. It was a focus group discussion with civil society. The intention was for DALRRD to make a presentation on key aspects of the Treaty ahead of SA's accession in order to receive our feedback.

21/10/2024-01/11/2024	2024 United Nations Biodiversity Conference – CBD COP 16/CP MOP 11/NP-MOP 5	Secretariat: Convention on Biological Diversity	Sabrina Masinjila and Mariam Mayet	Mariam and Sabrina 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.
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Marking ACB's 20th anniversary: legacy content

Publication Title	Type	Publication date	Web views/ Downloads	FB Reach (FR) Share (FS) Engagement (FE) / X Impressions (XI) Engagement (XE)
<u>ACB's artist' gallery – a celebration of artistic contributions</u>	Web post	22/10/2024	48	
<u>Artist Gallery: Vanessa Black</u>	Web post	23/10/2024	83	233 (FR), 28 (FE), 264 (XI), 14 (XE)
<u>Artist Gallery: Helen Day</u>	Web post	30/10/2024	43	122 (FR), 5 (FE), 52 (XI), 2 (XE)
<u>Artist Gallery: Dudu Coelho</u>	Web post	05/11/2024	65	84 (FR), 1 (FE), 55 (XI), 3 (XE)
<u>Artist Gallery: Lisolomzi Pikoli</u>	Web post	07/11/2024	33	68 (FR), 1 (FE), 94 (XI), 4 (XE)
<u>Artist Gallery: Vicky-Lee Vermeulen</u>	Web post	12/11/2024	37	84 (FR), 1 (FE), 50 (XI), 1 (XE)
<u>Artist Gallery: Linzi Lewis</u>	Web post	20/11/2024	42	215 (FR), 6 (FE), 90 (XI), 6 (XE)
<u>Artist Gallery: Baynham Goredema</u>	Web post	02/12/2024	43	91 (FR), 7 (FE), 677 (XI), 37 (XE)
<u>Artist Gallery: Mzwandile Buthelezi</u>	Web post	06/12/2024	25	54 (FR), 5 (FE), 36 (XI), 2 (XE)
<u>Artist Gallery: Isaac Zavale</u>	Web post	09/12/2024	39	116 (FR), 19 (FE), 45 (XI), 3 (XE)
<u>Artist Gallery: Adam Rumball</u>	Web post	11/12/2024	46	48 (FR), 2 (FE), 40 (XI), 0 (XE)