

ACB communications and media report

May 2024 - May 2025



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.

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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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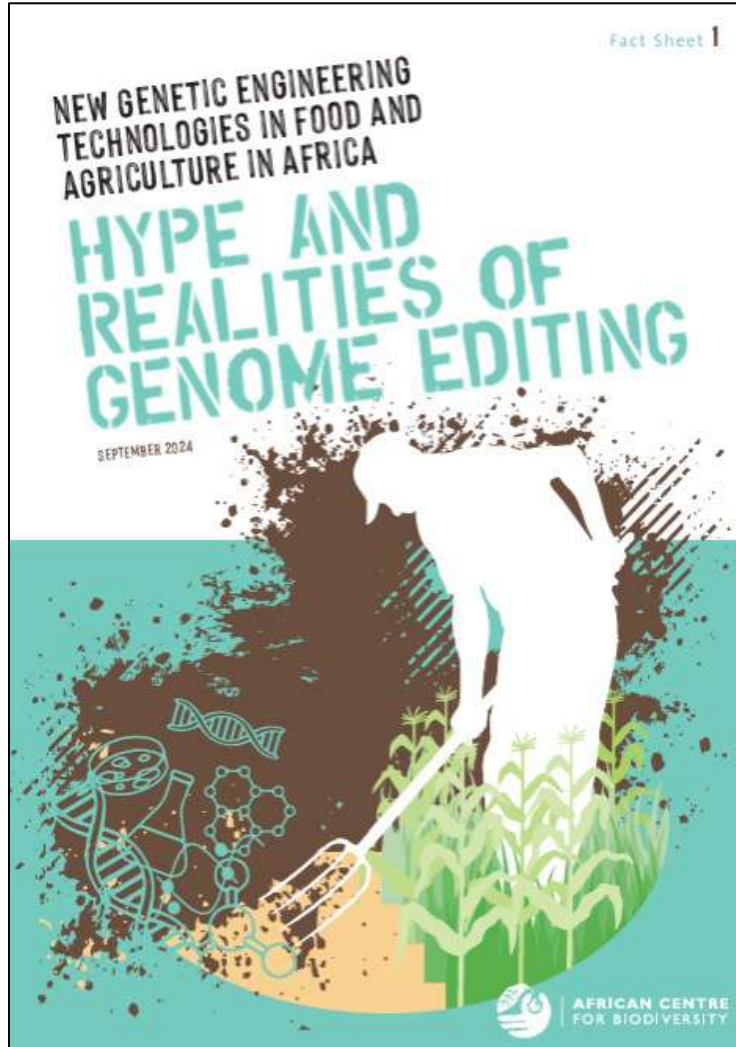
GPENEWSDOCS.COM

BLACK BOX TECH

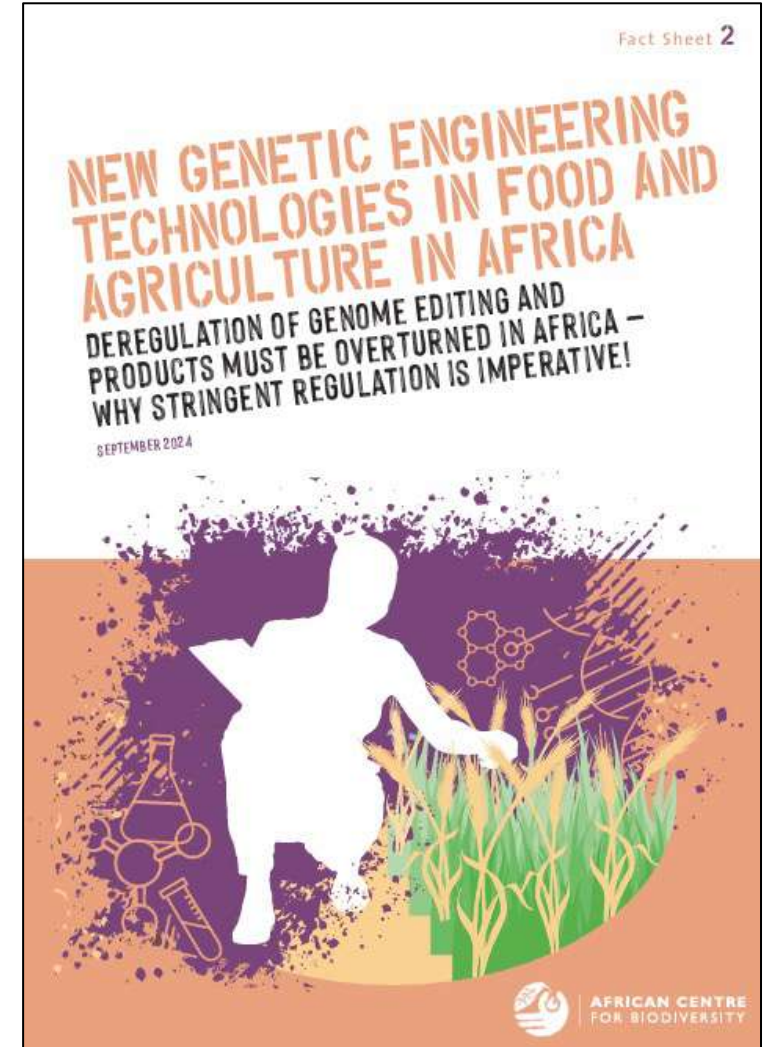
Integration of Artificial Intelligence with Synthetic Biology: Addressing the risks, hype and inequities underpinning Generative Biology

Black Box Biotech P2/2

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 [Keija 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

Boekmerk

Luister na artikel



resents a watershed moment in the country's approach to



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



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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 approval of GM drought-tolerant maize set aside

October 24, 2024

f x w s 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 appropriate 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



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LATEST DIGITAL MAGAZINE



Approval of GM drought-tolerant maize set aside

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

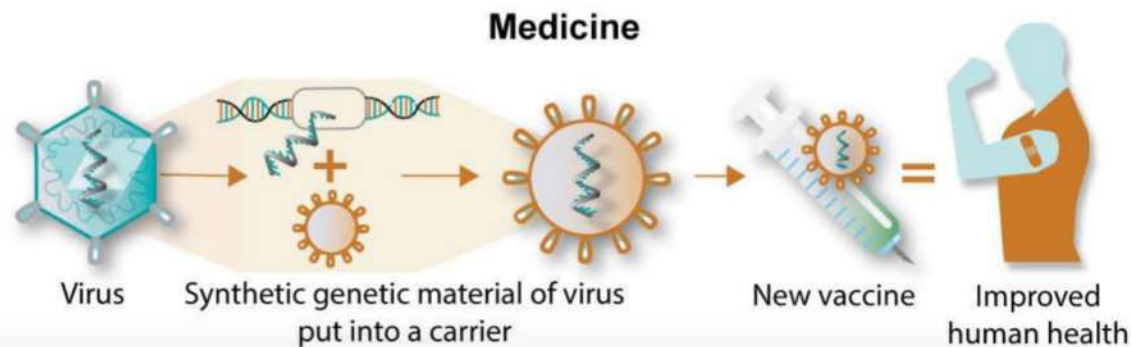
NEWVISION

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



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

© Provided by Cape Argus

GroundUp

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Farm workers demand transparency on pesticide regulations

Newly appointed Minister of Agriculture John Steenhuisen says protest was "premature"

5 July 2024 | By Liezl Human

Brief | Cape Town



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. The ground is uneven and littered with some trash.

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



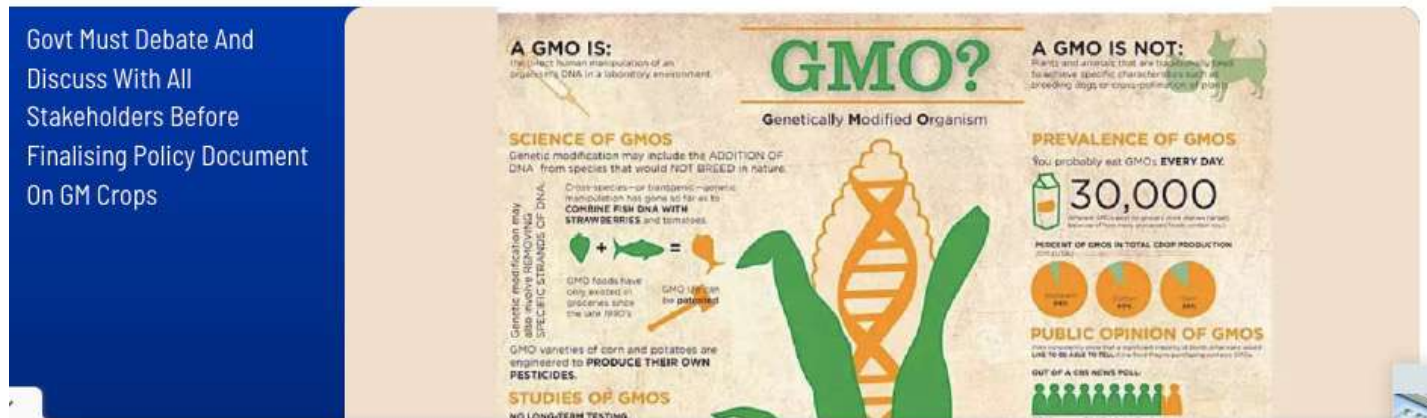
The image shows a YouTube video player interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the podcast title 'HINGEHÖRT & NACHGEFRAGT - INFORMATIONEN UND KRITIK ZU FORTPFLANZUN...' and links for 'Startseite', 'Alle Episoden', and 'Abonnieren'. The main title of the video is '31: Tolle Knolle? Über gentechnisch veränderte Kartoffeln und Biopiraterie', dated '24. October 2024'. Below the title, the video player shows a play button icon, the title '31: Tolle Knolle? Über gentechnisch veränderte Kartoffeln und Biopiraterie', and the description 'Interview mit Mariam Mayet vom African Centre For Biodiversity'. The video duration is '00:00:00' and it has '1x' views. At the bottom, there is a 'Subscribe' button, social media icons for YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook, and a link to 'All episodes >'. A small thumbnail of the podcast cover is visible in the bottom right corner of the video player.

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

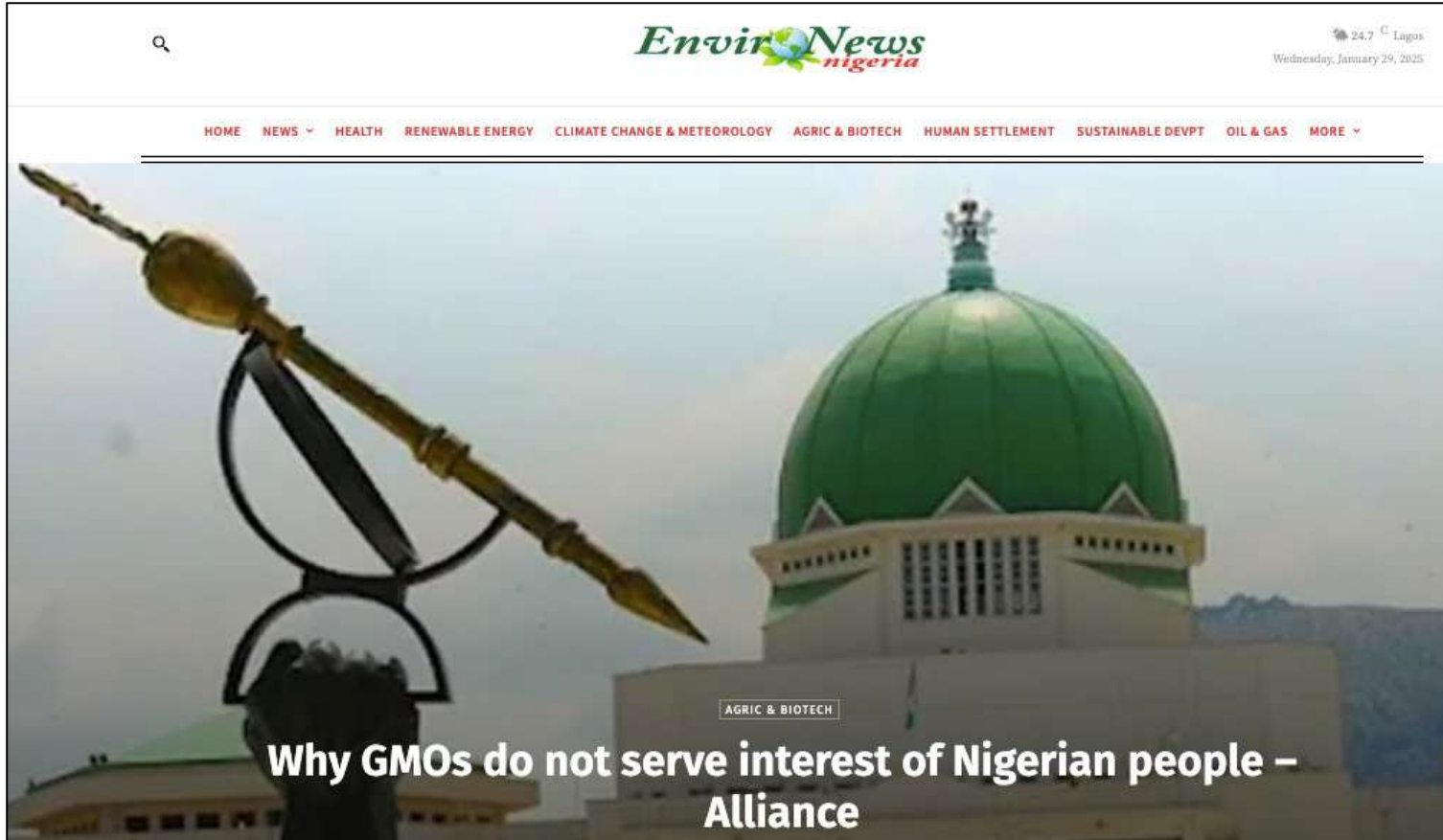
Govt Must Debate And Discuss With All Stakeholders Before Finalising Policy Document On GM Crops

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



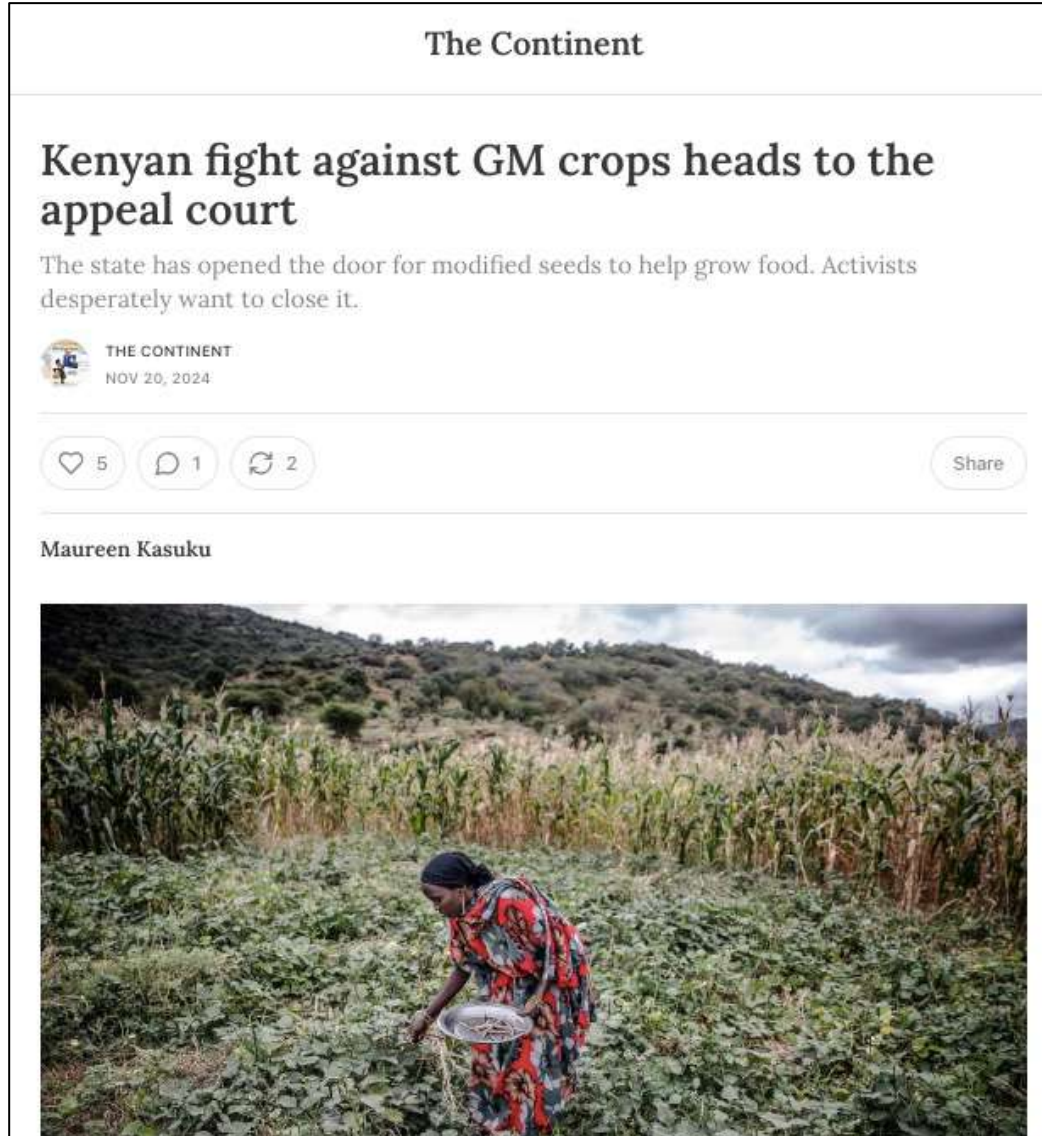
Mariam Mayet's comments on the Bonus Eventus network are noted in this article by Devinder Sharmer, a food policy analyst and an expert on issues related to the agriculture sector. The article looks at the history of GM crops and pesticides being pushed on developing country markets.

Mentions



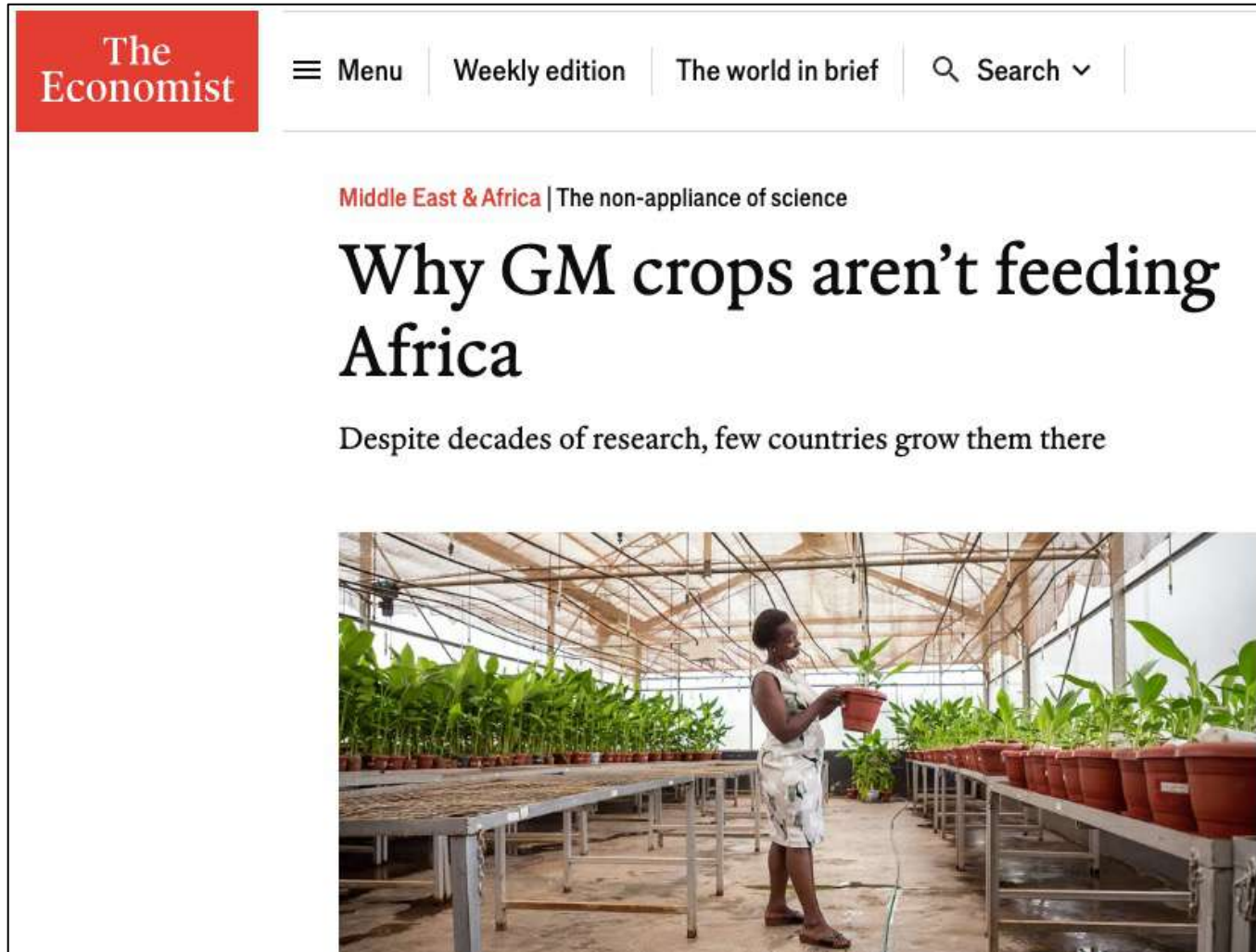
ACB's court case win against the government and Bayer (Monsanto) is cited in this article which looks at the lack of adequate long term risk assessment with regards to GMOs in Nigeria.

Mentions



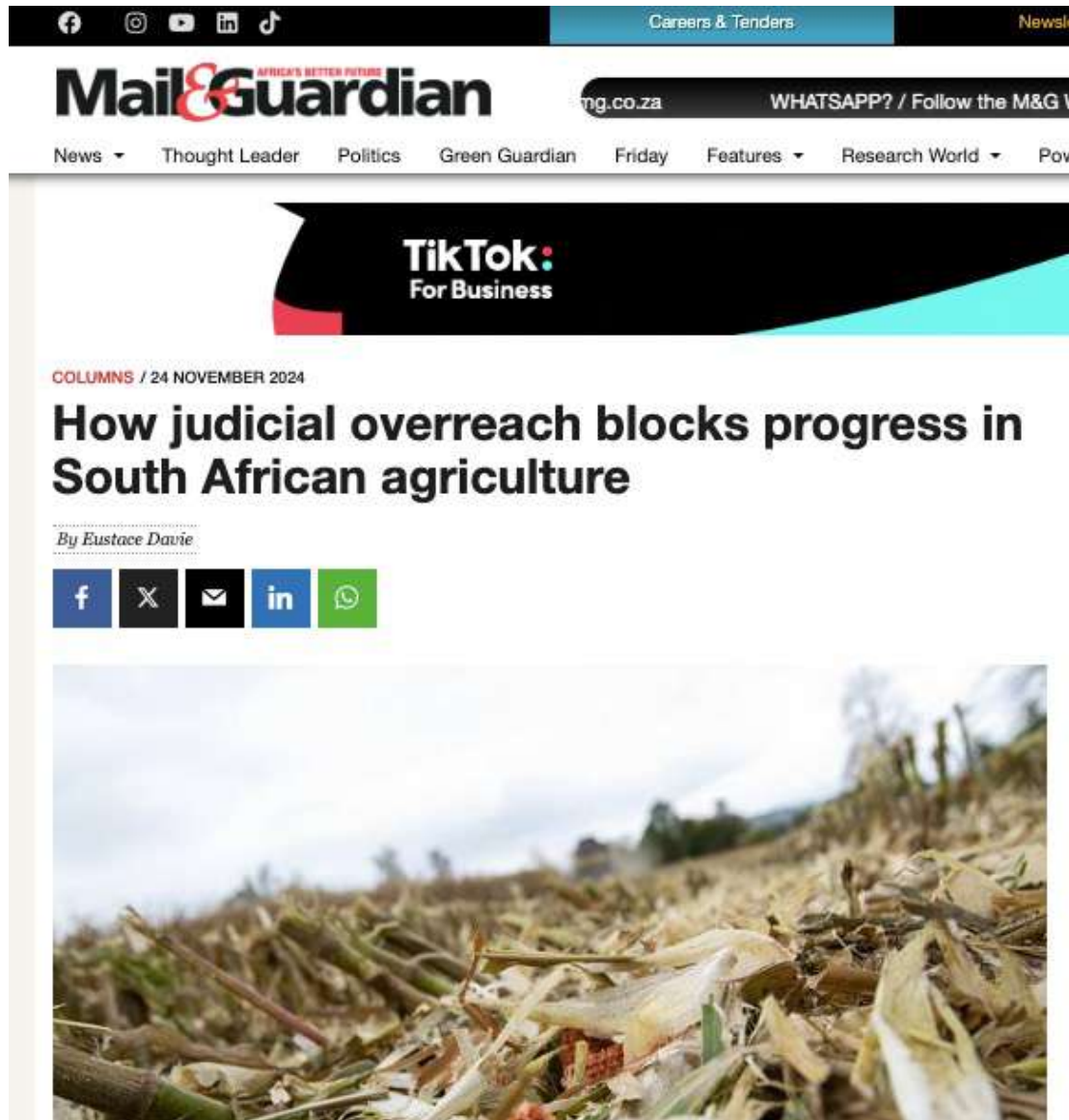
ACB's Mariam Mayet is quoted in an article on the legal fight against GM crops in Kenya. She notes that neighbouring countries have declared their opposition to GM seeds and crops.

Mentions



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

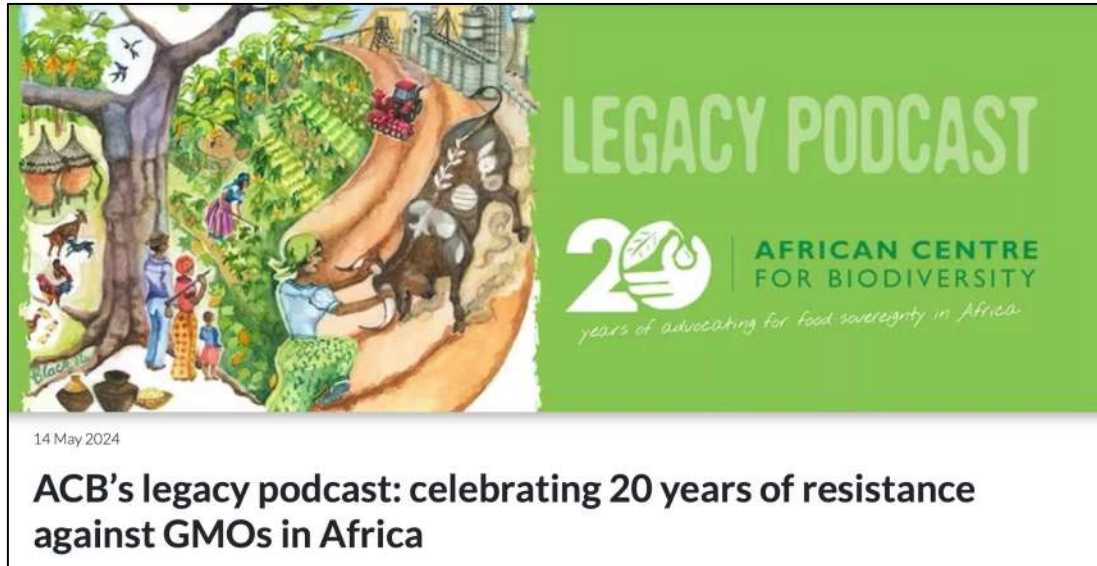
The Centre for Indigenous Knowledge and Organisational Development (CIKOD), however, is cited as cautioning the country from embracing it, referring to ACB's recent court case win at the Supreme Court.

Mentions

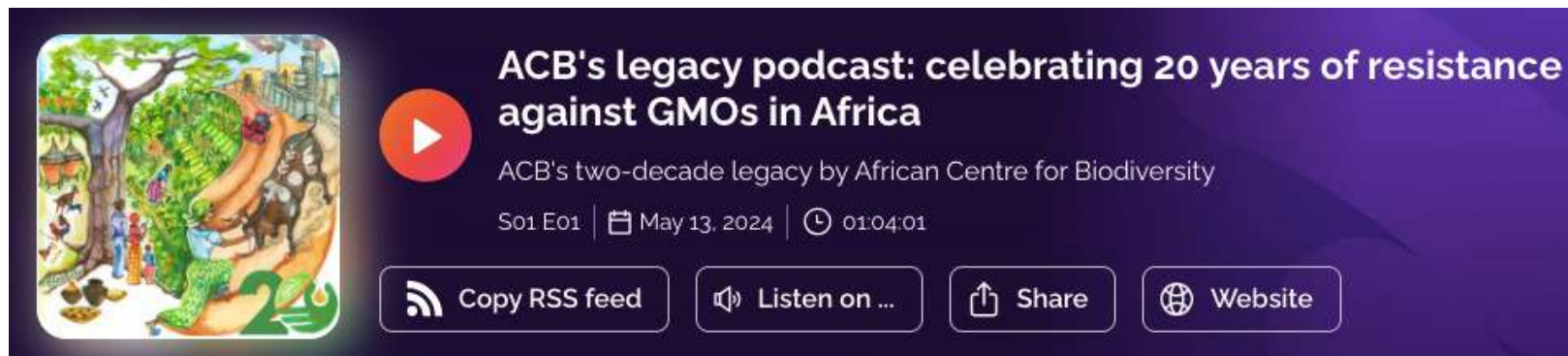


ACB's briefing paper, Oxitec's failed GM mosquito releases worldwide: Forewarnings for Africa and the Target Malaria project, is mentioned in this article reporting on Oxitec wanting to release genetically modified *Aedes Aegypti* mosquitoes in Queensland.

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



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 2: Seed Sovereignty



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Mapping the Land Use Changes in Cultivation Areas of Maize and Soybean from 2006 to 2017 in the North West and Free State Provinces, South Africa

by Siphokazi Ngcinela 1,2,* , Abbyssinia Mushunje 1 , Amon Taruvunga 1 , Shelton Charles Mutengwa 3  and Samuel Tlou Masehela 4 

1 Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, University of Fort Hare, Alice 5700, South Africa

2 Directorate: Biodiversity Research Assessment and Monitoring, Kirstenbosch Research Centre, South African National Biodiversity Institute, 99 Rhodes Drive, Newlands, Cape Town 7735, South Africa

3 Department of Agronomy, University of Fort Hare, Alice 5700, South Africa

4 Biodiversity Risk Management, Biosafety and Alien Invasive Species, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Pretoria 0083, South Africa

* Author to whom correspondence should be addressed.

Agronomy 2024, 14(5), 1002; <https://doi.org/10.3390/agronomy14051002>

Submission received: 1 December 2023 / Revised: 1 May 2024 / Accepted: 2 May 2024 / Published: 9 May 2024

(This article belongs to the Section Farming Sustainability)

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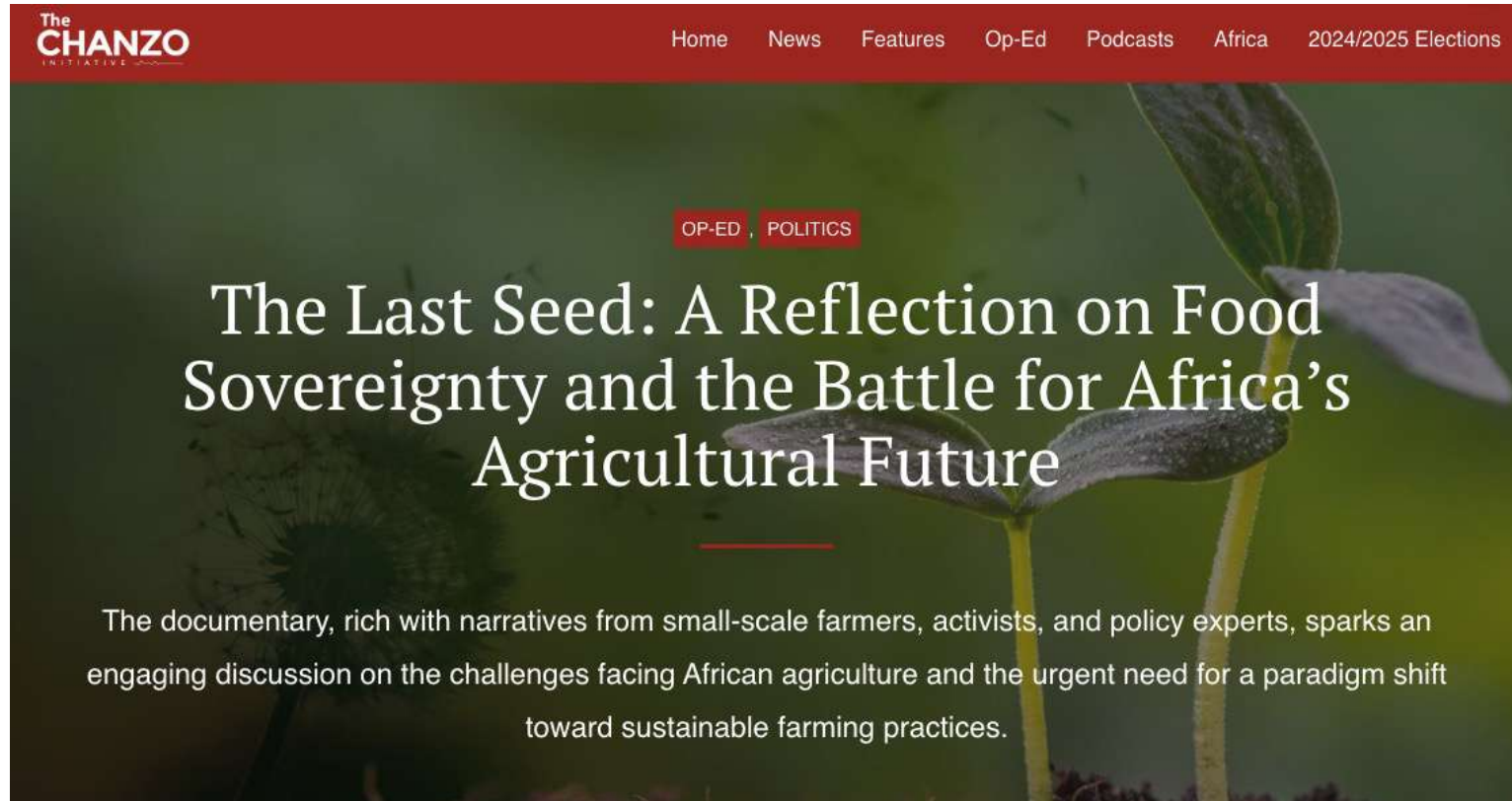
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ACB resources are used and referenced in this article.

Mentions



The Last Seed was screened in a session of the Friday Political Classes on February 28, 2025, at the opposition ACT Wazalendo party's HQ in Magomeni, Dar es Salaam. This article unpacks the insights of the documentary on issues of food and seed sovereignty, agroecology and the growing dominance of multinational corporations in Africa's agricultural landscape.

Meetings and events



Sabrina Masinjila represented the ACB in AFSA's 3rd Pan African Seed Conference in Niamey, Niger. She presented a keynote speech on the history and implication on seed regulations on smallholder farmers and on FMSS.

Meetings and events



3 October 2024

Kenya Seed Savers Network workshop on CBD and GBF

ACB's Sabrina Masinjila participated in a multi-stakeholder workshop hosted by the Kenya Seed Savers Network. The aim of the meeting, which took place in Gilgil, was to develop a strategy for grassroots organisations to effectively engage in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and actualise the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

Meetings and events



ACB participated in the fourth edition of the International Farmer Seeds Gathering in France. The gathering was a key event for sharing knowledge between peers and promoting a collective message in favour of local farmer seeds and a healthy agroecological system for the environment and people.

Meetings and events

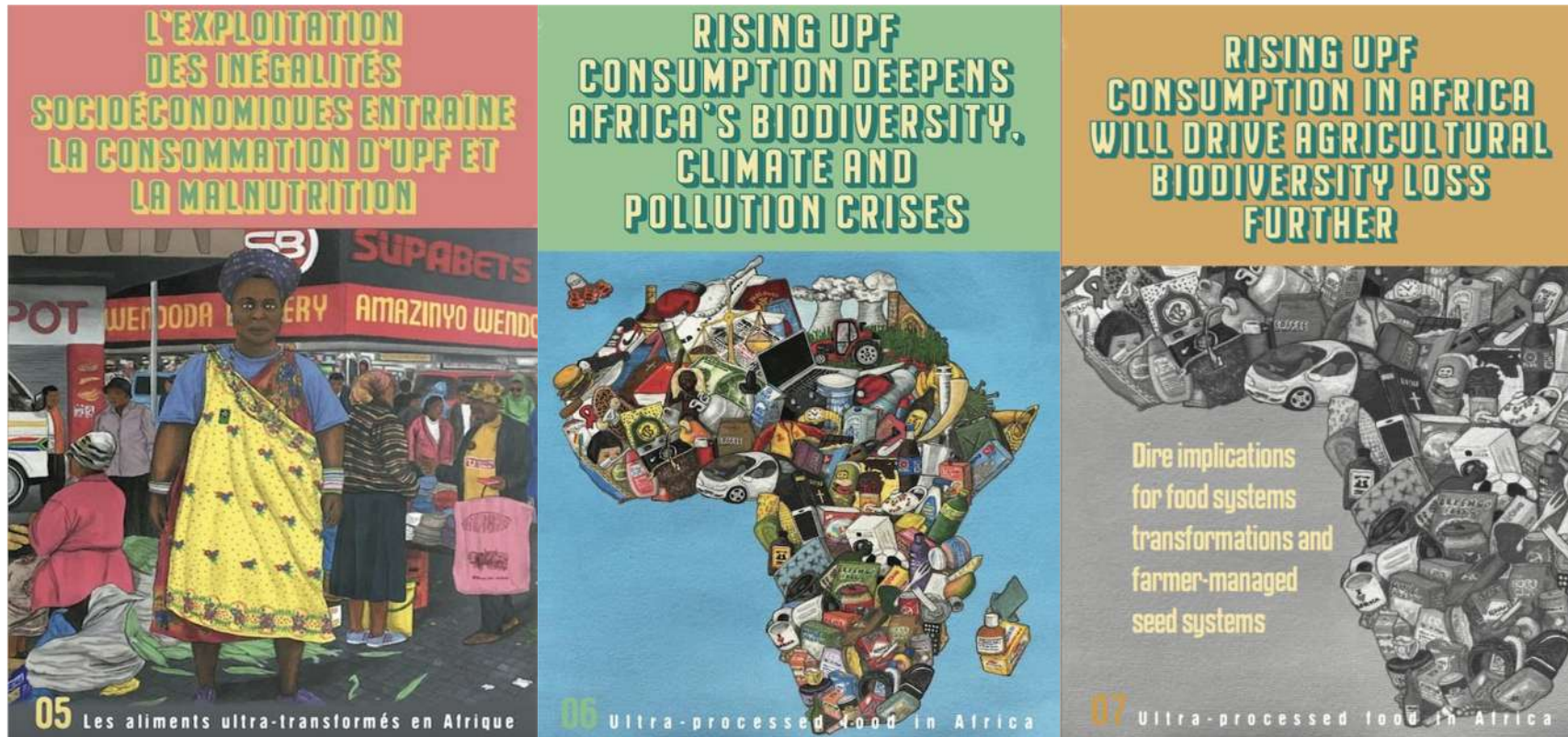


ACB co-hosted and participated in a capacity-building workshop on Plant Variety Protection and Farmers' Rights in Entebbe, Uganda. Organised in partnership with the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) and APBREBES, the workshop brought together civil society organisations, smallholder farmers, and government representatives from both Anglophone and Francophone countries.

Programme 3:

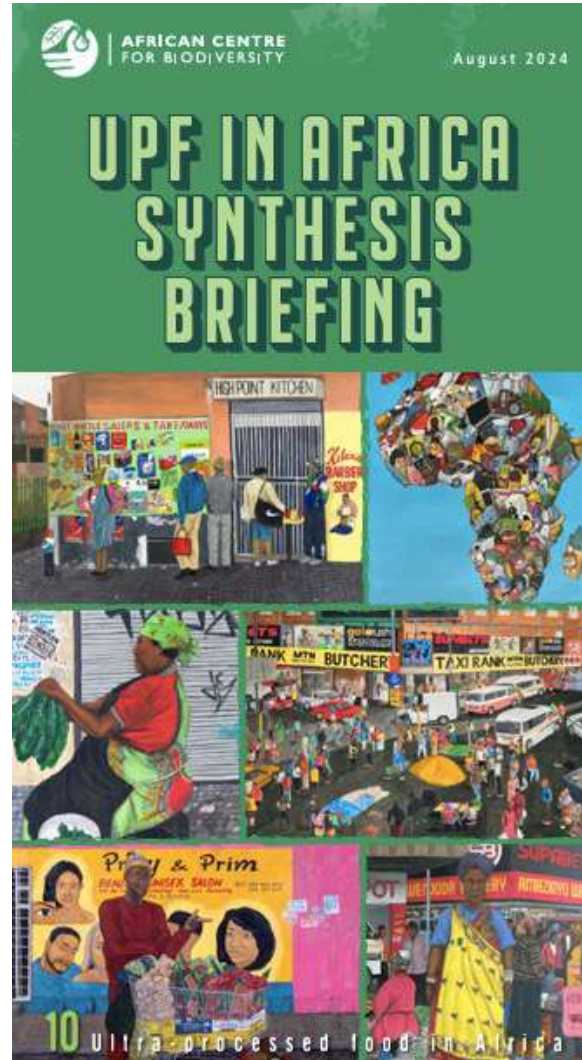
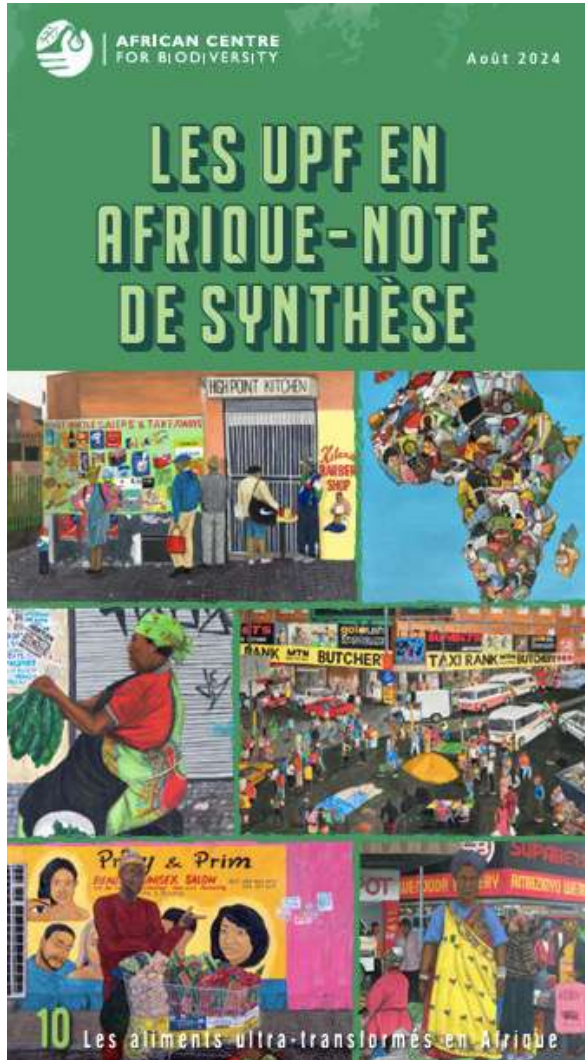
Corporate Expansion

Publications



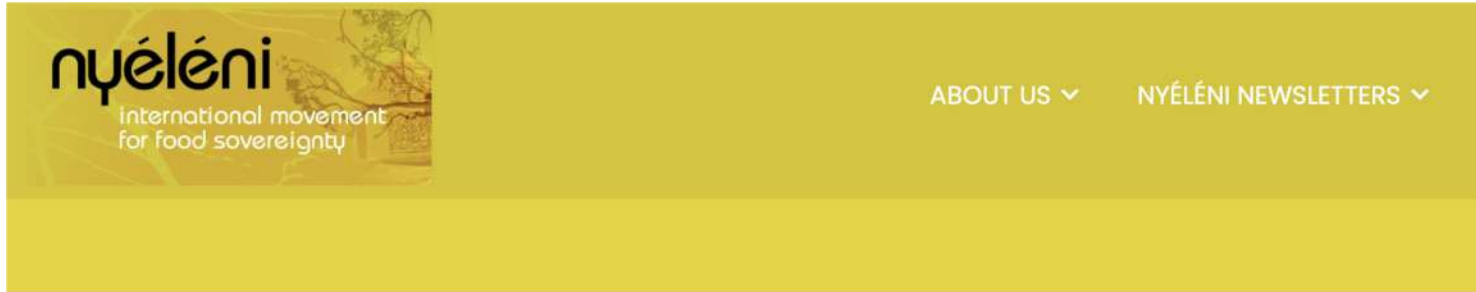
In this series focusing on ultra-processed food (UPF) on the African continent, ACB explores the impacts of shifting dietary patterns, with increasing reliance on low-cost, ultra-processed foods (UPFs) globally, and in Africa in particular, in the context of an urgent call for a just, agroecological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

Publications



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.

Mentions

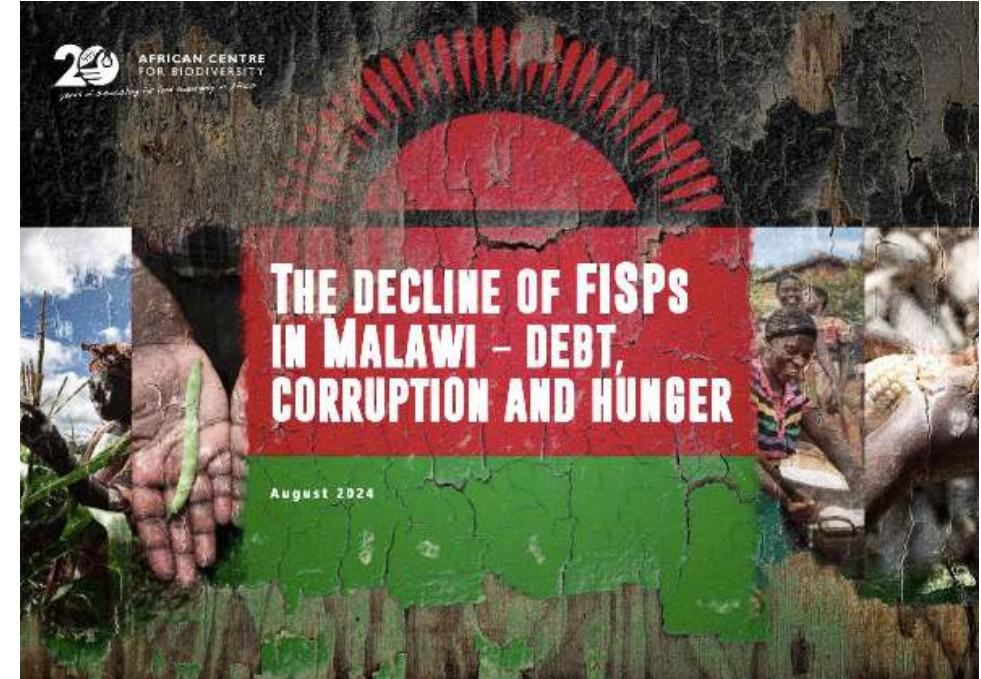
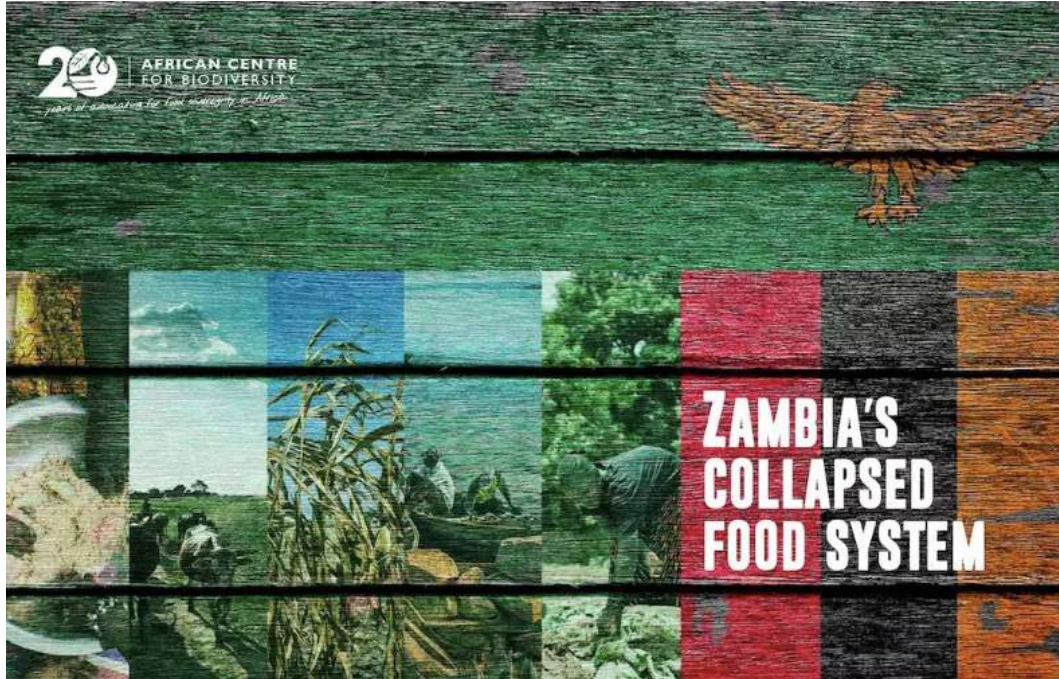


Newsletter no 55 – Ultra-processed food, a “corporate diet”



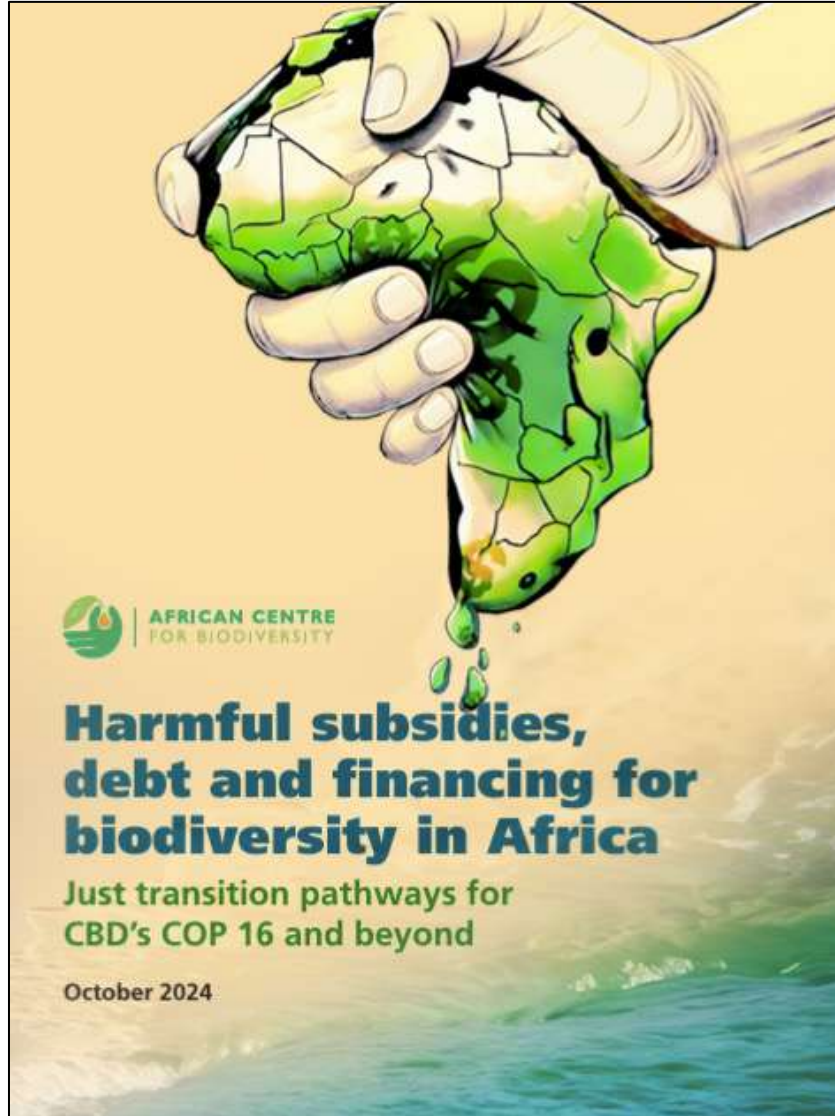
Nyeleni quotes and makes reference to a number of publications on the topic of UPF and it's implications around the world. They include a link to the factsheet post on ACB's website.

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

[f](#) [x](#) [✉](#) [in](#) [wa](#)



Mentions



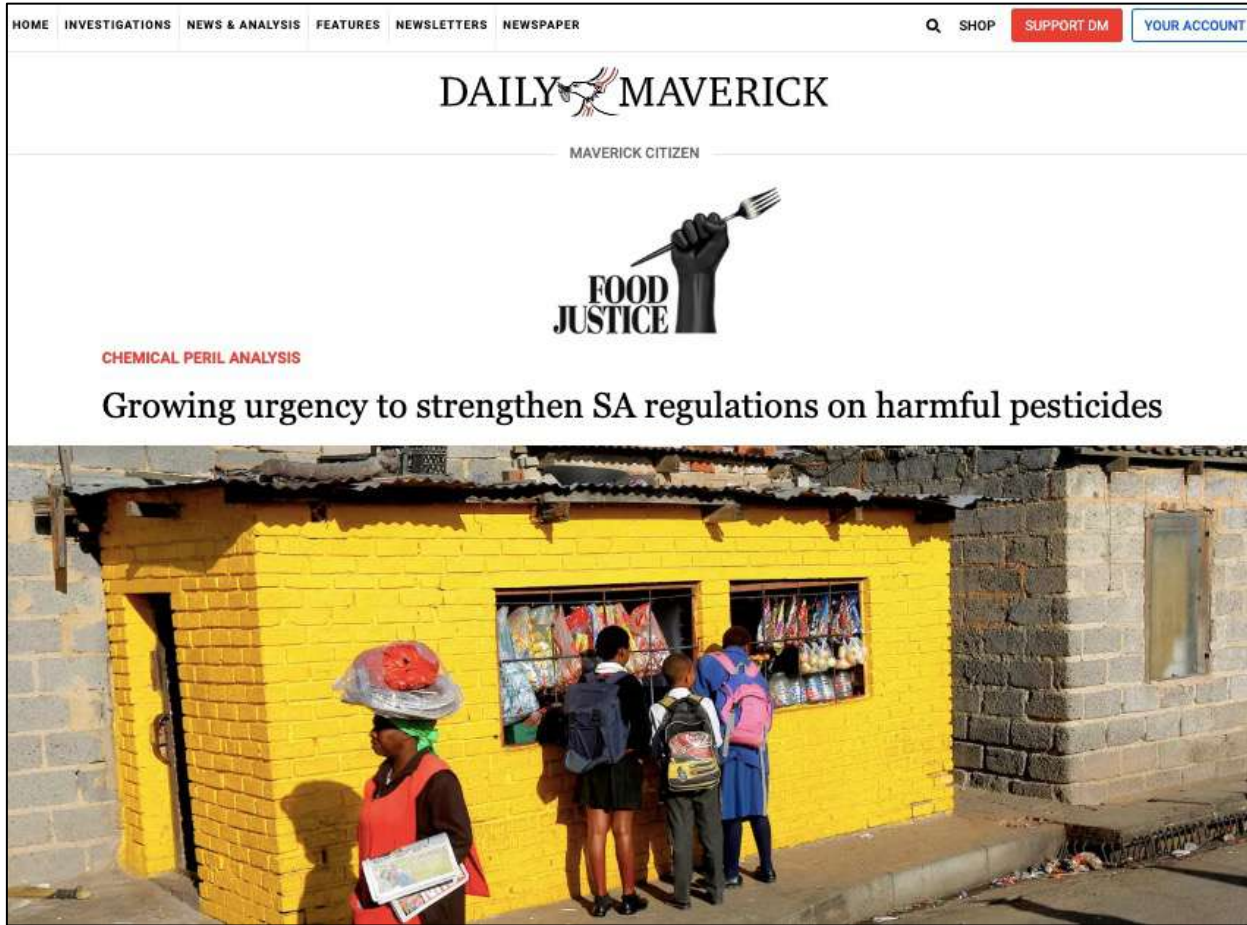
This article covers a coalition of farmworker trade unions and civil society organisations, which have rejected the department of employment and labour's draft regulations on hazardous chemical agents under the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Mentions



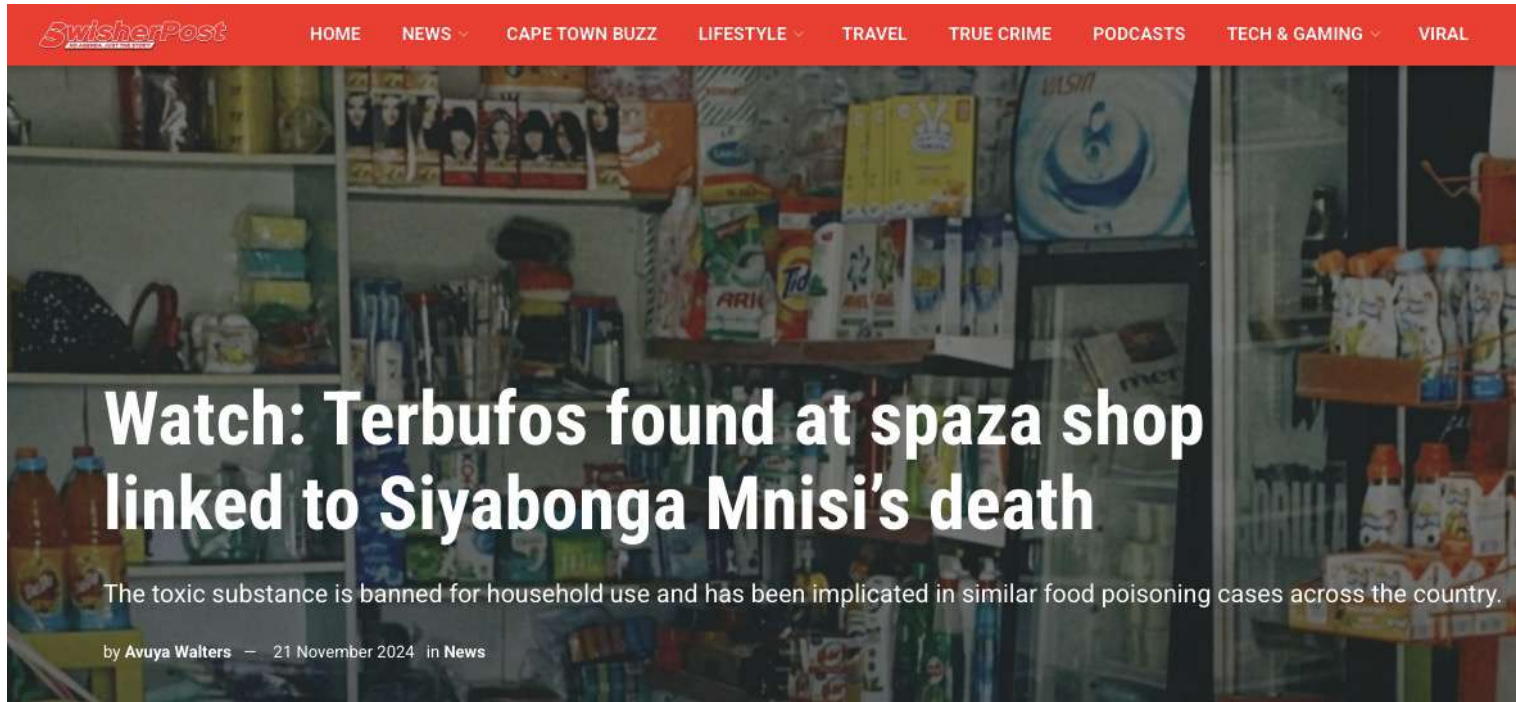
This article links to UnPoison's press release published on the ACB website which provides a list of highly hazardous pesticides still in use in South Africa.

Mentions



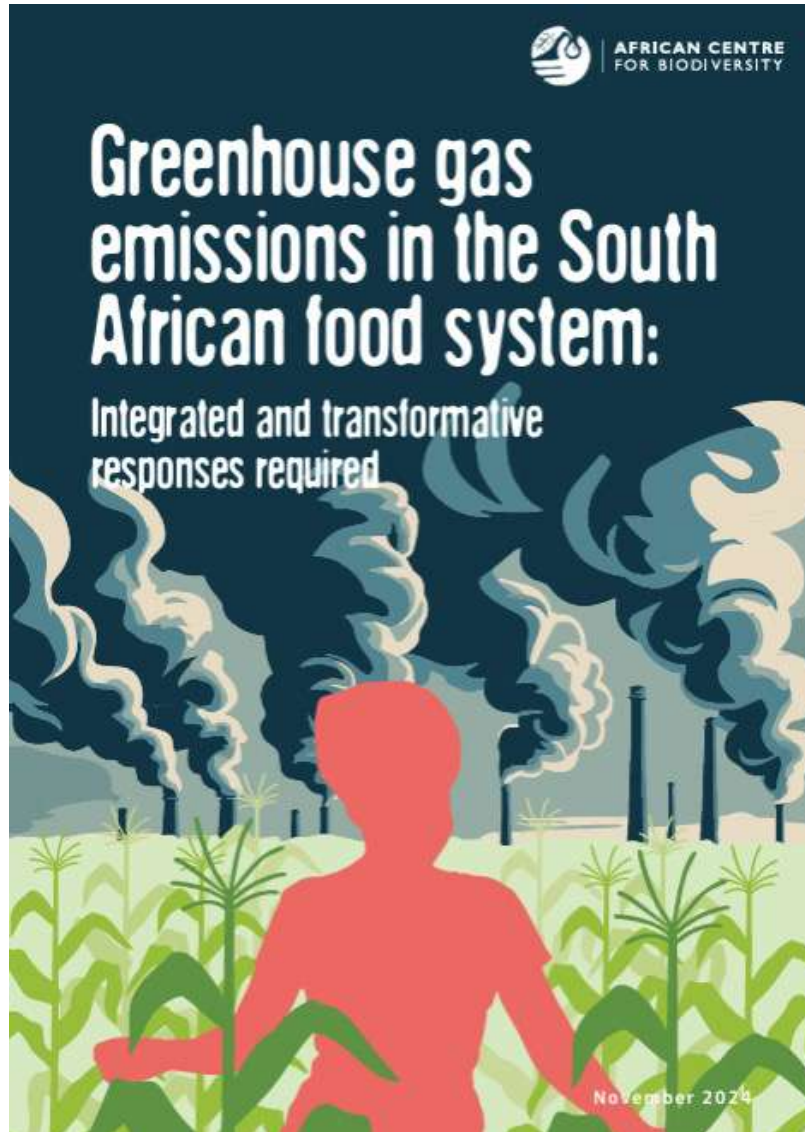
This article unpacks the double standards when it comes to highly hazardous pesticides. It cites the Pesticide Tribunal's press release on the use of terbufos in SA. And links to UnPoison's press release published on the ACB website which provides a list of highly hazardous pesticides still in use in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

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



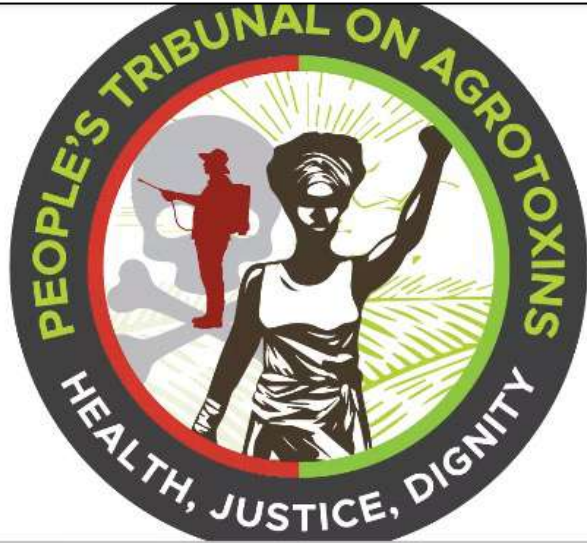
GLOBAL CLIMATE CRISIS

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 ☀️

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

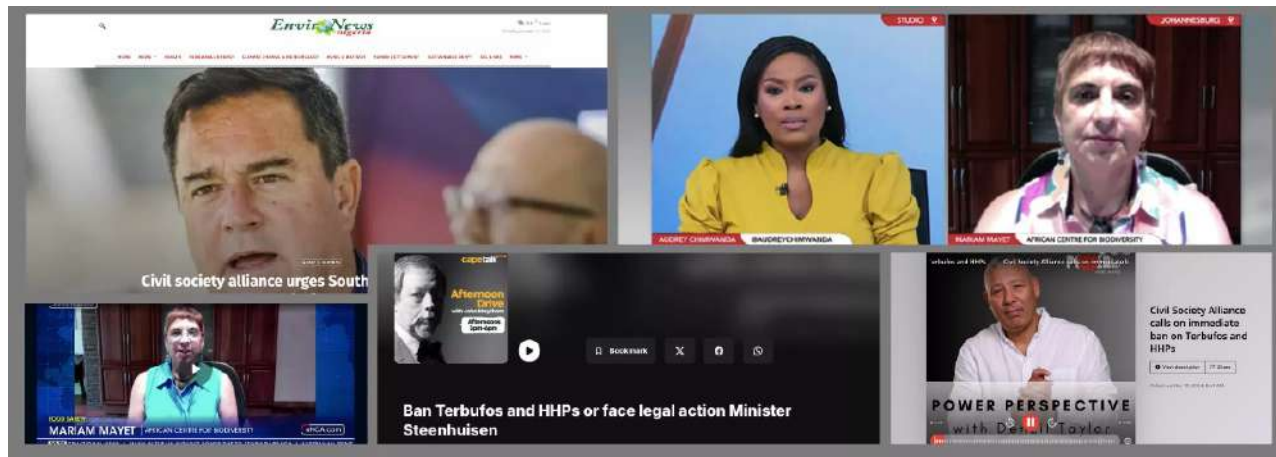
ACB and other partners in the South Africa People's Tribunal on Agrotoxins launched a petition to hold the South African government and chemical industry to account for deaths and serious illnesses from toxic pesticides on the farm and in food. Among other demands, we called for a ban on Terbufos with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

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 [here](#).

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.

Complaint



30 January 2025

“Palesa’s Brave Discovery” violates children’s and consumers’ rights

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.

Publication



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.

Publication



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.

Press release



18 March 2025

Pesticide poisons on farms, poisons in the streets: People's Tribunal puts government, agrarian feudalism on trial in South Africa

The South African People's Tribunal on AgroToxins released a press release prior to the event. Government was put on trial in the court of public opinion for gross dereliction of its constitutional duties to protect the right to life.

Web post

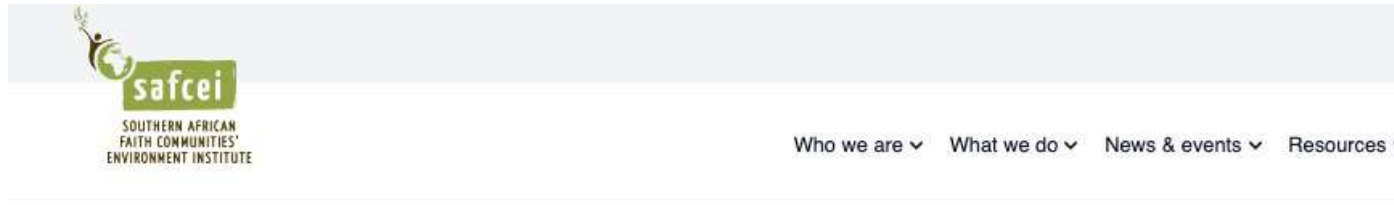


24 March 2025

South African People's Tribunal on AgroToxins exposes government's failure to protect right to life

Coinciding with Human Rights Day, the South African People's Tribunal on AgroToxins took place in Stellenbosch in the Western Cape. This web post links to the broad media coverage that helped spotlight the issue. View all the media coverage to date [here](#).

Mentions



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

Published: Jul 30, 2024

Fleat Agroecology 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



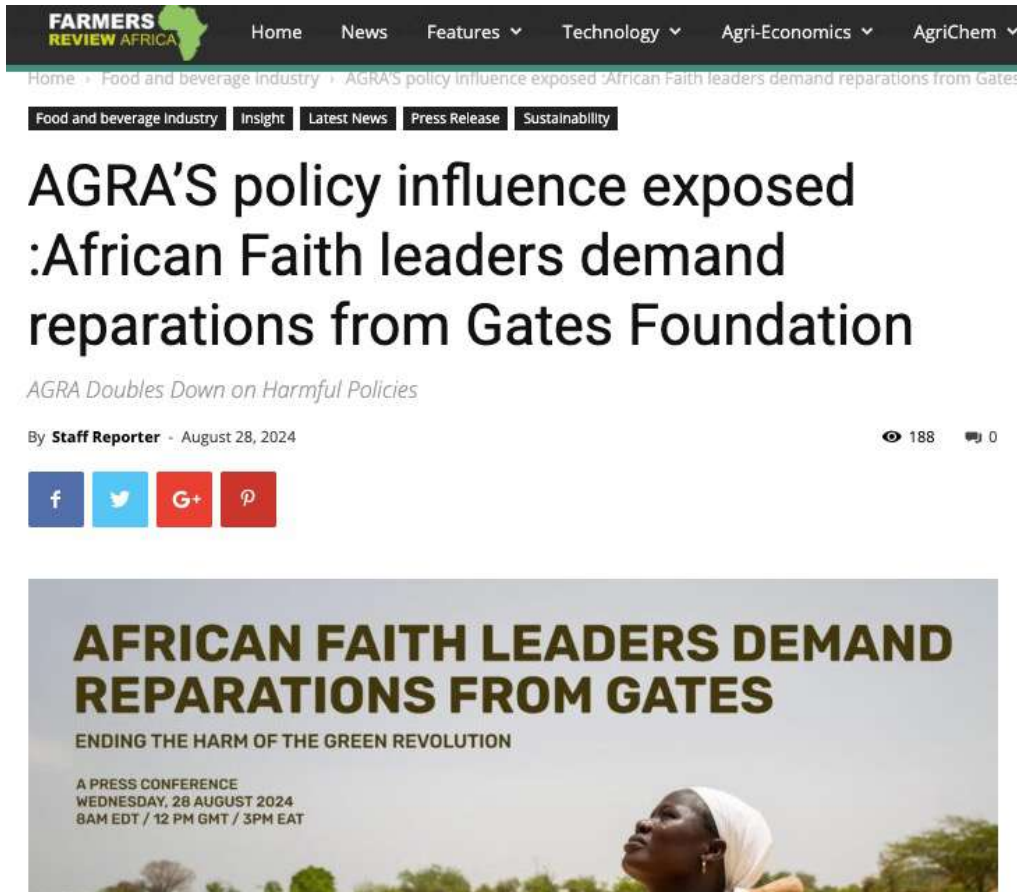
In this blog, ACB's Mariam Mayet is mentioned as a prominent activist defending the rights of peasant women.

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
Politics

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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



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**

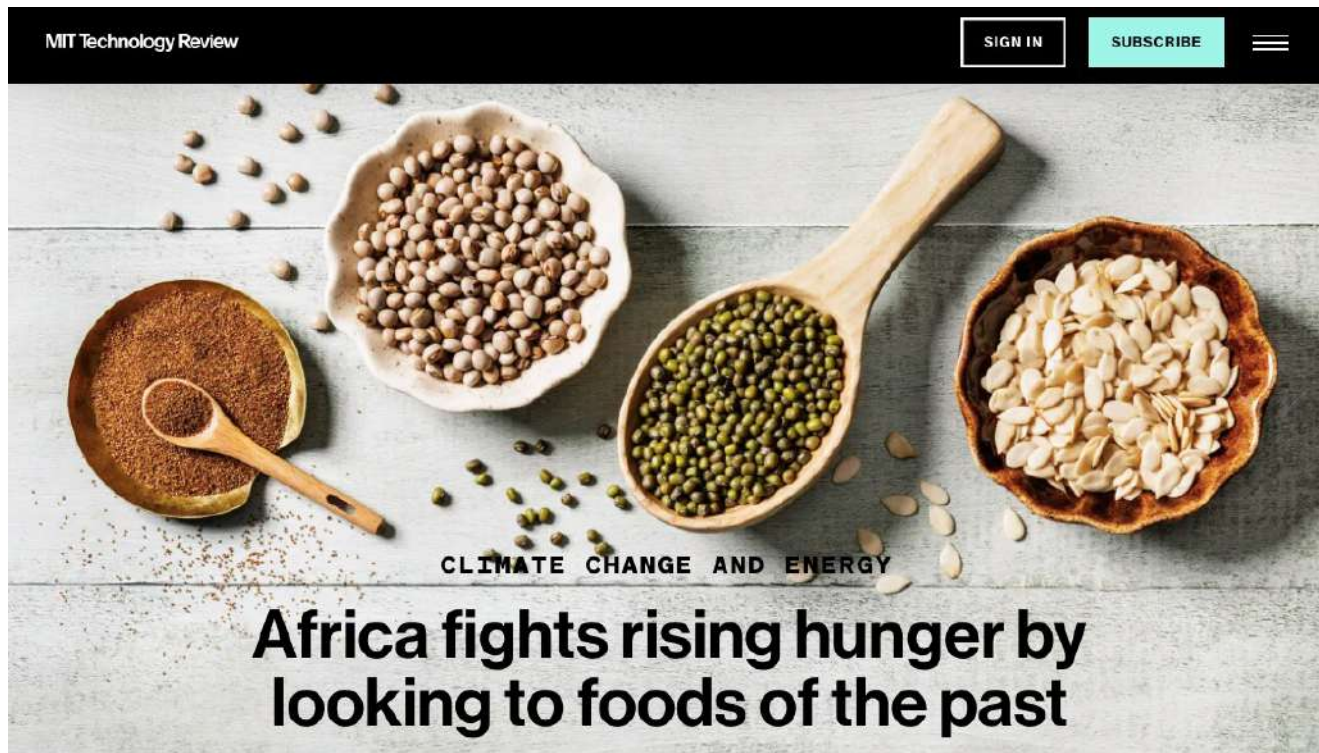
25-09-24 09:24

in **News**



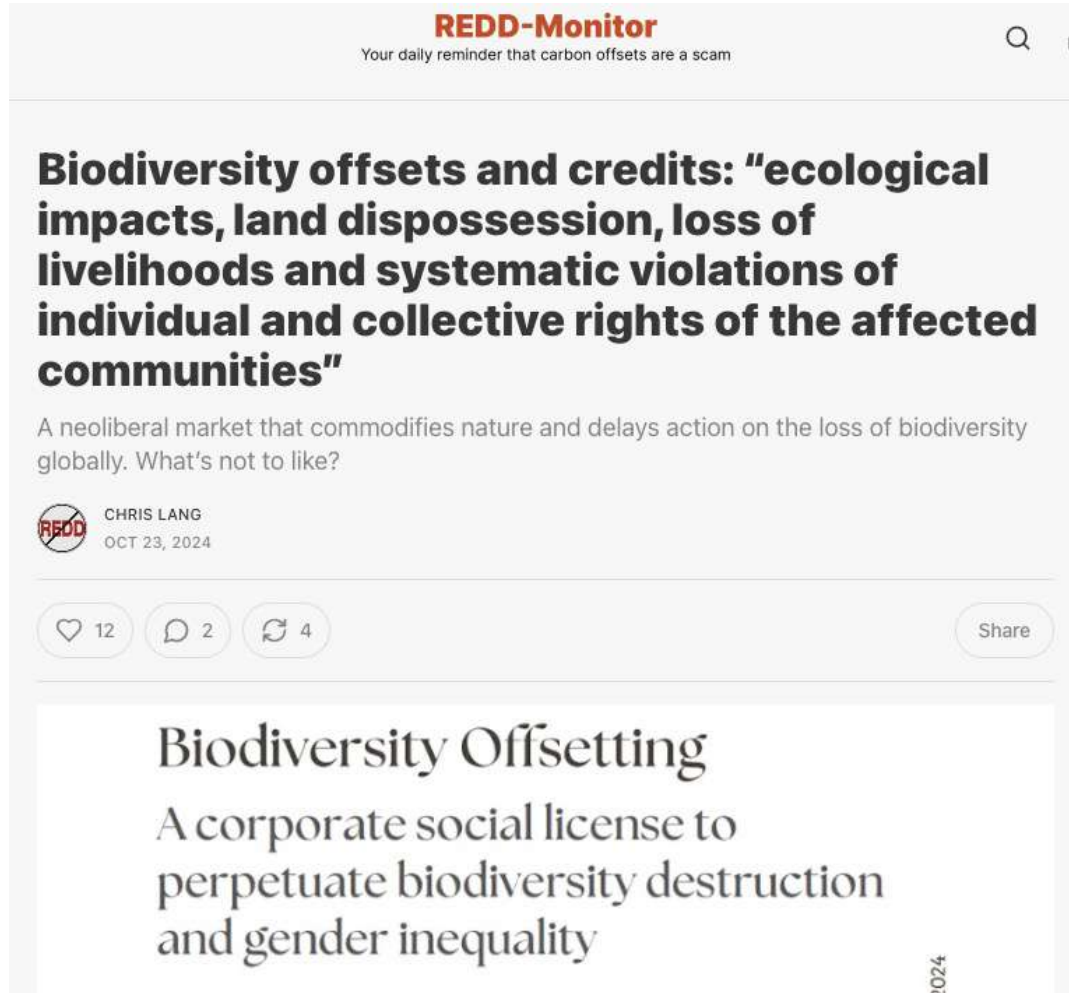
This article links to and mentions information included in ACB's UPF factsheet series.

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.

Mentions

 Business Report [+ Follow](#)

9.5K Followers 

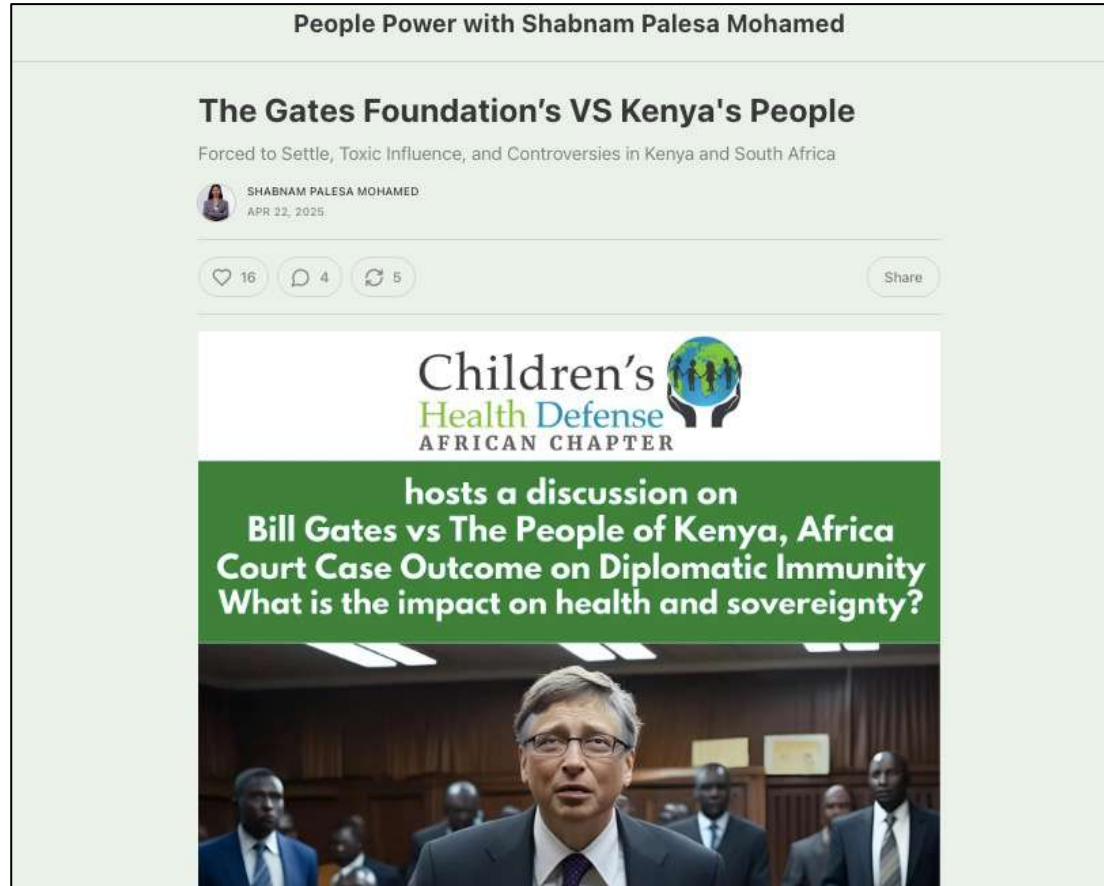
Agroecology: A policy imperative for sustainable and resilient food systems in SADC

Opinion by Dr Thulasizwe Mkhabela • 1mo •  4 min read



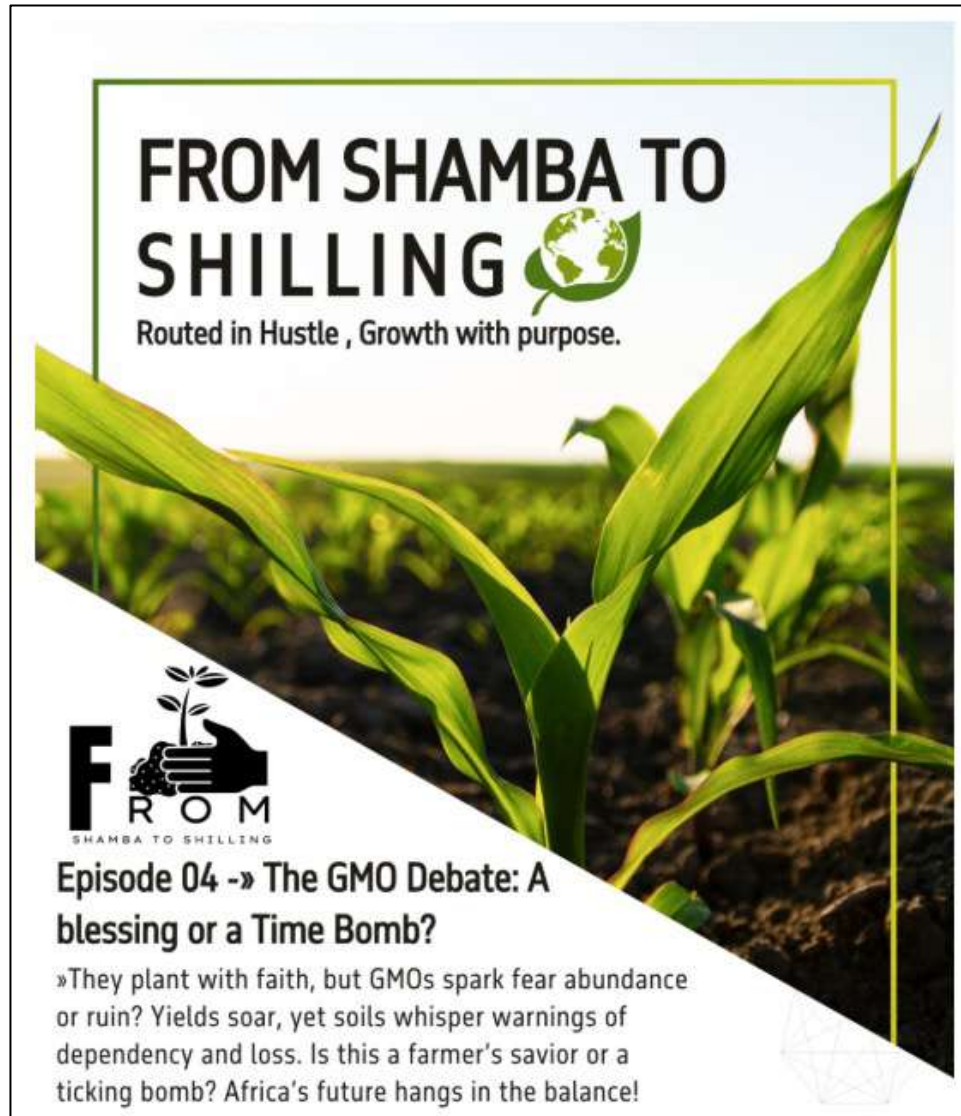
In this article in agroecology in the SADC region, the African Centre for Biodiversity is mentioned as having been instrumental in promoting seed sovereignty and farmer-led research.

Mentions



In this web post, criticising the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for its overreach in terms of local autonomy, agricultural policies, and public health initiatives, particularly in Kenya and South Africa, ACB is mentioned as being critical of the introduction of GM crops in Africa as they create a cycle of debt and dependency, stripping local farmers of their autonomy and control over agricultural practices. The Supreme Court case win is also mentioned.

Mentions



In this blog post highlighting critical concerns around the introduction of GMO crops in Africa, ACB is mentioned as one of the civil society organisations advocating for a more cautious approach, promoting agroecological farming methods and the preservation of Africa's rich genetic heritage.

Webinars



**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.

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



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.

Meetings and events



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.

Meetings and events



The South African People's Tribunal on Agrotoxins was led by the lived experiences of farm workers and dwellers on South Africa's industrial farms, community members affected by the UPL chemical warehouse fire, and expert testimony from academics, researchers, and support organisations. The opening statement made by ACB's Mariam Mayet is available [here](#).