

Say no to Genetic Engineering in Malawi



While scientific progress on molecular biology has a great potential to increase our understanding of nature and provide new medical tools, it should not be used as justification to turn the environment into a giant genetic experiment by commercial interests. The biodiversity and environmental integrity of the world's food supply is too important to our survival to be put at risk.

Our Biological diversity must be protected and respected as the heritage of humankind, and one of our fundamental keys to survival. Malawi is a party to international regulations such as the Biosafety Protocol developed to address threat of Genetic Engineering!!

We believe that:

GMOs should not be released into our environment since there is not an adequate scientific understanding of their impact on the environment and human health.

We advocate immediate interim measures such as labelling of GE ingredients, and the segregation of genetically engineered crops and seeds from conventional ones.

We also oppose all patents on plants and animals, as well as patents on their genes. Life is not an industrial commodity. When we force life forms and our nation's food supply to conform to human economic models rather than their natural ones, we do so at our own peril.

GMO-Free Agriculture.

The majority of people in Malawi are farmers, the guardians of biological diversity and improved crop varieties. GM crops has potential to contaminate through cross pollination with unknown consequences, high cost inputs, increased pest resistance and high priced seed bought every year under contract. GMOs released to the environment could have adverse effects on the biological diversity. Ordered biological diversity is the basis of ecological stability, which has already been seriously eroded in Malawi. GMOs may reproduce to become dominant and displace the others, thereby reducing the diversity of the breeding stock.

Currently most GMOs, especially crops are proprietary, and are owned almost exclusively by the private sector in other countries and companies from these countries are patenting genetic material sourced from developing countries like Malawi without sharing the benefits. As a nation, our sovereignty is rightly manifested by our right to own food chains. Government needs to exercise caution in the campaign by commercial entities on GMO as it can change the dynamics of ownership of seed and control of the food we eat from the people to being under the mercy of industry. It is worrisome however to note that research on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) varieties is being undertaken progressively at tertiary institutions like Bunda College of Agriculture in the absence of relevant legislative provisions in the Seed Act for varietal release and other processes of such crops and breeds

Advocate for a GMO-free Environment by contributing your voice to the topic debate on Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy Facebook page and email!!!!

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