



Principles to Guide Executive Policymaking

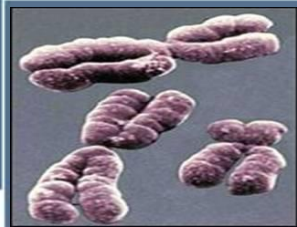
Ben Durham

**GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS
FOR AFRICAN AGRICULTURE:
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES
7 JUNE 2011**



**science
& technology**

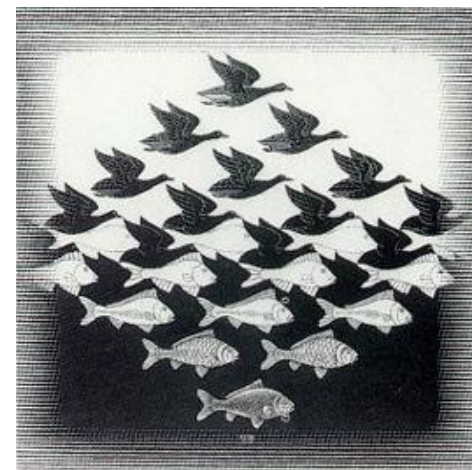
Department:
Science and Technology
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Principles to Guide Executive Policymaking

Policy for a national approach to GMO's within the African context (incl. poverty; subsistence; food insecurity)

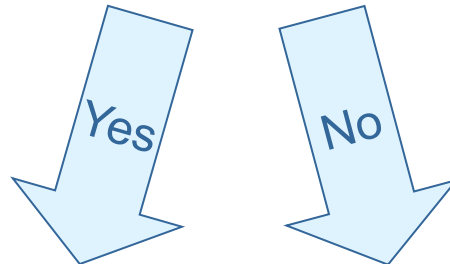
- Considerations
- Management interventions
- Cautions





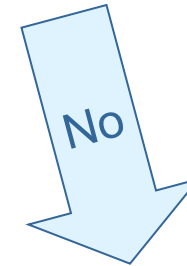
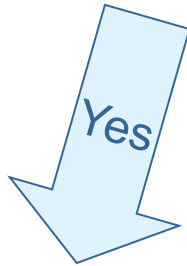
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- National Strategic Intentions
 - Poverty alleviation vs wealth creation; Food vs fuel; niche markets vs bulk commodities; Import vs export; industrial & medical vs agriculture; etc
- Trading Partners
- Public sentiment





Principles to Guide Executive Policymaking



BioSafety approach

- Policy
- Regulations
- Management
 - AIA
 - Labelling
 - Public
- HCD

Precautionary approach

- Risks
- Policy / No policy
- Gene flow / health / enviro
- Cartagena Protocol
- AIA



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BioSafety Approach Principles:

- 1) Sustainability
 - Industry needs stability, certainty, clarity
 - Govt. must regulate, but should also facilitate
 - Home-grown products?
- 2) BioSafety
 - Critical to maintain 'health' of system (human & enviro)
 - Continually build capacity
 - Risk & Benefit
 - Link to ABNE
- 3) Public
 - Not good enough to do things properly...
 - Build/Maintain confidence
 - Justify decisions
 - Expect dissent
- 4) Trade
 - Competent Authority
 - AIA
 - Labelling





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Issues to be aware of:

1) Controversial field

- Industry has been inherently cautious, & has deep pockets, but need to be convinced of stability and opportunity
- Anti-GMO groups will spring up (link to global networks)
- Legal challenges will arise – ensure decisions are clear and defensible

2) PUBLIC RELATIONS

- Public awareness survey – market intelligence
- Public participation
- Have, & demonstrate, authority
- Labelling?

3) More than agriculture (health/medical; industrial)

4) Engage with international debate

- Influence

5) National VISION

- Cross cutting sectors





Principles to Guide Executive Policymaking

Wide variety of GMO approaches and policies.

- Support available
- Expertise available

Thank you!

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