

INTERIM REPORT ON THE AREA PLANTED TO GM MAIZE IN SOUTH AFRICA FOR THE 2006/2007 SEASON

1. TRENDS IN GM MAIZE ADOPTION IN SOUTH AFRICA, HARVEST SEASONS 2002-2007 (rounded off, all percentages= GM of total area planted)

The first estimate of GM maize plantings is based on discussions and meetings with seed companies (Pannar, Pioneer, Monsanto, Link Seed, Syngenta, and Afgri) that are marketing GM maize seeds. The total maize area planted (2.7 million hectares) is based on the most recent Crop Estimates Committee report available at the time of drafting of this interim report.

The final report will be completed late in April and will use as basis for calculations audited sales data from seed suppliers and the CEC estimate available at that stage on areas planted to white and yellow maize. It will also include additional information considered relevant for the maize industry.

An analysis of permits granted during 2006 is also included here as maize imports and exports of grain that are or may contain material of GM origin have trade relevance for the industry.

AREA PLANTED TO WHITE GM MAIZE *

2002: 6 000 ha out of 1.7 mil. ha. = 0.4% of white maize area (all Bt)

2003: 60 000 ha out of 2.1 mil.ha. = 2.9% (all Bt)

2004: 144 000 ha out of 1.8 mil.ha = 8.0% (all Bt , RR negligible)

2005: 147 000 ha out of 1.8 mil.ha = 8.2% (142 000 Bt= 7.9% + 5 000 RR= 0.3%)

2006: 281 000 ha out of 1.0 mil.ha = 28.8% (221 000 Bt= 22.8% + 60 000 RR= 6.0%)

2007 est: 704 000 ha out of 1.59 mil.ha = 44.3% (552 000 Bt= 34.7% + 152 000 RR= 9.6%)

CUMULATIVE GM WHITE MAIZE PLANTED OVER SIX YEARS = 1.342 mill ha

AREA PLANTED TO YELLOW GM MAIZE *

2002: 160 000 ha out of 1.1 mil.ha = 14.5% of yellow maize area (all Bt)
2003: 176 000 ha out of 0.9 mil.ha = 19.5% (all Bt)
2004: 197 000 ha out of 1.0 mil.ha = 19.7% (all Bt, neg RR)
2005: 263 000ha out of 1.1 mil.ha = 23.9% (249 000 Bt= 22.6% + 14 000 RR= 1.3%)
2006: 175 000 ha out of 0.6 mil.ha = 30.0% (107 000 Bt= 17.8% + 68 000 RR= 11.3%)
2007 est: 528 000 ha out of 1.1 mil.ha = 48.0% (391 000 Bt= 35.5% + 137 000 RR= 12.5%)

CUMULATIVE GM YELLOW MAIZE PLANTED OVER SIX YEARS = 1.400 mil.ha

TOTAL GM MAIZE AREA PLANTED OVER SIX YEARS

2002: 166 000 ha
2003: 236 000 ha
2004: 341 000 ha
2005: 410 000 ha
2006: 456 000 ha
2007 est: 1,232 mil ha (1.232 mil.ha out of 2.7 mil.ha = 45.6% (943 000 Bt= 34.9% + 289 000 RR= 10.7%)

CUMULATIVE GM MAIZE PLANTED OVER SIX YEARS = 2.841 mil.ha.

*** Explanatory note:**

Bt = Insect resistance against stalk borers and ear borers using an inserted bacterial gene, the protein toxin of which has been used as a spray-on bio-insecticide since about 1960.

RR = Herbicide tolerant to glyphosate/glyphosinate

2. PERMITS ISSUED FOR IMPORT AND EXPORT OF GM MAIZE

The following is a synopsis of permits issued by the Registrar of GMOs upon directive from the GMO Executive Council in accordance with prescribed procedures under GMO legislation (Act 15/1997):

- 1. TOTAL: 296 Permits for all genetically modified organisms (GMOs) issued for the calendar year 2006**

- 2. MAIZE: COMMODITY IMPORT CLEARANCE: A total of 121 permits were granted for importation of shipments that are or may contain GM. All grain imports were from Argentina. Shipments varied from 150 to 60 000 MT (metric tons), with an average of 10 420 MT. Total volume imported came to 1.261 million MT with an estimated commercial value ZAR 1.26 billion at ZAR1000 per ton.**

- 3. MAIZE: SEED IMPORTED FOR PLANTING = smaller volumes mostly from USA, intended for seed multiplication, field testing, breeding, or seed production. Permits issued numbered 66 and total volume amounted to 18 MT.**

- 4. MAIZE: SEED IMPORTED FOR CONTAINED USE = for use in a physical contained structure such as lab or greenhouse as per definition in the GMO Act. Three permits were issued for a volume amounting to 4.02 MT (one permit of 4 MT is considered as mis-labelled, thus there should be two permits issued for 200 kg. This is being verified with Registrar).**

- 5. MAIZE: COMMODITY EXPORTS = NIL ***

6. MAIZE: SEED EXPORTED FOR CONTAINED USE = for use in contained structures but may include isolated field trials as the definition is not the same in all countries. Permits issued numbered 27 for a total of 518 kg; three to France, one to Germany and the rest to USA (the latter is assumed for backcrossing and multiplication of seed in isolated plots).

7. MAIZE: SEED EXPORTED FOR PLANTING = these are larger volumes for test marketing and commercial sale. Twelve permits were issued for a total volume of 1 232 MT, almost all to Asia, at an estimated commercial value ZAR 37 million.

*** Explanatory note: Re-export of imported grain that is or may contain GM grain falls under procedures regulated in terms of the GMO Act but is not shown in the permit system. This procedure is based on the SADC policy where such GM grain destined for neighbouring countries may need to be milled before shipping. Prior approval of the importing country for export of live grain is also required in terms of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Milled grain is then classified as a beneficiated product and not a live product. Data on such re-exports will be obtained from the Department of Agriculture in due course.**

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Submitted by

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