



Republic of South Africa

PUBLIC NOTICE:

27 October 2021

SOUTH AFRICA'S REGULATORY APPROACH FOR NEW BREEDING TECHNIQUES

New breeding techniques (NBTs) provide new methods for genetic engineering and enable the production of a range of innovative products. These products are differentiated from those generated using early genetic engineering tools. The nature of NBTs led to discussions whether or not these techniques and their products must be subject to the existing regulatory system for GMOs.

In South Africa the Genetically Modified Organisms Act 1997 (Act No. 15 of 1997), as amended by Genetically Modified Organisms Act, 2006 (Act No. 23 of 2006), regulates the development and use of GMOs. The GMO Act defines a Genetically Modified Act (GMO) as an organism the genes or genetic material of which has been modified in a way that does not occur naturally through mating or natural recombination or both. Based on the definition of a GMO under the GMO Act, the Executive Council has concluded that the risk assessment framework that exists for GMOs, would apply to NBTs.

In line with the above, the application templates for contained use, trial release, commodity clearance and general release have been revised and the use of the revised application forms will be effective as of 01 December 2021. The revised application forms will be published on the DALRRD website: www.dalrrd.gov.za.

<https://www.dalrrd.gov.za/Branches/Agricultural-Production-Health-Food-Safety/Genetic-Resources/Biosafety/Services/PDF-Application-Forms>. The revised application forms will also be obtainable upon request from the Office of the Registrar: GMO Act at NompumeleloM@dalrrd.gov.za.

For further information please contact the Chairperson of the Executive Council: GMO Act at the following contact details:

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