

WHAT IS AFRICABIO?

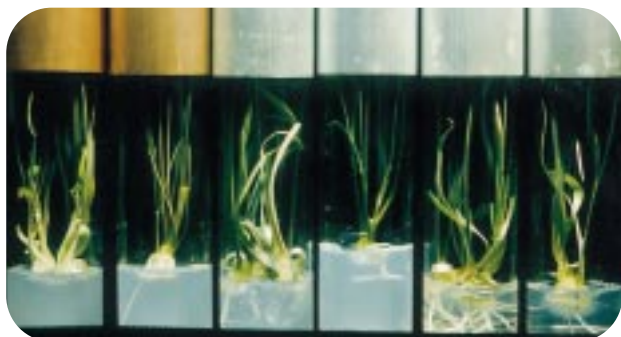
AfricaBio is a non-political, non-profit biotechnology association for food, feed and fibre, serving as a forum for informed debate on biotechnological issues in Africa.

MISSION

To promote the enhancement of food, feed and fibre through the safe use and responsible application of biotechnology and its products.

OVERALL OBJECTIVES

- To inform and lobby key stakeholders.
- To provide information on national and international regulatory legislation that can influence the use, production or marketing of biotechnology products in Africa.
- To provide accurate and objective information on biotechnology to consumers, media and decision-makers to ensure that biotechnology is accurately represented at all levels of society in Africa.
- To provide a regular forum for the exchange of information in Africa.
- To facilitate research, development, education and training projects as required by members.



NEED FOR A FORUM ON BIOTECHNOLOGY

The growing debate in Africa on the application of biotechnology and biotechnology products has prompted the formation of a biotechnology association for the food, feed and fibre sectors. In addition :

- There is no recognised independent body in Africa proactively providing accurate information on biotechnology in the food, feed and fibre sectors;
- The debate in Africa is currently focused on biotechnological issues within the agric-food sectors. As the scope of the debate widens, the Association will be modified to encompass those issues;
- Inadequate knowledge of legislation on genetic modified organisms could be alleviated through the Association which has the ability to communicate with all interested parties;
- Decision-makers at all levels of society are not well informed about the technology. Furthermore, there are proactive organisations in Africa providing misinformation about the technology and its products. This situation needs to be corrected;

- In view of the benefits which this technology offers, it has become essential to facilitate interaction between consumers, scientists, industry, and government departments in order to promote a common approach;
- The issue of safety within the regulatory framework is of public concern. The Association requires that all its members subscribe to a code of conduct to ensure safe, ethical research and application of biotechnology.



WHO DOES AFRICABIO REPRESENT?

All stakeholders involved with, or having an interest in, food, feed and fibre in Africa.

The wide spectrum of representation is evident from the founding members which include :
biotechnology companies, research and tertiary education institutions, seed companies, farmer organizations, grain traders, food manufacturers, food retailers, professionals, scientists, and students.

