

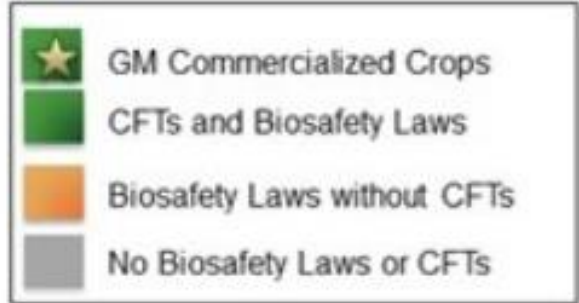
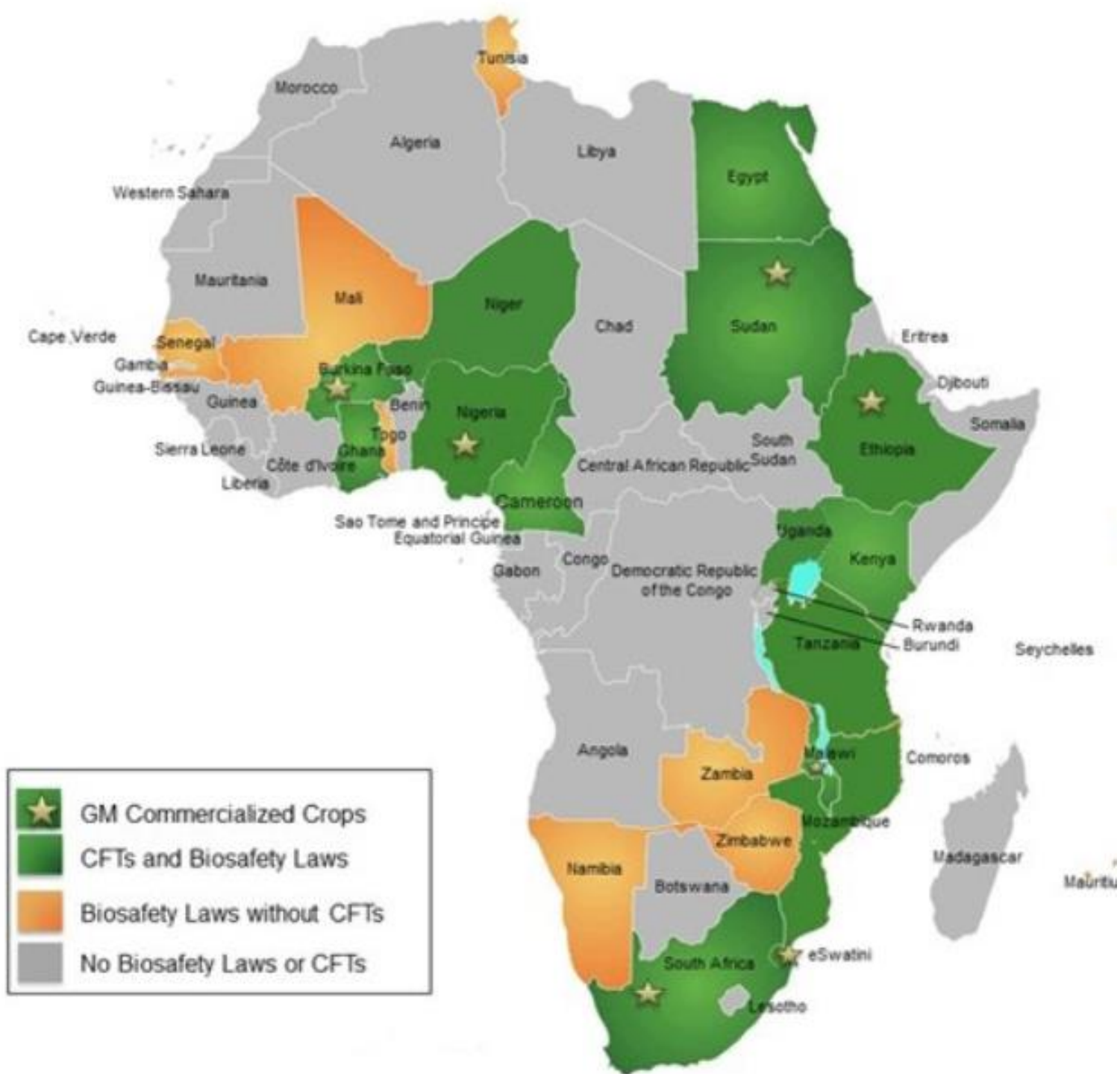
GM Status in Africa

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GM Crops in Africa

- GM Crops grown commercially (2018):
 - South Africa (2.7 Million ha total – maize, soybean, cotton)
 - Sudan (243,000 ha – Bt cotton)
 - Eswatini (Bt cotton)
- GM Crops approved for general/environmental/commercial release:
 - Bt cotton – Nigeria, Malawi, Kenya, Ethiopia
 - Bt cowpea – Nigeria
 - Bt corn – Kenya ?



NATIONAL BIOSAFETY AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON AN APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RELEASE (OPEN FIELD CULTIVATION) AND PLACING ON THE MARKET OF DISEASE RESISTANT GENETICALLY MODIFIED CASSAVA IN KENYA

The National Biosafety Authority (NBA) is the competent Authority mandated to regulate all activities involving genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Under the provisions of the Biosafety Act No. 2 of 2009, section 19(4) and Biosafety (Environmental Release) Regulations of 2011, regulation 12(1) (2), the NBA hereby announces to the public the receipt of an Application for consideration for a possible environmental release (open cultivation) and placing on the market of genetically modified cassava that is resistant to Cassava Brown Streak Disease (CBSD), a common viral disease present in Kenya.

modified crops and new crop varieties.

Further information on the Application, guidelines for public participation, and the submission form can be accessed through the Authority's website www.biosafetykenya.go.ke or physically at the NBA offices (Nairobi, Mombasa, Namanga and Busia) during normal working hours.

Please send your written comments by mail to;

**Chief Executive Officer,
National Biosafety Authority,
PCPB Building, Loresho, off Waiyaki Way
P. O. BOX 28251-00100, NAIROBI
Or by Email: ercassava2020@biosafetykenya.go.ke**

Deadline for written submissions: 14th June 2020

Products Under Development

- Insect resistant (Bt) cowpea
- Cassava resistant to mosaic virus and brown streak virus
- Virus Resistant Cassava for Africa (VIRCA)
- Vitamin fortified cassava
- Vitamin A fortified and bacterial wilt resistant banana
- Potato resistant to late blight disease
- Drought-tolerant maize
- Drought tolerant and insect resistant maize
- Water Efficient Maize for Africa (Drought tolerant and insect resistant GE varieties, as well as drought-tolerant conventional hybrids)
- Nitrogen Efficient, Water Efficient & Salt Tolerant (NEWEST) rice
- Vitamin A fortified sorghum
- Vitamin A fortified sweet potatoes
- Virus resistant sweet potatoes

Biosafety Regulatory Systems in Africa

- Nigeria – National Biosafety Management Act and functional NBMA
- Kenya – Biosafety Act and functional NBA
- Ethiopia – Biosafety Proclamation and Amended Proclamation; implemented by EFCCC
- Tanzania – Environmental Management Act with Biosafety Regulations – implemented by VP's Office and Environment Ministry
- Uganda – Biosafety Bill passed by Parliament but rejected by President

Pathway to Commercial Adoption

- Biosafety approval for general/environmental/commercial release
- Compliance with National Environmental Management Act
- Registration under Plant Varietal Registration Act
- Compliance with seed certification requirements
- Compliance with food safety/labeling requirements
- Production of seed and distribution to farmers

Gene Editing in Africa

- Little capacity and very few research projects
- Most regulatory systems have limited capacity and no policies/procedures
- Kenya -- draft guidelines (need to be approved by NBC)
- Nigeria – Amendment to the NBMA
 - “gene editing” is defined as “a type of genetic engineering in which DNA is inserted, deleted, modified or replaced in the genome of a living organism.”

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