

Required Report: Required - Public Distribution

Date: November 15, 2021

Report Number: AO2021-0007

Report Name: Agricultural Biotechnology Annual

Country: Angola

Post: Luanda

Report Category: Biotechnology and Other New Production Technologies

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Report Highlights:

Angola currently does not allow the use of agricultural biotechnology in production, and imports containing genetically engineered (GE) components are limited to food aid. In December 2004, the Council of Ministers approved Decree No. 92/04 restricting the use of biotechnology in Angola as a provisional measure pending the establishment of a comprehensive National Biosafety System capable of properly controlling the importation, entry, use, and eventual production of GE organisms in the country.

Executive Summary

Agriculture accounted for 11.5 percent of Angola's \$62.7 billion gross domestic product in 2020. With the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent decrease in oil prices, the Angolan government is trying to diversify the economy, implementing measures to protect national production. The agricultural sector accounts for 46 percent of total employment in the economy, mainly at subsistence levels. Prior to the 1975-2002 civil war, Angola was a major exporter of coffee, sisal, sugar cane, bananas, and cotton, and was self-sufficient in all food crops except wheat. The civil war disrupted agricultural production and displaced millions of people. Angola currently imports more than half of its food. In 2020, the country was the tenth largest market by value for U.S. poultry exports globally and the eighth largest market for U.S. frozen chicken cuts and edible offal (including livers).

Angola has the resources to be one of the leading agricultural producers in Africa, as its diverse and fertile ecology can host a variety of crops and livestock. However, the country only cultivates 16 percent of its 58 million hectares of available agricultural land. An estimated 90 percent of farms in Angola are small to medium-sized and are used mainly in communal ways for subsistence farming. The main agricultural commodities produced in Angola include cassava, bananas, potatoes, corn, sweet potatoes, citrus, and pineapples.

In December 2004, Angola's Council of Ministers approved Decree No. 92/04, limiting the use of biotechnology products to food aid, and restricting any production of GE products in Angola. This Decree stated that it would serve as a provisional measure until the establishment of a comprehensive National Biosafety System capable of properly controlling the importation, entry, use, and eventual production of GE organisms in the country. However, the government has failed thus far to put such a system in place.

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Chapter 1: Plant Biotechnology

Part A: Production and Trade

(a) Product Development

There is no development of GE products taking place in Angola.

(b) Commercial Production

There is no commercial production of GE products in Angola.

(c) Exports

Not applicable

(d) Imports

Angola does not allow imports of GE seeds and food/feed products, except for food aid.

(e) Food Aid

Imports of GE grains for food aid must comply with the following rules, based on the recommendations of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC):

- Before shipment of the GE product, the importing company must obtain written authorization from the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries;
- All imports of GE food aid in the form of grain or seeds must be milled before distribution to beneficiaries, in order to avoid contamination of local varieties with GE events.

Angola has not received any GE food assistance shipments since this policy has been in place.

(f) Trade Barriers

Other than the blanket prohibition on commercial GE imports, Post FAS/Luanda has not identified any additional biotechnology-related trade barriers.

Part B: Policy

(a) Regulatory Framework

In December 2004, the Council of Ministers approved Decree No. 92/04, limiting the use of biotechnology products to food aid usage, and restricting GE production in Angola. This Decree stated that it would serve as a provisional measure until the establishment of a comprehensive National Biosafety System capable of properly controlling the importation, entry, use, and eventual production of GE organisms in the country. To date, the government of Angola has not taken any steps toward developing a national biosafety framework.

(b) Approvals

No GE plants or crops have been approved or registered in Angola for cultivation, import, or export.

(c) Stacked or Pyramided Event Approvals

Not applicable

(d) Field Testing

GE seeds can be received for scientific research, as is mentioned on Article 6 of Decree No. 92/04. Based on Article 6, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries created the “Regulation for Testing Genetically Modified Organisms for the Purpose of Research and Scientific Experimentation.” The rule governs any GE field trial carried out for research purposes.

(e) Innovative Biotechnologies

Not applicable

(f) Coexistence

Not applicable

(g) Labeling and Traceability

Currently, no compulsory labeling of GE products or food containing GE products is necessary, as these products are largely prohibited in Angola.

(h) Monitoring and Testing

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries received laboratory equipment to test GE products. However, it has not been installed, as the COVID-19 pandemic has delayed project implementation.

(i) Low-Level Presence Policy

There is currently no low-level presence policy in Angola.

(j) Additional Regulatory Requirements

Not applicable

(k) Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

Not applicable

(l) Cartagena Protocol Ratification

The National Assembly of Angola ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in 2002, based on the precautionary principle in relation to the introduction, release, and use of living modified organisms.

(m) International Treaties and Forums

Angola is a signatory member of the:

- Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization (WTO-SPS) and the
- Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex).

Angola also works with the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). However, Angola has not taken an active role in discussions related to biotechnology in these fora.

(n) Related Issues

There are no other issues related to plant biotechnology that are not captured under the current headings.

Part C: Marketing

(a) Public/Private Opinions

Most consumers in Angola are not aware of biotechnology. However, there is a wide variety of opinions on this matter among scientists, researchers, and the government. Commercial farmers are aware of the benefits of biotechnology and would like it to be available to them.

(b) Market Acceptance/Studies

If any GE crop seed becomes available, Post FAS/Luanda does not foresee any rejection from commercial farmers, as they have requested this technology for a long time. Post FAS/Luanda is not aware of any marketing studies on GE products conducted in Angola.

Chapter 2: Animal Biotechnology

Part D: Production and Trade

(a) Product Development

There is no GE animal development or commercial production in Angola. Angola also does not have any regulations regarding the importation of GE animals, livestock clones, or animal products.

(b) Commercial Production

There is no commercial production of GE products in Angola.

(c) Exports

Not applicable

(d) Imports

Angola does not allow the importation of GE animals.

(e) Trade Barriers

Not applicable

Part E: Policy

(a) Regulatory Framework

Ministerial Decree No. 92/04, limiting the use of biotechnology in Angola, refers specifically to plants and does not mention animals or other organisms. Angola does not have any other regulations or laws relating to GE animals.

(b) Approvals

Not applicable

(c) Innovative Biotechnologies

Not Applicable

(d) Labeling and Traceability

Currently, no compulsory labeling of GE products or food containing GE products is necessary.

(e) Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

Not applicable

(f) International Treaties and Forums

Angola is a member of the International Organization for Animal Health (OIE). However, Angola has not taken an active role in discussions related to biotechnology in this or any other forum.

(g) Related Issues

There are no other issues related to animal biotechnology that are not captured under the current headings.

Part F: Marketing

(a) Public/Private Opinions

As with GE plants, most consumers in Angola are not aware of biotechnology. However, there is a wide variety of opinions on this matter among scientists, researchers, and the government.

(b) Market Acceptance/Studies

If any GE animal becomes available, Post FAS/Luanda does not foresee any rejection from commercial producers, as they have requested this technology for a long time. Post FAS/Luanda is not aware of any marketing studies on GE products conducted in Angola.

Chapter 3: Microbial Biotechnology

Part G: Production and Trade

(a) Commercial Production

Not applicable

(b) Exports

Angola does not export alcoholic beverages, dairy products, and processed products which may contain microbial biotech-derived food ingredients.

(c) Imports

Angola imports alcoholic beverages, dairy products, and processed products which may contain microbial biotech-derived food ingredients. However, Post FAS/Luanda is not aware of any specific examples.

(d) Trade Barriers

Post is not aware of any trade barriers for microbial biotechnology products or derived ingredients.

Part H: Policy

(a) Regulatory Framework

Angola does not have any regulations or laws governing microbial biotechnology.

(b) Approvals

Not applicable

(c) Labeling and Traceability

Currently, no compulsory labeling of GE products or food containing GE products is necessary.

(d) Monitoring and Testing

Not applicable

(e) Additional Regulatory Requirements

Not applicable

(f) Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

Not applicable

(g) Related Issues

There are no other issues related to microbial biotechnology that are not captured under the current headings.

Part I: Marketing

(a) Public/Private Opinions

As with GE plants and animals, most consumers in Angola are not aware of biotechnology. However, there is a wide variety of opinions on this matter among scientists, researchers, and the government. Post is not aware of opinions specific to microbial biotechnology.

(b) Market Acceptance/Studies

Post FAS/Luanda is not aware of any marketing studies on GE products conducted in Angola.

Attachments:

No Attachments