

**Required Report:** Required - Public Distribution

**Date:** November 04, 2024

**Report Number:** AO2024-0008

## **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 production of genetically engineered (GE) plants or animals. Food aid imports containing GE ingredients are permitted with certain conditions. In December 2004, Angola's Council of Ministers approved a decree prohibiting production and importation of genetically engineered GE crops. The decree stated that it would serve as a provisional measure until the establishment of a comprehensive national biosafety system could be established to control the importation, use, and eventual production of GE organisms in the country. Twenty years later, no system has been established. However, there are indications that efforts to develop a framework may be gaining slow momentum. Presidential Order 158/24 of July 16, 2024, established the Committee on Genetically Modified Seeds with the aim of creating a biosafety system with standards and inspection mechanisms.

## **Executive Summary**

The Angolan government is trying to diversify the country's economy to grow non-oil sectors. The International Monetary Fund forecasts that the agricultural sector will account for 8 percent of Angola's estimated \$92 billion gross domestic product (GDP) for 2024. The agricultural sector represents 46 percent of total employment in the economy, though mainly at subsistence levels.

Angola only cultivates 16 percent of its 58 million hectares of arable agricultural land. An estimated 90 percent of farms in Angola are small to medium-sized and are used mainly for communal, subsistence farming. However, the country has the natural 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.

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. However, the civil war disrupted agricultural production and trade and displaced millions of people. Today, the main agricultural commodities produced in Angola for commercial purposes include cassava, bananas, potatoes, corn, sweet potatoes, citrus, pineapples, and various vegetables.

Angola has implemented several measures to protect national production and emphasize domestic production over imports. According to the World Bank, Angola imports more than half of the food consumed in the country. Although there is significant interest in developing the poultry and livestock sectors, the country's lack of acceptance of GE crops limits yields and increases prices for feed inputs. This is viewed as a significant limiting factor.

In December 2004, Angola's Council of Ministers approved Decree No. 92/04, which limited the use of biotechnology products to food aid and prohibited production of genetically engineered (GE) crops. The decree stated that it would serve as a provisional measure until the establishment of a comprehensive national biosafety system could be established to control the importation, use, and eventual production of GE organisms in the country. However, the government has not put such a system in place.

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## **Chapter 1: Plant Biotechnology**

### **Part A: Production and Trade**

#### **(a) Research and 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 due to lack of production

#### **(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:

- Before shipment of the GE product, the importing company must obtain written authorization from the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry;
- 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.

#### **(f) Trade Barriers**

Other than the blanket prohibition on commercial GE imports, Post 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 (document in Portuguese, not available online), limiting the use of biotechnology products to food aid and restricting GE production in Angola. The decree stated that it would serve as a provisional measure until the establishment of a comprehensive national biosafety system could be established to control the importation, use, and eventual production of GE organisms in the country. However, to date, no such system has been developed.

**Legal terms table:**

<b>Legal Term (in Portuguese)</b>	<b>Legal Term (in English)</b>	<b>Laws and Regulations where term is used</b>	<b>Legal Definition (in English)</b>
Organismo Geneticamente Modificado (OGM)	Genetic Modified Organism (GMO)	Decree No. 92/04	Organisms genetically manipulated in order to favor desired characteristics, such as color, size, etc.
Grãos Transgênicos	Transgenic Grains	Decree No. 92/04	Grains genetically manipulated in order to favor desired characteristics, such as color, size, etc.

However, Presidential Order 158/24 of July 16, 2024, established the Committee on Genetically Modified Seeds (CSGM) with the aim of creating a biosafety system with standards and inspection mechanisms in the country. This initiative, if implemented successfully, could allow the authorization of import, cultivation, transit, research, release into the environment, handling and use of these GE seeds. The Committee will be chaired by the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry and will include the Ministry of Health; the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation; the Ministry of Environment; and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. Post is not aware of any meetings of the CSGM to date.

**(b) Approvals/Authorizations**

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 as none have been approved

**(d) Field Testing**

GE seeds can be received for scientific research according to Decree No. 92/04. Based on Article 6 of the decree, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry 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; however, no such field trials have been planned or conducted to date.

**(e) Innovative Biotechnologies**

Not applicable as the regulatory environment has been stagnant since 2004

**(f) Coexistence**

Not applicable under Decree 92/04

**(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 Forestry has received laboratory equipment to test GE products. The laboratory has been set up and staff are undergoing training with the intent to launch operations in early 2025.

**(i) Low-Level Presence (LLP) Policy**

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

**(j) Additional Regulatory Requirements**

Not applicable

**(k) Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)**

Not applicable due to no cultivation

**(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 adheres to 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 agricultural biotechnology. However, there are a wide variety of opinions on this matter among scientists, researchers, and the government. Commercial farmers are generally aware of the benefits of biotechnology and would like it to be available to them.

### **(b) Market Acceptance/Studies**

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

## **Chapter 2: Animal Biotechnology**

## **Part D: Production and Trade**

### **(a) Research and 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 due to no production.

### **(d) Imports**

Angola does not allow the importation of GE animals.

### **(e) Trade Barriers**

Not applicable

## **Part E: Policy**

### **(a) Regulatory Framework**

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/Authorizations**

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 World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH). 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 are a wide variety of opinions on this matter among scientists, researchers, and the government.

### **(b) Market Acceptance/Studies**

Post is not aware of any marketing studies on GE animal 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, or processed products that could contain microbial biotech-derived food ingredients.

#### **(c) Imports**

Angola imports alcoholic beverages, dairy products, and processed products that may contain microbial biotech-derived food ingredients. However, Post 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, labeling of GE products or food containing GE products is not 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 microbial biotechnology. Post is not aware of opinions specific to microbial biotechnology.

**(b) Market Acceptance/Studies**

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

**Attachments:**

No Attachments