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Report Name: Agricultural Biotechnology Annual

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Post: Port-au-Prince

Report Category: Biotechnology and Other New Production Technologies

Prepared By: Fritzner Clede

Approved By: Eric Baylor

Report Highlights:

Agricultural biotechnology constitutes an opportunity for U.S. suppliers, as non-governmental and governmental organizations have encouraged its integration into the Haitian economy in recent years. Although it is a controversial issue among the Haitian community, Haiti depends heavily on imports from countries where the use of agricultural biotechnology is common. Currently, there is no policy against genetically engineered crops, animals, and microbial biotech-derived food.

Executive Summary:

Haiti depends heavily on the import of U.S. agricultural products. Even though there is no policy prohibiting neither genetically engineered (GE) products nor microbial biotech-derived food products, biotechnology is a controversial issue among the Haitian populace. The dominant public opinion is that biotechnology negatively affects human health. However, Post is not aware of any intentions to restrict GE products nor microbial biotech-derived food products.

Currently, Haiti does not produce any GE crops, animals, or microbial biotech-derived food products, nor are there any GE products or microbial biotech-derived food products under development.

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CHAPTER 1: PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY

PART A: PRODUCTION AND TRADE

a) RESEARCH AND PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

Not applicable at this time because there are no genetically engineered plants that are being researched or developed in Haiti.

b) COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION

Not applicable because Haiti does not commercially cultivate any GE plants.

c) EXPORTS

Not applicable because Haiti does not export any GE plants.

d) IMPORTS

Haiti imports from countries where GE plant and plant products, processed products containing GE plant products are commonly used, particularly the United States and Brazil. For the fiscal year 2021 (October to September) Haiti imported directly from the United States 2,500 MT of corn for human consumption. Haiti does not have any official ban on the import of GE products.

e) FOOD AID

Haiti is a food aid recipient. Currently, there is no legislation that impedes imports of GE food aid. However, local non-governmental organizations may raise concerns against GE food aid which will force the government to take action to impede their distribution on the Haitian market.

f) TRADE BARRIERS

As mentioned above, there is no policy regarding the production, use or importation of GE crops or GE plant products, and Post is not aware of any intention to set rules and regulations on such products.

PART B: POLICY

a) REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Currently, there is no legislation nor regulation in place in Haiti on GE plants and their products.

b) APPROVALS/AUTHORIZATIONS

Not applicable at this time because there is no list of GE plants neither approved nor registered for use in Haiti.

c) STACKED OR PYRAMIDED EVENT APPROVALS/AUTHORIZATIONS

Not applicable at this time because there is no regulatory in place for agricultural biotechnologies.

d) FIELD TESTING

Not applicable at this time because does not have legislation allowing or prohibiting field testing

for GE plants.

e) **INNOVATIVE BIOTECHNOLOGIES**

Haiti has not established any regulatory framework for innovative biotechnologies, applicable to plants or plants products.

f) **COEXISTENCE**

In Haiti, there is no policy that addresses the issue of coexistence between GE and non-GE crops.

g) **LABELING AND TRACEABILITY**

Haiti does not have any specific requirements for labeling of GE plants.

h) **MONITORING AND TESTING**

Haiti does not test for GE traits in imports and exports nor Haitian production fields.

i) **LOW LEVEL PRESENCE (LLP) POLICY**

Haiti does not have an LLP policy.

j) **ADDITIONAL REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS**

No information is available.

k) **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR)**

Currently, Haiti does not have legislation to address intellectual property for the cultivation of GE plants.

l) **CARTAGENA PROTOCOL RATIFICATION**

Haiti has not signed the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

m) **INTERNATIONAL TREATIES AND FORUMS**

Haiti is a member of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), ISO and Codex Alimentarius. Haiti has never actively participated in discussions related to GE plants within these international organizations.

n) **RELATED ISSUES**

No information available.

PART C: MARKETING

a) **PUBLIC/PRIVATE OPINIONS**

In general, the public perceives GE plants as dangerous for human health and a threat for the biodiversity. The lack of public debates on GE plants does not allow to identify the variations in perception based on the intended use of GE plants. However, the civil society and non-governmental organizations pay more attention in GE plants used for food than other intended

use. There are no official active organizations lobbying for or against the use of GE plants in Haiti. However, the public would encourage research institutions to propose solutions to Haitian farmers to improve plant performance, including the yield and resistance to disease.

b) **MARKET ACCEPTANCE/STUDIES**

Public perception is the major market acceptance issue relating to the sale and use of GE plants and products thereof for producers, importers, retailers, and consumers. The public perception has a major impact on grocers' and seed retailers' decisions because they would not like to be targeted by any local organization for importing GE plants or their products.

However, low-income households pay less attention on GE plants and plant products, though they perceive GE plants and GE plant products as dangerous for human consumption. Although there is no known marketing information, but the negative public campaign of the civil society on GE plants forced the government of Haiti in May 2010 to issue a note to deny the presence of GE seeds in Haiti.

CHAPTER 2: ANIMAL BIOTECHNOLOGY

PART D: PRODUCTION AND TRADE

a) **RESEARCH AND PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT**

Not applicable at this time because there are no genetically engineered animal and clones that are being researched or developed in Haiti.

b) **COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION**

Not applicable because Haiti does not commercially produce any livestock clones, offspring of clones, biotech animals or products derived from animal biotechnologies.

c) **EXPORTS**

Not applicable because Haiti does not export any biotech animals, livestock clones, offspring of clones, or products from these animals.

d) **IMPORTS**

No information is available.

e) **TRADE BARRIERS**

Haiti has no legislation or regulations that impede or encourage the trade of animal biotechnology or animal cloning and Post is not aware of any intention to set legislation and regulations on such products.

PART E: POLICY

a) **REGULATORY FRAMEWORK**

Currently, there are no legislation nor regulations in place in Haiti on livestock clones, biotech animals, and products derived from these animals. Post is not aware of any discussions regarding regulation, research, or trade policies on these technologies.

b) APPROVALS/AUTHORIZATIONS

Not applicable at this time because there is no list of biotech animals neither approved nor registered for use in Haiti.

c) INNOVATIVE BIOTECHNOLOGIES

Haiti has not established any regulatory framework for innovative biotechnologies, applicable to animals or animal products of said biotechnologies.

d) LABELING AND TRACEABILITY

Haiti does not have any specific requirements for labeling of livestock clones, biotech animals, and their products.

e) ADDITIONAL REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

No information is available.

f) INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR)

Currently, Haiti does not have legislation to address intellectual property for animal biotechnologies.

g) INTERNATIONAL TREATIES AND FORUMS

Haiti is a member of the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH). However, Haiti has never participated in discussions on animal biotechnologies within these international organizations.

h) RELATED ISSUES

No information available.

PART F: MARKETING

a) PUBLIC/PRIVATE OPINIONS

In general, the public perceives animal biotech as dangerous for human consumption. The lack of public debates on biotech animals does not allow to identify the variations in perception based on the intended use of biotech animals. There are no official active organizations lobbying either for or against the use of biotech animals in Haiti.

b) MARKET ACCEPTANCE/STUDIES

Public perception is the major market acceptance issue relating to the sale and use of livestock clones, biotech animals and products thereof for producers, importers, retailers, and consumers. The public perception has a major impact on grocers' and seed retailers' decisions because they would not like to be targeted by any local organization for importing biotech animals or their products. There is no known marketing information at this time because the few non-governmental organizations working in the animal production allocated their resources to improve local breeds with conventional methods.

CHAPTER 3: MICROBIAL BIOTECHNOLOGY

PART G: PRODUCTION AND TRADE

a) COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION

Haiti does not commercially produce food ingredients or processed food products derived from microbial biotechnology.

b) EXPORTS

There is neither official statistics nor estimates on exports of microbial biotechnology products. However, Haiti exports alcoholic beverages that may contain microbial biotech-derived food ingredients.

c) IMPORTS

Haiti imports agricultural products from countries where microbial biotech-derived food ingredients are commonly used. In fact, Haiti imports alcoholic beverages, dairy products, and processed products that may contain microbial biotech-derived food ingredients.

d) TRADE BARRIERS

Haiti has neither legislation nor regulations that impede or encourage microbial biotech-derived food ingredients or processed food products containing microbial biotech-derived food ingredients. Post is not aware of any intention to set legislation and regulations on such products.

PART H: POLICY

a) REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Currently, there are neither legislation nor regulations in place in Haiti related to the development, use, import or disposal of microbial biotech-derived food ingredients or processed food products containing microbial biotech-derived food ingredients.

b) APPROVALS/AUTHORIZATIONS

Not applicable at this time as Haiti does not have a list of biotech microbes or derived food ingredients neither approved nor registered for use in the country for cultivation, import and export.

c) LABELING AND TRACEABILITY

No information is available.

d) MONITORING AND TESTING

Haiti does not test for evidence of genetically engineered ingredients in imports or exports of processed products.

e) ADDITIONAL REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

No information is available.

f) INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR)

No information is available.

g) RELATED ISSUES

No information is available.

PART I: MARKETING

a) PUBLIC/PRIVATE OPINIONS

The Haitian public is not informed on the use of microbial biotech for food ingredients or nutritional purposes. The public does not reject any industries or research institutions for the use of microbial biotech for food or nutritional purposes, but the general perception of biotech products reported in previous sections remains unchanged.

b) MARKET ACCEPTANCE/STUDIES

The public perception is the major market acceptance issue relating to the sale and use of microbial biotech and derived food ingredients thereof for producers, importers, retailers, and consumers. The public perception has less impact on grocers' decisions because consumers pay generally less attention on the ingredients that composed their food. There is no known marketing information at this time because the food producers use locally-produce ingredients for food preparation.

Attachments:

No Attachments