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Report Name: Agricultural Biotechnology Annual

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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 significantly on the import of agricultural products specially coming from the United States. Even though there is no policy prohibiting genetically engineered (GE) products or microbial biotech-derived food products, biotechnology is a controversial issue among the Haitian population. The dominant public opinion, spread by media outlets, 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 as there are no genetically engineered plants 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 is strongly reliant on imports to feed its population. It imports from countries where genetically engineered (GE) plants and plant products, as well as processed products containing GE ingredients, are commonly used, particularly from the United States and Brazil. For Fiscal Year 2023 (October 1 to September 30), Haiti imported 421 metric tons of corn for human consumption directly from the United States, according to Trade Data Monitor. Haiti does not have any official ban on the import of GE products.

e) Food aid

Haiti is a food aid recipient. In April 2024, USDA deployed $1 billion in Commodity Credit Corporation funding via a partnership with USAID to purchase U.S. grown-commodities to provide emergency food aid to select countries, including Haiti. In addition, USDA's McGovern-Dole School Feeding Program supplies in-kind food aid to Haiti through its implementation partner World Food Program. Finally, USAID provides food aid to Haiti through its Title II programming. Haiti faces mounting food insecurity challenges, aggravated by political instability, insecurity, natural disasters, and economic uncertainty, making it one of the most stricken countries globally grappling with hunger.

Currently, there is no legislation that impedes imports of GE food aid. However, local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) may raise concerns against GE food aid which could drive government officials to slow or stop the distribution of food aid on the Haitian market. A similar situation occurred in 2010 when a biotechnology multinational proposed providing seeds to Haiti. Several Haitian farmers' organizations protested the offer of genetically modified (GMO) and hybrid seeds, arguing that these products should not be used in the country.

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 or 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 due to no regulatory framework in place for agricultural biotechnologies.

d) Field testing

Not applicable at this time as there is no 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.

h) *Low level presence (LLP) policy*

Haiti does not have an LLP policy.

i) *Additional regulatory requirements*

No information is available.

j) *Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)*

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

k) *Cartagena protocol ratification*

Haiti has not signed the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

l) ***International treaties and forums***

Haiti is a member of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), an intergovernmental treaty designed to safeguard the world's plants, agricultural products, and natural resources from plant pests. The country is also part of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and Codex Alimentarius (CODEX). The last time Haiti participated in discussions related to GE plants within IPPC was before the COVID-19 pandemic.

m) ***Related issues***

No information available.

PART C: MARKETING

a) ***Public/private opinions***

In general, the public perceives GE plants as harmful to human health and a threat to biodiversity due to their inability to reproduce. In Haiti, there is virtually no public debate on GE plants and no studies on their adoption levels. This makes it impossible to identify variations in perception based on their use. However, the civil society and some non-governmental organizations are increasingly focusing on GE crops used for human consumption. There are no active official organizations lobbying for or against the use of plants in Haiti. Nonetheless, the public would encourage research institutions to propose solutions to Haitian farmers to improve plant performance, including yield and disease resistance.

b) ***Market acceptance/studies***

The primary challenge to market acceptance of microbial biotech and its derived food ingredients lies in public perception, influenced by producers, importers, retailers, and consumers. The public perception has a major impact on grocers and seed retailers' decisions as they seek to avoid being targeted by any local organization for importing GE plants or other products. However, low-income households pay less attention to 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, 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 due to no genetically engineered animal or clones 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 or regulations on such products.

PART E: POLICY

a) *Regulatory framework*

Currently, there is no legislation nor regulation 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 as 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 this international organization.

h) *Related issues*

No information available.

PART F: MARKETING

a) *Public/private opinions*

In general, the public perceives animal biotech as harmful for human consumption. In Haiti, there is virtually no public debate on biotech animals and no studies on their adoption levels. This makes it impossible to identify variations in perception based on their use. 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 primary obstacle to market acceptance of livestock clones, biotech animals, and their products, which is influenced by producers, importers, retailers, and consumers. This perception significantly influences the decisions of grocers and seed retailers' decisions as they aim to avoid being targeted by organizations for importing biotech animals or related products. There is no known marketing information at this time due to the few non-governmental organizations working in the animal production that have dedicated 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 are neither official statistics nor estimates on exports of microbial biotechnology products. However, Haiti exports alcoholic beverages that may contain microbial biotech-derived food ingredients, such as the United States and countries from European Union (EU).

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 regulation that impedes or encourages 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 is neither legislation nor regulation 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 primary challenge to market acceptance of microbial biotech and its derived food ingredients lies in public perception, which is influenced by producers, importers, retailers, and consumers. The public perception has less impact on grocers' decisions because consumers pay generally less attention to the ingredients that constitute food. There is no known marketing information at this time because food producers use locally-produced ingredients for food preparation.

Attachments:

No Attachments