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South African market opens up for United States corn

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Report Highlights:
On December 5, 2016, the Registrar of the GMO Act informed stakeholders that all corn Genetically Engineered (GE) events that have been causing asynchrony with the United States have been approved by the Executive Council and invited applications for permits from importers.

Biotechnology: Asynchronous Approvals

Due to the slow pace of approval by the South African government, the United States was not allowed to export GE corn to be used for food and feed to South Africa. Although all of the GE corn events currently commercially produced in South Africa were developed in the United States, United States' commercial corn could not be exported to South Africa as South Africa and the United States were not synchronous in terms of certain GE event approvals for corn. According to the South African regulatory procedures, the application process for commodity import permits requires that the exporting country must have approved the same type and number of GE events that have been approved in South Africa. South Africa can import GE corn from Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay. Post was hoping that the South African government would have approved all six outstanding events for commodity clearance, which would allow for the importation as food or feed, at their Executive Council meeting held in mid-September. However, only four of the events where approved at the meeting for commodity clearance. At the November meeting of the Executive Council one more event was approved, leaving one event unapproved. However, on December 5, 2016, the Registrar of the GMO act informed stakeholders that all corn GE events that have been causing asynchrony with the United States have been approved by the Executive Council and invited applications for permits from importers.

For the 2015/16 MY, post estimates that South Africa will have to import about 3.0 million tons of corn, as the drought reduced normal corn production by almost 40 percent. So far in the 2015/16 MY, South Africa has already imported almost 1.1 million tons of yellow corn, mainly from Argentina, and 595,000 tons of white corn, mainly from Mexico. South Africa also imported 15,000 tons of non-GE white corn from the United States. With the South African market know open for GE corn from the United States, industry experts estimated South Africa could import about 300,000 tons of GE white corn and 500,000 tons of GE yellow corn from the United States.

In Table 1, all the corn GE events that have received commodity clearance in South Africa since 2001 are indicated. Commodity clearance means the importation of these events for the use as food and/or feed are allowed. Thirteen GE corn events have been approved in 2016, including the six events that caused asynchrony with the United States. Also refer to the annual Biotechnology report for South Africa for more detail.

Table 1: GE corn events with commodity clearance in South Africa

Company	Event	Trait	Year approved
Monsanto	MON87460 x NK603	Drought tolerance Herbicide tolerant	2016
Syngenta	3272 x BT11 x MIR604 x GA21	Insect resistance Herbicide tolerance	2016

Du Pont Pioneer	TC1507 x MON810 x MIR162 x NK603	Insect resistance Herbicide tolerance	2016
Du Pont Pioneer	TC1507 x MIR604 x NK603	Insect resistance Herbicide tolerance	2016
Du Pont Pioneer	TC1507 x MON810 x MIR604 x NK603	Insect resistance Herbicide tolerance	2016
Du Pont Pioneer	TC1507 x 59122 x MON810 x NK603	Insect resistance Herbicide tolerance	2016
Du Pont Pioneer	TC1507 X 59122 X MON810 x MIR604 x NK603	Insect resistance Herbicide tolerance	2016
DowAgroSciences	MON89034 x TC1507 x MON88017 x DAS-59122-7 x DAS-40278-9	Insect resistance Herbicide tolerance	2016
DowAgroSciences	MON89034 x TC1507 x NK603 x DAS-40278-9	Insect resistance Herbicide tolerance	2016
Syngenta	3272 x BT11 x MIR604 x TC1507 x 5307 x GA21	Insect resistance Herbicide tolerance	2016
Du Pont Pioneer	DP4114	Insect resistant Herbicide tolerant	2016
Monsanto	NK603 x T25	Herbicide tolerant	2016
Syngenta	MZHG0JG	Herbicide tolerant	2016
Monsanto	MON87460 x MON89034 x NK603	Drought tolerance Insect resistant Herbicide	2015

		tolerant	
Syngenta	BT11 x MIR162	Insect resistant Herbicide tolerant	2015
Monsanto	MON87460 x MON89034 x MON88017	Abiotic resistance Insect resistant Herbicide tolerant	2015
Syngenta	GA21 x T25	Herbicide tolerant	2015
Syngenta	BT11 x 59122 x MIR604 x TC1507 x GA21	Insect resistant Herbicide tolerant	2014
Syngenta	BT11 x MIR604 x TC1507 x 5307 x GA21	Insect resistant Herbicide tolerant	2014
Syngenta	BT11 x MIR162 x MIR604 x TC1507 x 5307 x GA21	Insect resistant Herbicide tolerant	2014
Syngenta	MIR162	Insect resistant	2014
Monsanto	MON89034 x MON88017	Insect resistant Herbicide tolerant	2014
DowAgrowScience	DAS-40278-9	Herbicide tolerant	2012
DowAgrowScience/ Monsanto	MON89034 x TC1507 x NK603	Insect resistant Herbicide tolerant	2012
Syngenta	MIR604	Insect resistant	2011
Syngenta	BT11 x GA21	Insect resistant Herbicide tolerant	2011
Syngenta	BT11 x MIR604	Insect resistant	2011

		Herbicide tolerant	
Syngenta	MIR604 x GA21	Insect resistant Herbicide tolerant	2011
Syngenta	BT11 x MIR604 x GA21	Insect resistant Herbicide tolerant	2011
Syngenta	BT11 x MIR162 x MIR604 x GA21	Insect resistant Herbicide tolerant	2011
Syngenta	BT11 x MIR162 x GA21	Insect resistant Herbicide tolerant	2011
Syngenta	BT11 x MIR162 x TC1507 x GA21	Insect resistant Herbicide tolerant	2011
Pioneer	TC1507 x NK603	Insect resistant Herbicide tolerant	2011
Pioneer	59122	Insect resistant	2011
Pioneer	NK603 x 59122	Insect resistant Herbicide tolerant	2011
DowAgroScience	TC1507 x 59122	Insect resistant Herbicide tolerant	2011
DowAgroScience	TC1507 x 59122 x NK603	Insect resistant Herbicide tolerant	2011
Monsanto	MON863	Insect resistant	2011
Monsanto	MON863 x MON810	Insect resistant	2011
Monsanto	MON863 x MON810 x NK603	Insect	2011

		resistant Herbicide tolerant	
Monsanto	MON88017	Insect resistant	2011
Monsanto	MON88017 x MON810	Insect resistant	2011
DowAgroScience & Monsanto	MON89034 x TC1507 x MON88017 x 59122	Insect resistant Herbicide tolerant	2011
Monsanto	MON810 x NK603	Insect resistant Herbicide tolerant	2004
Monsanto	MON810 x GA21	Insect resistant Herbicide tolerant	2003
Pioneer Hi-Bred	TC1507	Insect resistant Herbicide tolerant	2002
Monsanto	NK603	Herbicide tolerant	2002
Monsanto	GA21	Herbicide tolerant	2002
Syngenta	Bt11	Insect resistant	2002
AgrEvo	T25	Herbicide tolerant	2001
Syngenta	Bt176	Insect resistant	2001

Notes: *Excludes events that have obtained general release clearance before commodity clearance; the events can be used for importation as food or feed*

Table 2 illustrates all the GE corn events that have been approved for general release in South Africa under the GMO Act of 1997. This means these events can be used for commercial plantings, for food and/or feed and the importation and exportation of these events are allowed.

Table 2: GE corn events approved for general release in South Africa

Company	Event	Trait	Year approved
Monsanto	MON87460	Drought tolerance	2015
Pioneer	TC1507 x MON810 x NK603	Insect resistant Herbicide tolerant	2014
Pioneer	TC1507 x MON810	Insect resistant Herbicide tolerant	2014
Pioneer	TC1507	Insect resistant Herbicide tolerant	2012
Syngenta	BT11xGA21	Insect resistant Herbicide tolerant	2010
Syngenta	GA21	Herbicide tolerant	2010
Monsanto	MON89034xNK603	Insect resistant Herbicide tolerant	2010
Monsanto	MON89034	Insect resistant	2010
Monsanto	MON810 x NK603	Insect resistant Herbicide tolerant	2007
Syngenta	Bt11	Insect resistant	2003
Monsanto	NK603	Herbicide tolerant	2002
Monsanto	MON810/Yieldgard	Insect resistant	1997