

**PHADIMA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
ASSOCIATION**

P.O. BOX 1379  
SKHUKHUNE  
072 744 6954  
1124

**SUBMISSIONS**

**TO**

**PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
AND LAND AFFAIRS**

**ON THE**

**GMO ACT**

**REPRESENTED BY**

**DINOGE FRANS KOMANE**

**CHAIRPERSON: PHADIMA**

## **1. Background information.**

My name is Frans Dinoge Komane. I am the Chairperson of Phadima. I have been a substance farmer in the past 15 years producing seasonal vegetable and crops while encouraging the members of my communities to collect, store and multiply their indigenous seeds.

Phadima is a community-based organisation, which was formed in 2000. it is consortium of eight projects from the Southern Region of the Northern Province. Its main aim being to improve the income and nutritional levels of the communities in the Southern Region by collecting, storing and multiplying indigenous seeds.

The programme was developed after members, of who mostly are handicapped, realized that there is a need to form a consortium or an umbrella body that will enable them to consult with the relevant institutions like the NGOs, Government and the Private sector. The consortium was also as a result of the need for collective bargaining, information accessing, training and support required for sustainability of the existing projects.

Member projects are producing seasonal crops, vegetables and indigenous seed security as their core productions

## **2. PHADIMA CONCERNS ON THE GMO ACT**

### **2.1. Lack of information**

We feel that we don't have information about GMO and policies. It is very difficult for us to give inputs on the Act. We still don't know the negative impacts of GMO's on our health, environment, economy and farming systems.

### **2.2. Costs**

GMO seeds are very expensive and required capital which we as the small-scale farmers don't have.

### **2.3. Contamination**

We are concern that the GMO's are going to contaminate our local seed varieties, which will make us dependent on the Big Company for seeds and market. GMO's will cause poverty as poor farmers we cannot buy the seed and as results, we will not be able to produce our own food.

## **3. Conclusion**

We want to know how Government will protect us from the negative impacts of GMOs? How will Government protect us from the high prices associated with GMOs? Will there be markets to sell our products to? Will consumers get sick from eating GMOs? What will happen in 10 years time when scientist discover that there is something wrong with GMOs, like DDT and other products?

We support Biowatch Submission on the GMO Act and will propose that Government must organize education and training workshops to inform us on the impacts of GMO

and who will be responsible for damage coursed by them. We will welcome the opportunity to expand and explain to you our submission because the time is short.

Thank you, honorable members.