



# My Food is African Seed Sovereignty Our Seeds Our Heritage **#GMOfreeZambia** Stop UPOV Farmers Rights My Seed is African

GMOs are organisms whose genetic material has been altered through genetic engineering techniques, such as inserting genes from one species into another to create specific traits like resistance to pests or herbicides. GMOs are 'patented' which means Farmers' Rights as enshrined in international law are blocked. Patents restrict the ongoing use, conservation, and development of genetic resources and agro-biodiversity, which is the foundation of the food system. Without ownership of seeds, farmers and countries lose food sovereignty.

## The Implications of GMOs in Zambia

- **Health Risks:** Long-term safety testing for GMOs is scarce and limited by industry involvement in scientific research and weakened regulation. Known health risks include disruptions to gastrointestinal, liver, and kidney functions, and long-term impacts on immune and reproductive systems.
- **Loss of Traditional and Heirloom Varieties:** GMO adoption results in the loss of traditional crop varieties and genetic diversity, reduced resilience to environmental crisis, whilst increasing food and nutrition insecurity.
- **Economic Impact on Farmers:** Zambia's GM-free status safeguards against contamination of local agro-biodiversity and protects local markets and export advantage. Opening to GMOs will undercut local farmers and result in a massive influx of GMO commodities.
- **Environmental Risks:** GMOs disrupt ecosystem functions, contaminate local biodiversity, and spread modified genes through cross-pollination, with large-scale environmental risks.
- **Corporate Control:** Four global agribusiness corporations dominate seed and agrochemical markets, controlling trade shares and research. Opening Zambia to GMOs will simply mean corporate control of Zambia's agriculture.

## What You Can Do

- **Grow, buy, and eat local food:** The My Food is African campaign celebrates the rich and diverse world of African cuisine while promoting the consumption and propagation of local crops grown sustainably through agroecology.
- **Support Food Sovereignty:** Conserve, share, and grow local seeds.
- **Stay Informed:** Understand the technology, its implications, and ongoing research and call for comprehensive labeling of GMO products.
- **Support Independent Research:** Encourage unbiased studies on GMO safety, and long-term effects on animal, human and environmental health.

***Protect your right to safe, accessible, sustainably grown food!***