

AFRICAN SITUATION ON GMO FREE REGIONS, BIODIVERSITY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

PRESENTATION DURING THE 3RD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GMO FREE REGIONS, BIODIVERSITY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT BY:

**TERESIAH W. NG'ANG'A
PROGRAMME OFFICER
PELUM ASSOCIATION- KENYA
Email: tnganga@pelum.net or
pelumkenya@pelum.net**

PELUM- Kenya.

1

3 May 2007

1.0 SEED IN THE AFRICAN CONTEXT & CLIMATE CHANGE



primary means of production



saving and breeding diverse varieties of seeds



planted diversity of crops



2

PELUM- Kenya.

3 May 2007

Integrating GMO free regions with Biodiversity and Rural Development

- Protecting and enhancing farmers seed diversity -.
- Future challenges - farmers in Africa all know that climate and weather has been changing. We have all observed the changes in the rainy seasons and more frequent droughts in Africa
- Farmers will need many different varieties at hand to be able to meet the challenges ahead, for example with drought-resistant varieties.
- Protecting and enhancing seed diversity is an important strategy for adapting to climate change

PELUM- Kenya.

3 May 2007

GM CROPS CAN NEVER BE COMPATIBLE WITH NON GM CROPS...

- The coexistence of GM crops and non GM crops is a myth. Movement of genes beyond their intended destination is a certainty.
- This will lead to genetic contamination of organic farms and other systems of farming in Africa.
- It is unlikely that genes can be retracted once they have escaped, thus the damage to the purity of non-GM seeds is permanent.

PELUM- Kenya.

4

3 May 2007

IMPACT OF GM CROPS IN AFRICAN AGRICULTURE...

- The greatest challenge that Africa is facing today is the pressure to introduce GM (genetically modified) crops and GM food aid.
- Our Governments are being strongly lobbied to accept the tools of modern biotechnology to purportedly solve poverty, hunger and malnutrition.



PELUM- Kenya.

3 May 2007

REALLY CHALLENGES IN AFRICA



Soil infertility



Unbalanced diet



Malnutrition



Poor farming systems

PELUM- Kenya.

6

3 May 2007


REALLY CHALLENGES IN AFRICA



Relief food dependency



Poor infrastructure



Prolonged drought



Effects of HIV/AIDS

PELUM- Kenya.

7

3 May 2007

GMO AWARENESS RAISING IN AFRICA

- CSOs in Africa have started to react in mobilizing and creating awareness about the impact of GMOs in Africa . Amongst them, the Africa Biodiversity Network (ABN)
- ABN has initiated and supported case studies on GE, IPR and Biosafety in six Anglophone African countries,
- In collaboration with its partner organizations, have held regional and in-country workshops to raise awareness and to develop strategies to resist the introduction of GMOs in the region.

PELUM- Kenya.

8

3 May 2007

REALLY SOLUTIONS TO OUR CHALLENGES



Range rehabilitation



Irrigation systems



Promoting indigenous foods

PELUM- Kenya.



Dairy Goat farming

9

3 May 2007

REALLY SOLUTIONS TO OUR CHALLENGES



Soil fertility programmes



Orchard farming



Tree planting

PELUM- Kenya.



Promoting drought resistant crops

10

3 May 2007

END



LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL