

From: Jay Byrne
Sent: Wed, 29 Jun 2016 00:14:08 +0000
To: Joseph Huesing; tpowell@usaid.gov; ewitte@usaid.gov; (b)(6)
 (b)(6)
Subject: Alert: More than 100 Nobel Laureates to release statement in support of modern agriculture practices and open letter condemning certain NGOs and governments for thwarting life-saving progress

Marcella, Joe, Tracy, Pace and Eric:

I wanted to give you a heads up about a significant announcement this Thursday by more than 100 Nobel Prize winners in support of GMOs and condemning Greenpeace, NGOs and governments who are delaying the advances of plant biotechnology, precision and modern agriculture...

If you would like to attend or send someone from your office I will have USAID, Ag and DoS listed on the approved list to attend, but please note **this information is not for public distribution until COB Wednesday**. We expect an exclusive news article to appear late Wednesday afternoon which we will immediately distribute and at which time any embargoes on the information will be lifted.

Please note all information here is provided for planning purposes only and strictly embargoed from any public publication or online posting.

MEDIA ADVISORY – PRESS CONFERENCE Thursday, 30 June 2016
-- 9:30 AM Eastern, National Press Club, Washington, DC
– FOR DAYBOOK PUBLICATION AND PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY

PRESS CONFERENCE AND MEDIA AVAILABILITY

What: More than 100 Nobel Laureates to release statement in support of modern agriculture practices and open letter condemning certain NGOs and governments for thwarting life-saving progress

Who: (b)(6)
 (b)(6) representing a group of more than 100 Nobel Prize winners across multiple disciplines who have signed an open letter and statement

Where: National Press Club
 Lisagor Room, 13th Floor
 529 14th Street NW (corner of 14th & F Streets, NW)
 Washington, DC

When: Thursday, 30 June 2016
 9:00 AM Eastern – a continental breakfast will be served
9:30 AM – remarks from the Laureates
 9:45 AM – questions and answers

NOTE: EVENT IS OPEN TO CREDENTIALLED MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA OR BY INVITATION ONLY
The event will be livestreamed. Please contact us for information about the webcast.

For more information contact:

Matthew Sabas, for Sir Richard Roberts

(b)(6)
(b)(6) @whwg.com

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Jay Byrne, president
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From: Tracy Powell
Sent: Mon, 13 Apr 2020 14:10:15 +0000
To: MacKenzie, Donald; (b)(6)@danforthcenter.org; Taylor, Nigel; Kiggundu, Andrew; Margaret Karembu; Tripathi, Leena (IITA); Ghislain, Marc (CIP-SSA); Tohme, Joe (CIAT-Travel); Russell Reinke (IRRI); Raul Boncodin (IRRI); Chambers, Judy (IFPRI); Komen, John; John Komen (b)(6)@gmail.com; (b)(6)@cgiar.org; (b)(6)@cgiar.org; Anthony M. Shelton; Douches, David; (b)(6)@msu.edu; Morven McLean; Andrew Roberts; Sarah Davidson Evanega; (b)(6)@cornell.edu; Kyetere, Denis (AATF); Tesfazion, Sofia (AATF); Okogbenin, Emmanuel (AATF); Abdourhamane, Issoufou (AATF); Kayode Sanni; Oikeh, Sylvester (AATF); Rishi Tyagi; Ravi Khetarpal; (b)(6)@apaari.org; Peter Raymond; Natalia Bogdanova; (b)(6)@africaharvest.org; Jay Byrne; Lawrence Kent; Brantley Browning; Alan Rennison; Melinda Belisle; Jos van Boxtel; Mark Edge; (b)(6)@corteva.com; Albertsen, Marc; (b)(6)@betterseed.org; (b)(6)@betterseed.org; (b)(6)@betterseed.org; (b)(6)@amseed.org; (b)(6)@worldcoffeeresearch.org; John McMurdy; Adam Cornish; Crowell, Samuel; Marcella Szymanski; Peterson, Chris - FAS; Griffith, Shoshana - FAS; Morgan, Jenny - FAS; Diane Wray-Cahen; Kwok, Shing - NIFA; Conner, Timothy - NIFA; Kaleikau, Edward - NIFA; Gonzalez, Otto - NIFA; Chou, Fan-Li - OCE; Laura Schreeg; Doherty, Julia M. EOP/USTR; Brent Wells; Traci Kantarski; McCammon, Sally L; Dietz, Jason; Patrick Cournoyer; Larry Beach
Subject: Extended through Fri (4/17): USAID "Biotechnology Officer" position

Dear Colleagues,

Just a quick follow-up message to flag that the application deadline for USAID's open "Biotechnology Officer" position ([LinkedIn notice here](#)) has been extended through this Friday (4/17) at 11:59pm (EST). Please circulate widely to anyone who may be interested/qualified.

Thanks, and I hope everyone is holding up well under the current circumstances.

Regards,
Tracy

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Tracy Powell <tpowell@usaid.gov>
Date: Wed, Apr 1, 2020 at 12:46 PM
Subject: USAID "Biotechnology Officer" position, app deadline this Friday (4/3)
To: Tracy Powell <tpowell@usaid.gov>

Dear Colleagues,

Apologies for the short notice, but I wanted to highlight that USAID is soliciting applications for a new "Biotechnology General Development Officer" position, with an application deadline of **11:59pm EST, April 3rd**. (Further info linked below. A number of other agriculture/food-security vacancies have also been posted.)

Please circulate widely to anyone who may be interested/qualified. Refer any questions to the POC named in the solicitation; I'm just the messenger on this!

Regards,
Tracy

----- Forwarded message -----
Date: Wed, Apr 1, 2020 at 12:26 PM
Subject: Share RFS jobs with your networks!

Happy April RFS,

Please take some time today to **share the RFS job opportunities** posted on LinkedIn. Many close this week! Below you will find the links to each of the posts, categorized by Center/Office:

Center for Ag-Led Growth:

[Biotech General Development Officer](#)

[Digital Specialist](#)

[Farmer-to-Farm Program Analyst](#)

[Private Sector Engagement General Development Officer](#)

[Production Systems General Development Officer](#)

[Senior Agricultural Analyst and Learning Advisor](#)

Center for Resilience:

[Knowledge Management Advisor](#)

[Senior Resilience Specialist](#)

Center for Nutrition:

[Senior Nutrition Advisor](#)

Policy and Analysis Office:

[Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist](#)

Please share as many of these postings with your networks as you can and be sure to keep an eye out on the [USAID Vacancy Announcements page](#) -- there are more jobs to come!

From: Jay Byrne
Sent: Thu, 31 Oct 2019 14:37:27 +0000
To: tpowell@usaid.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@cgxchange.org;
 (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@cgxchange.org; (b)(6)@fas.usda.gov; (b)(6)@fas.usda.gov;
 (b)(6)@fas.usda.gov; (b)(6)@fas.usda.gov; (b)(6)@fas.usda.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov
Cc: Joshua Gilder
Subject: FYI: Agroecology issues in Africa [Supplemental Information]
Attachments: At-A-Glance - Russian Interference.pdf

*Related to the challenge of disinformation, similar to that we've seen around the agroecology issue in Africa, I thought you might be interested in ICYMI the recent New York Times report on Russia's increasing investments in African media and related spaces with a note on their interest in influencing the agriculture sector. The NYT reporter notes the role of medio oligorch **Konstantin Malofeev** whom we've previously reported as being responsible for such anti-GMO advocacy as the **FACTOR GMO compoign**. We have seen on increase in Russian-influenced disinformation appearing in Africa on topics like GMOs ond vaccines, examples are available on our monitoring portal here.*

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/29/world/europe/africa-russia-sochi.html>

'A New Message': Russia Trains Its Propaganda Machine on Africa

Many of the players who drove Moscow's campaign for influence in the West are now backing Putin's African charm offensive.

PHOTO: President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia, center, with his counterparts Abdel Fattah al-Sisi from Egypt, left, and Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa at the Russia-Africa Summit in Sochi this month.Credit...TASS, via Shutterstock

By **Anton Troianovski**, Oct. 29, 2019

SOCHI, Russia — **Jose Matemulane** said he left his native Mozambique nearly two decades ago, spent years studying in St. Petersburg and saw the Russian soul. Now he's in the vanguard of Russia's new foray onto his home continent, where he is spreading the word **that working with Moscow to reduce the influence of Americans and other Westerners is in Africa's best interests.**

"The Russians have their own way of thinking different from the Western patterns," Mr. Matemulane said. "I used to tell people: Russians are nothing else than white Africans, white blacks."

Russia has been playing for power in Africa in recent years by sending arms, offering mercenaries, and cinching mining deals. More quietly, it has started to set up a low-profile infrastructure of political influence that bears echoes of the Kremlin's strategy in Europe and the United States. And it is already identifying African politicians and activists who will carry its message.

Deploying its international propaganda arms, the television channel RT and the Sputnik news agency, the Kremlin is honing this message: While Western Europe and the United States are continuing a centuries-old tradition of exploiting Africa, Moscow is ready to engage with Africa on mutually beneficial terms.

Russia is also benefiting from a desire by African countries to lessen their reliance on China, even as Moscow acknowledges that it cannot come close to matching Beijing's financial firepower.

PHOTO: The Russia Today studios in London.Credit...Sergey Ponomarev for The New York Times
 Mr. Matemulane runs a **think tank called Afric**, which describes itself on its website as "funded by donors with a common passion to foster Africa's development," without mentioning Russia. In an interview, though, Mr. Matemulane said the group was launched last year with support from a St. Petersburg businessman he declined to name.

Afric received prominent billing at a summit for dozens of African leaders hosted by President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia at the Black Sea resort of Sochi last week, and announced it would partner with a Russian propaganda specialist who had previously focused on the United States. It also drew the notice of Mamadou Koulibaly, a candidate for president of Ivory Coast in elections next year.

"I will ask them if they can introduce me to people with money who will help me," Mr. Koulibaly said of Afric. "This is important. A campaign needs money."

Moscow has already injected itself into [the geopolitics of Libya](#) and [the Central African Republic](#). Now it is looking for inroads in public opinion and the political elite across the continent.

Earlier this year, for example, Russia's ambassador to Ghana met with [Albert Kofi Owusu](#), the head of **Ghana's main news agency**, and discussed a proposal: **Might Mr. Owusu distribute stories from Tass, a Russian state-controlled news service, to newspapers, websites and television stations in the West African country?**

Mr. Owusu said the proposal made sense, especially since his agency was already sharing Chinese state media reports. In October, Mr. Owusu was here on Russia's glittering Black Sea coast, shaking hands with Mr. Putin.

"Very simple man, cool," is how Mr. Owusu described Mr. Putin, who held a brief meeting at the conference with **the heads of 11 African news agencies**.

Russian officials at the conference said that the Kremlin's RT and Sputnik would be glad to **host African journalists in Moscow for training courses on topics such as social media**.

PHOTO: Mr. Putin posed for a photo with the heads of African news agencies on the sideline of the summit. Credit...Pool photo by Mikhail Metzel

"We understand that getting to Moscow costs quite a bit of money, and this may well be too expensive for African newsrooms," Alexei Volin, Russia's deputy minister for communications and mass media, added after making the pitch. "We are ready to consider possibilities for RT and Sputnik specialists to organize courses on the ground in this or that African country."

Mr. Volin said **RT was ready to provide its suite of documentaries to African TV stations**. In addition to animal movies, the [library](#) includes features like "Drift It Like Putin's Driver" and "Coups R Us: American Regime Changes and Their Aftermaths."

Perhaps the most prominent figure in Russia's Africa push is [Yevgeny V. Prigozhin](#), the St. Petersburg businessman indicted by the United States for running the online "troll farm" that sought to sway the 2016 American presidential election, who is said to run a military contractor called Wagner that is involved in several African countries.

Another is [Konstantin Malofeev](#), a nationalist banker under American sanctions who has cultivated ties with far-right politicians in Europe and the United States, as well as pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine.

Mr. Prigozhin did not appear in public at the conference, but Mr. Malofeev had a stand right by the entrance showing off a new project: an agency promising to help African governments gain access to financing as an alternative to Western sources like the International Monetary Fund.

PHOTO: Yevgeny PrigozhinCredit...Mikhail Svetlov/Getty Images

Mr. Malofeev described the new organization, called the **International Agency for Sovereign Development**, as an economic approach to the ideological battle he's been fighting for a long time: breaking the Western world order. But it was the first time he's ever been involved with Africa, Mr. Malofeev said. Niger, Guinea and the Democratic Republic of Congo have already signed on to have the agency help them raise a total of \$2.5 billion, he said.

"I oppose **liberal totalitarianism**," Mr. Malofeev said in an interview in the private meeting room at his stand, under a portrait of Mr. Putin. "I'm against the global dominance of the Federal Reserve System."

Russia says the yearly volume of its trade with Africa has doubled to \$20 billion over the last five years, but that still pales in comparison to Africa's \$300 billion in trade with the European Union and \$60 billion with the United States in 2018.

In the West, Russia's messaging has sought to appeal to people disenchanted by the political mainstream — from opponents of immigration and same-sex-marriage on the right to critics of capitalism on the left. In Africa, Russia is similarly trumpeting itself as a protector of "traditional values," while also seeking to capitalize on Russia's Cold War past, when the Soviet Union sought to ally itself with opponents of post-colonial influence on the continent.

"Our cooperation, rooted in the period of the joint fight against colonialism, is strategic and longstanding," Mr. Putin told dozens of African leaders in Sochi gathered alongside him around a ring-shaped table.

Alexander Malkevich, a veteran of Russia's propaganda wars, founded an English-language website called **USAreally**, which tells the story of a declining America caught in the throes of violence. Now, he says, he spends about one-third of his time on Africa. His **Foundation for National Values Protection**, with a website available in English and French, argues that African countries are vulnerable to the same sort of Western meddling that Russian officials say undermined former Soviet republics like Georgia and Ukraine.

"We try to do our work honestly and address our partners with respect, rather than from above, like the caricature of Uncle Sam," Mr. Malkevich said.

Investigative journalists have reported that Afric and Mr. Malkevich's foundation are funded by Mr. Prigozhin, but Mr. Malkevich and Afric employees denied any connection.

PHOTO: Alexander Malkevich, a veteran of Russia's propaganda wars, said he now spends about one-third of his time on Africa. Credit...Elias Williams for The New York Times

Afric's Mozambique-born president, Mr. Matemulane, said it was in fact a different St. Petersburg-based businessman who helped him launch Afric, but declined to identify him. In Sochi, Mr. Malkevich and Mr. Matemulane appeared on a panel together and signed a "cooperation agreement."

"The Western system is broken," said **Clifton Ellis**, who is British and Jamaican, and moved to St. Petersburg recently, where he helps coordinate Afric's activities. "We have to fight the narrative that because Russia is involved, it's bad."

Afric — an acronym for Association for Free Research and International Cooperation — is building ties with African politicians and commentators while publishing articles that extol the benefits of cooperating with Russia. It has also invested heavily in election monitoring missions that mirror Russia's approach in its own elections: bringing in sympathetic foreigners who praise the votes' fairness and transparency, even as established Western organizations criticize them.

One of those, **Volker Tschapke**, the retired president of a small conservative German association called the **Prussian Society**, extolled Mr. Putin's re-election vote in March of last year. Since the summer of 2018, Mr. Tschapke has made five separate trips to Africa on behalf of Afric to observe elections in Zimbabwe, Madagascar, the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Africa and Mozambique.

"It was unimaginably great. In all the countries I visited, I saw truly perfect elections," said Mr. Tschapke, who acknowledges that he had no experience in election observation until last year. But he says the process is really so simple that "you just need a little instruction."

He added in a telephone interview from Berlin that he had heard rumors that Afric had received Russian start-up funding, but said he had no problem with that.

Major elections loom next year across Africa, including in Ghana, Burkina Faso and Burundi. Mr. Koulibaly, the candidate in Ivory Coast presidential elections next October, said he had already met with a Russian deputy foreign minister, **Mikhail Bogdanov**, as well as **with Russian agriculture and mining officials**. He said he would talk about Russia in his campaign as a potential economic partner that, for instance, can help Ivory Coast harness nuclear technology.

“My experience is that the Russian authorities I meet with want business,” Mr. Koulibaly said. “They don’t talk about ideology. They don’t talk about political control.”

African leaders have also taken notice of Russia’s expanded influence in the Middle East as a sign that Moscow is becoming a more formidable geopolitical player.

In an interview, Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, the foreign minister of Djibouti, ticked off countries that he said suffered as a result of misguided Western policies — Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Lebanon.

“Why shouldn’t we try a new approach? A new message?” Mr. Youssouf said. “Maybe Russia is the alternative.”

Russian Influence in Africa

- [Gems, Warlords and Mercenaries: Russia’s Playbook in Central African Republic, Sept. 30, 2019](#)
- [As Trump Wavers on Libya, an ISIS Haven, Russia Presses On, Feb. 7, 2018](#)

Anton Troianovski has been a Moscow correspondent for The New York Times since September 2019. He was previously Moscow bureau chief of the Washington Post and spent 9 years with the Wall Street Journal in Berlin and New York. [@antontroian](#)

A version of this article appears in print on Oct. 29, 2019, Section A, Page 4 of the New York edition with the headline: ‘A New Message’: Moscow Trains Its Propaganda Machine on Africa.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/07/world/africa/trump-libya-policy-russia.html?action=click&module=RelatedLinks&pgtype=Article>

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From: Google Calendar <calendar-notification@google.com> **On Behalf Of** tpowell@usaid.gov

Sent: Friday, May 17, 2019 9:22 AM

To: (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@cgxchange.org; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@cgxchange.org;

Jay Byrne <(b)(6)@v-fluence.com>; tpowell@usaid.gov; (b)(6)@fas.usda.gov; (b)(6)@fas.usda.gov;

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(b)(6)@state.gov

Subject: Agroecology issues in Africa (agenda added)

Page 010 of 220

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(4)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act.

From: Jay Byrne
Sent: Tue, 18 Feb 2020 21:16:46 +0000
To: Tracy Powell
Subject: Head up: Another anti-science group event scheduled for Kenya in August: 1ST GLOBAL CONGRESS ON SAFE FOOD & NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES (claims sponsored by USAID, FAO, WHO, etc.)
Importance: High

You will likely (if not already) hear about this given the alleged "sponsorship" by USAID.

The World Food Preservation Center is the same U.S.-based consulting group which held last year's "first ever" All Africa Congress on Pesticides promoting organic agroecology with presentations from Seralini, Hayes, et al in Kenya. They've just announced a new event with similar anti-GMO, anti-science speakers (e.g., Don Huber and Stephanie Seneff who claim glyphosate and GMOs cause autism, cancer, etc.). Their new "first ever" All African Congress on Safe Food & Diseases in Africa appears to be the same story under a different headline – this time **claiming they are sponsored by USAID, FAO, Kenya Ministry of Health, and the World Health Organization.**

Their previous events had similar early claims of "sponsorship" from major organizations like FAO, World Bank, ADB, etc. Most of which turned out to be false and the organizations contacted them to get their names removed and other credible stakeholders reached out to make sure responsible government officials did not participate.

Let us know if you need any additional background or information.

<https://www.congress.organicconsumers.co.ke/>

A congress designed to drive transformational change on Safe Food & Non-communicable Diseases in Africa and globally

14/02/2020 - Information & services

Kenya 26-28th August 2020

Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) are a leading cause of death globally, killing an estimated 40 million people annually. According to the World Health Organization (WHO). Noncommunicable Diseases were responsible in 2015 for 70% of the world's 56 million deaths, with 27% (15 million) dying prematurely (between the ages of 30 and 70). Over 80% of these premature deaths occurred in low- and middle-income countries.

WHO estimates that deaths from NCDs are likely to increase globally by 17% over the next 10 years, and the Africa Region will experience a 27% increase, that is 28 million additional deaths from these conditions which are projected to exceed deaths due to communicable diseases such as Malaria, HIV, Hepatitis C, Dengue, and Tuberculosis.

In order to characterize the causes and mobilize control strategies for Noncommunicable Diseases in Africa and globally, the World Food Preservation Center LLC in conjunction with the Noncommunicable Disease Alliance in Kenya, **Organic Consumers Alliance**, and Elea Africa have organized the "1st Global Congress on Safe Food & Noncommunicable Diseases" that will be held in **Nairobi, Kenya the 26-28th of August, 2020.**

More information

Email the Organizers

Web site and registration

Source

Dr. Charles L. Wilson, Founder/CEO World Food Preservation Center LLC

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<https://www.congress.organicconsumers.co.ke/>

Sub-Theme 1: Soil health, agrochemicals and NCDs

1. Use of synthetic inputs and how they are linked to NCDs
2. Linking production systems to food safety and NCDs
3. Seed inputs (hybrid, organic and GMOs seeds), productivity and the link to NCDs

Sub-Theme 2: Microbial food contamination and NCDs

1. Mycotoxins, and NCDs
2. Bacterial contamination and NCDs
3. Food production, handling and consumer practice link to food safety and NCDs

Sub-Theme 3: Food processing and NCDs

1. Industrial food processing, additives and NCDs.
2. Food preparation methods, additives, food safety and NCDs
3. Big data analytics as a solution to food safety and NCDs

Sub-Theme 4: Agroecology food systems as a solution to NCDs

1. Success stories of agroecology as a solution to NCDs
2. Organic food production, market access and the link to NCDs
3. A systems thinking approach to food safety, climate change mitigation and Health

Programme

- 1.
2. [HOME](#)
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 - [26Aug, 2020](#)
 - [27Aug, 2020](#)
 - [28Aug, 2020](#)

#	SESSION	SPEAKER(S)	TIME	V E N U E
1	PLENARY SESSION 1	08:00 AM - 10:00 AM	R O O M : A
2	SCENE SETTING/EDUTAINMENT - MC	<u>MC</u>	08:00 AM - 08:30 AM	R O O M A
3	WHY THE CONGRESS?	<u>PROF. CHARLES L. WILSON</u>	08:30 AM - 08:45 PM	R O O M A
4	PANEL DISCUSSION- MODERATOR	.....	08:45 AM - 09:45 PM	R O O M A
5	Q&A SESSION - MODERATOR	.....	09:30 AM - 10:00 AM	R O O M A

#	SESSION	SPEAKER(S)	TIME	V E N U E
6	TEA BREAK	<u>MC</u>	10:00 AM - 10:30 AM	R O O M : A
7	OFFICIAL CONFERENCE OPENING	<u>H.E. MARGARET KENYATTA</u>	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	R O O M A
8	SUB-THEME 1: SYNTHETIC AGROCHEMICALS (FERTILIZERS AND PESTICIDES) – MODERATOR	<u>DR. PETER O. MOKAYA</u>	11:30 AM - 01:00 PM	R O O M A
9	KEYNOTE ADDRESS: ZACH BUSH PRESENTATION: ADVANCING SAFE FOOD FOR A HEALTHY LIFE	<u>DR. ZACK BUSH</u>	11:30 AM - 12:00 PM	R O O M A
1 0	PANEL SESSION: FRAMING PANEL ON 'ADVANCING SAFE FOOD FOR A HEALTHY LIFE'	<u>DR. EVA NJENGA</u>	12:00 PM - 01:00 PM	R O O M A

#	SESSION	SPEAKER(S)	TIME	V E N U E
1 1	NETWORKING LUNCH – MODERATOR	<u>MC</u>	01:00 PM - 02:00 PM	R O O M D
1 2	SUB-THEME 1: SYNTHETIC AGROCHEMICALS (FERTILIZERS AND PESTICIDES)	(b)(6)	02:00 PM - 02:30 PM	R O O M B
1 3	KEYNOTE ADDRESS	<u>PROF. DON M. HUBER</u>	02:00 PM - 02:30 PM	R O O M A
1 4	KEYNOTE ADDRESS	<u>DR. STEPHANIE SENEFF</u>	02:30 PM - 02:25 PM	R O O M A
1 5	PANEL DISCUSSION	<u>PROF. JASPER IMUNGI, PROF. DON M. HUBER, MR. PETER OPIYO, DR. STEPHANIE SENEFF</u>	02:45 PM - 03:05 PM	R O O M B

#	SESSION	SPEAKER(S)	TIME	V E N U E
1 6	Q&A SESSION	.....	03:05 AM - 03:30 PM	R O O M A
1 7	TEA BREAK	.....	03:30 PM - 04:00 PM	R O O M A
1 8	BREAKOUT DAY 1	.....	04:00 PM - 05:30 PM	R O O M A
1 9	WELCOME COCKTAIL	.....	05:30 PM - 07:00 PM	R O O M B

From: Jay Byrne
Sent: Mon, 9 Jul 2018 15:54:40 +0000
To: Tracy Powell
Subject: Heads up: Research: Journal of Culture and Agriculture publishes claims that GMO development in Ghana is driven by allegedly racist Gates-ian development myths tied to neo-liberal globalization interests in colonizing African resources and usurping
Attachments: We are not starving.pdf

This may be of interest as it mentions USAID.

Research: Journal of Culture and Agriculture publishes claims that GMO development in Ghana is driven by allegedly racist Gates-ian development myths tied to neo-liberal globalization and agribusiness interests in colonizing African resources and usurping food sovereignty
July 9, 2018 **Source:** Journal of Culture and Agriculture | **Stakeholder:** Academic **Region:** Africa
URL: <https://anthrosource.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/cuag.12147>

Original Article: "We are not starving": Challenging Genetically Modified Seeds and Development in Ghana

First published: 03 June 2018; <https://doi.org/10.1111/cuag.12147>

By Joeva Rock; Joeva Rock holds a PhD in Anthropology from American University and is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Nutrition and Food Studies Program at New York University (2018–2019). Her research specializes in political ecology, development, and social movements.

[Analyst note: Joeva Rock also currently represents herself as doing research for the Greenpeace-affiliated NGO Thousand Currents which campaigns for GMO-banning agroecology policies in Africa.]

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"We are not starving": Challenging Genetically Modified Seeds and Development in Ghana

By Joeva Rock

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Abstract

In the last decade, the number of African countries researching and growing genetically modified seeds (GMOs) has increased fourfold. These efforts are backed by an international consortium of donors who broker agreements between biotechnology companies and African state scientists to lease genetic material for use. Given the involvement of African scientists, proponents argue that these projects are homegrown and necessary to feed the African continent.

However, in Ghana, where GM cowpea and rice are currently under field trial, both Ghanaian scientists and anti-GMO activists are unsatisfied with donor-constructed realities. Instead, these unlikely bedfellows challenge the discourses that circulate through international development circuits by pointing to a history of both colonial exploitation and sovereign dreams. By doing so, Ghanaian scientists and activists articulate **alternative visions for a food sovereign, postcolonial future**. [New Green Revolution for Africa, genetically modified organisms, Ghana, discourse, development]

"We are not starving": Challenging Genetically Modified Seeds and Development in Ghana

In June 2016, I sat with Susie, a program officer at the Ghana Association of Food Producers (GAFP; pseudonym), a nation-wide peasant farmer organization at the forefront of protests against genetically modified seeds (GMOs) in Ghana. We were discussing the donors—the **Gates and Rockefeller** foundations and the **U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)**—facilitating the campaign for GMOs across Africa, when Susie referenced an interview in the Wall Street Journal with Bill and Melinda Gates: The power that these people have over people is terrible... I was reading **Melinda and Bill Gates** during the World Economic Forum and [they said] the answer to African hunger is GMOs. I'm like, 'how do you know that? ... How do you know that is the answer to our hunger? And even who said we are hungry?' We are not starving. Eh? We are not starving.

Ghana has been embroiled in public contestation over GM crops since 2013. These crops— Bt cotton,¹ Bt cowpea, and nitrogen efficient, water efficient, salt tolerant (NEWEST) rice—have been lauded as "a science" ripe for countering the supposed "peculiarities of Africa, and therefore Ghana" (Gakpo 2017). Such efforts are part of the new Green Revolution for Africa, which is premised on technoscientific interventions to increase productivity throughout the continent.

The funders facilitating research and commercialization of GM crops across Africa hope that GMOs will rapidly increase crop yields in light of a growing population and changing climate. **Proponents in the Global North**—donors, scientists, academics, and officials— such as Purdue University president Mitch Daniels (2017) paint GM technology in a humanitarian light, arguing that "[denying] Africans... the benefits of modern technology is not merely anti-scientific. It's cruel, it's heartless, it's inhumane." Accusations of anti-science have long been used across Africa, where colonial administrators assumed "Africans lacked or possessed faulty knowledge" and thus could not comprehend "science" (Walley 2002, 277).

In Ghana, people like Susie are attuned to colonial legacies and the power donors wield to create narratives of, for instance, food insecurity despite evidence otherwise (Global Hunger Index 2016). **Unsatisfied with the fictional realities that donors construct (Ferguson 1994), Susie and her colleagues oppose GM crops** in part by challenging the discourses that circulate through international development circuits. While the Ghanaian state scientists and officials working on GM projects deride anti-GM activism, they also express concern over how donor s view them and their work.

In this article, I use data collected over 13 months of fieldwork (2014–2016) to explore this shared concern of donor dominance of anti-GM activists and pro-GM scientists, and the alternative futures they articulate. I spent a majority of this time with Susie and other GAFP officials in their Accra headquarters and at workshops, meetings, and field visits to farms around the country.

In exchange for research access, I assisted GAFP with their social media accounts. When I was not with GAFP or with farmers in the countryside, I attended events within the Accra development circuit. Here, I focused on meetings held by the Ministry for Food and Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI). MESTI is home to the National Biosafety Authority, the regulatory body in charge of overseeing applications related to GMO research and commercialization. I gained access to this group through gatekeepers and snowball sampling, and attended public and private events where I collected handouts, socialized during coffee breaks, and took notes of how speakers talked about GMOs.

Ethnographic research allowed me to understand GAFP, anti-GM activists and Ghanaian officials at a deeper level than was made available in public-facing texts such as press releases and news articles. For instance, while Ghanaian scientists and officials publically made bold claims about the yield potentials of GMOs, behind the scenes, officials doubted whether the technology was necessary. “We are able to feed ourselves,” one scientist working on GM crops remarked, referencing Ghana’s production levels, and noted that if the project failed, he would find other ways to do his work.

I focus my inquiry on discourse—the ideas and understandings that circulate across photos, texts, and language use—to describe the social, historical, and political realities in which speakers are embedded (Fairclough 2012). Interrogating language allows us to understand how, for instance, accusations of “anti-science” become racialized discourses, used not only to reflect the supposed “faulty knowledge” of Africans, but also to reinforce colonial power and knowledge structures (Pierre 2012; Walley 2002). Anthropologists have long been interested in how both the idea of development and the discourses that travel with development projects shape people’s understandings of themselves and the world (Escobar 1995; Pierre 2012; Pigg 1992). Some have argued that development design and discourse obscure the structural, political, and economic causes of poverty (Ferguson 1994, 2006; Gupta 1998). However, instead of arguing that supra-discourses shape development, Yarrow (2011) and others have shown how would-be subjects of the development apparatus work within and against dominant structures (Benton 2015).

Thus, following Lapenga (2014), I seek to **move past narratives of GMO resistance and instead show the social realities (Benton 2015) in which GMOs are embedded**. By comparing Ghanaian officials and activists, a general thread emerges; although these two groups have differing views on GMOs, both demand to be heard and included in development conversations rather than be cast aside as would-be recipients of interventions or capacity building projects (Droney 2016).

Greening the “Dark” Continent In 2013, Ghanaian scientists at the state Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) planted GM cowpea, cotton, and rice at research stations around the country. **The two food crop projects—cowpea and rice—were brought to CSIR by the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) who had arranged for U.S. companies Monsanto and Arcadia Biosciences to “donate” genes to the cowpea and rice projects** (respectively). Ghanaian scientists selected and sent varieties of cowpea and rice to the International Center for Tropical Agriculture in Colombia (rice) and the Australian Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (cowpea) to be modified. Once complete, the genetically modified lines were then shipped back to state scientists in Ghana for field research trials.

That same year, with the assistance of the **Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)**, Ghanaian Attorney General and Minister of Justice Marietta Brew Appiah-Opong introduced the Plant Breeders Bill into Ghanaian Parliament. The bill, an intellectual property rights instrument, extends exclusive patenting rights to plant breeders of new and novel varieties (Plant Breeders Bill 2013).

Both the AATF and AGRA are subsidiary organizations of the Rockefeller Foundation, who, in the early 2000s, decided that the supposed successes of the Green Revolution had not reached the African continent, and thus, a new revolution was needed (AGRA 2013, 1). To help achieve this, the Foundation started AGRA and AATF, both of which the Gates Foundation and USAID quickly joined as co-partners. AGRA’s mission is predicated on the idea that “African farmers need uniquely African solutions designed to meet their specific environmental and agricultural needs” (AGRA 2017). One of these “unique solutions” are GMOs, and the **AATF acts as a broker between biotechnology companies and African state scientific councils to facilitate joint research on GM crops** (Schurman 2016, 7, 12).

In her study of the origins of AATF, Schurman notes how **the Foundation’s creators sought to establish an illusion of an “African” demand and oversight of GMOs, so that the impetus would seem homegrown rather than foreign** (2016, 12). Writing on GM cowpea in Ghana, an official told Ignatova, “If Monsanto was the one pushing it, I’m sure that farmers would be a bit hesitant. Because it’s being pushed by their indigenous research institutions... that’s easier to accept” (Ignatova 2015, 105). Indeed, the AATF’s reach of influence has been impressive. Prior to the establishment of the AATF, just two countries south of the Sahara were growing GM crops; today, GMOs are found in commercial and research fields across nine countries.

It is this explosion of GM efforts that was at the heart of Susie’s response to the Gates interview at the beginning of this article. There, Bill Gates explained their hope for Africa: The Europeans have decided they don’t want to use it ... which is fine, they’re not facing malnutrition and starvation... If you want farmers in Africa to improve nutrition and be competitive on the world market, as long as the right safety things are done, that’s really beneficial. It’s kind of a second round of the Green Revolution. And so, the Africans I think will choose to let their people have enough to eat . (The Wall Street Journal 2016) Gates’ remark about “let their people have enough to eat” is reflective of three things. First, he implies that food security is a personal choice of leaders (and consumers) rather than a complex political-economic system. Second, **Gates suggests that genetic modification is a modernizing, poverty-relieving, humanitarian technology** (Glover 2010; Stone and Glover 2016).

Third, **Gates collapses the African continent into a singular starving place, a common discursive practice among proponents of GMOs and the New Green Revolution for Africa** (NGRA; Davidson 2012; Moseley, Schnurr, and Kerr 2015).

The suggestion that African governments and peoples can choose to “have enough to eat” is classic neoliberal positioning that overlooks the structural causes of poverty and insufficient food access, and instead blames marginalized communities for their predicaments (Guthman 2008; Harrison 2002; Reese 2016). **Anthropologists and activists alike have questioned GMOs as a humanitarian tool.** Glover (2010, 67) notes that **there is little evidence to back the claim that GMOs actually relieve poverty, and Gonzalez (2001, 102) suggests that proponents like Gates are on a “technological civilizing mission” to integrate countries into global seed markets rather than ease poverty.** Peasant movements across Paraguay, Mexico, and elsewhere have challenged the motives of donors and the biotechnology industry, and have largely been met with derision (Fitting 2013; Hetherington 2013; Lapenga 2014). In Costa Rica, state officials describe anti-GM activists as “uneducated” or “irrational” to “re-inscribe boundaries between ‘technical expert’ and ‘environmental activist’” (Pearson 2009, 730).

Such discursive boundaries are indicative of project planning and ideology. Within the NGRA, the larger project at hand, speakers create boundaries between agriculture as “development” and as “business.” For instance, Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank and 2017 World Food Prize Laureate, described the theory of change for the new Green Revolution as: After languishing for decades on the fringes of the global markets, **Africa is now being increasingly integrated into the globalization process... African countries need to ... [see] agriculture as a business and not as a development program.** This new vision must be focused on government encouraging and enabling the private sector to invest massively. (Adesina 2014)

For Adesina and others, **agriculture as a business entails increasing crop yields via agribusiness models of production, including the use of chemical fertilizers, hybrid and genetically modified seeds, and integrating farmers into regional and international value chains and markets** (Gengenbach 2017). As Moseley, **Schnurr**, and Kerr (2015) note, the assumption here is that African farmers are not already participating in global markets.

This assumption—certainly captured in Adesina’s comment—overlooks the continent’s long involvement in global markets, but this obfuscation constructs an important remoteness (Ferguson 2006; Holsey 2007; Rodney 1972). Similar to colonizing discourses, remoteness is used to excite investors while jointly propositioning investment as a humanitarian imperative. AGRA’s president Dr. Agnes Kalibata argues that an “economic and moral imperative [exists] to include millions more of Africa’s smallholder farmers in agriculture’s lucrative markets” (AGRA News 2015, 4–5). To facilitate private investment, African states must provide physical and legal infrastructure that allows for extraction (Adesina 2014; McMichael and Schneider 2011).

One aspect of this are private–public partnerships, such as the **GM projects**, wherein donors facilitate partnerships between private companies and state institutions.

For instance, in Ghana, both the Plant Breeders Bill and its predecessor, the Plant and Fertilizer Act (2010), are designed to allow for, and promote, the breeding of foundation seeds by the private sector, a task previously held solely by state breeders. As scholars have noted, **emphasis on the private sector is, in part, a function of neoliberal capitalism. Yet, private sector valorization also stems from racialized ideologies that designate African governments and state institutions as inherently corrupt** (Cooper 2002, 182; Wilson 2012).

This ideology, packaged in development projects and discourse, marks the state (and those working within it) as wasteful and undesirable, and elevates “investors,” “businessmen,” and “public private partnerships” to be the antithesis to a bloated, inadequate state. Similar to neoliberal reforms elsewhere, this anti-state model is correlated with development and modernity (Ferguson 2006; Ong 2006). Remarking on AGRA’s supposed successes, David Ameyaw, an AGRA official, told a journalist, “Africa is no longer in the dark. It has done a lot towards agricultural transformation in the past decade” (Esipisu 2016).

Arguments of Africa as dark, on the fringes and corrupt are racialized, meaning they rely on “the construction... and maintenance of racial categories and meanings” (Pierre 2012, 4). To that end, the NGRA neoliberal theory of change depends on discourses constructed by associating African agriculture with colonial “dark continent” narrative and emergence from such darkness with modernization (Pierre 2012; Walley 2002; Wilson 2012). Thus, such projects are linguistically predicated on understandings of Africans in need of intervention. However, this argumentation overlooks a history of agricultural commercialization in Ghana.

A History of Agricultural Modernization

In Ghana, **what is called “traditional” agriculture today is a relatively recent formation intimately tied to the trans-Atlantic slave trade**, during which Portuguese merchants and enslavers brought crops to the African shores, including maize and cassava, which quickly became staple crops throughout the region (Logan 2012). Centuries of the slave trade and subsequent colonial British rule (1821–1957) resulted in profound social, political, and agrarian changes. The colonial administration built its wealth through the exploitation of raw materials, including gold and cocoa, and colonial Ghana quickly became one of the world’s largest cocoa producers. When Ghana gained independence in 1957, president Kwame Nkrumah sought to transform an essentially monocrop economy (cocoa) into a modern agricultural nation by establishing agricultural and transport infrastructure (e.g., roads and silos), extending credit to peasant farmers, and establishing the CSIR (Biney 2011; Nkrumah 1961, 1963).

Today, most food crop farmers are smallholders— those with less than 2 hectares—and the country is self-sufficient in the production of staples including maize, cassava and yam (CDD 2011, 15; MOFA 2014, 41).

Statistics on food security differ. While the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (2013) and the Global Hunger Index (2016) marks the country as food secure, considerable regional disparities exist between northern and southern Ghana. For instance, while only three percent of rural Brong-Ahafo region is food insecure, 34 percent of the rural population in the Upper Western region is food insecure (Ham 2017, 242). These regional disparities are largely a result of colonial policies that have persisted through independence—the favoring of cocoa-producing southern Ghana and subsequent underdevelopment of infrastructure and resources in northern territories (Holsey 2007)—rather than unproductivity. However, as I explain below, Ghana’s relative good standing in food security indicators influences how Ghanaians talk about GMOs.

Ghanaian Food Sovereignty Activism

The Ghanaian Food Sovereignty Platform first began in 2013 as discussions about the Plant Breeders Bill emerged among policy analysts, lawyers, seasoned and young activists at the **Freedom Centre in Accra**, the meeting place of the **Socialist Forum of Ghana**.

These conversations quickly grew into a national network of organizations including: **Food Sovereignty Ghana, the Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana, the Center for Indigenous Knowledge and Organizational Development, the General Agricultural Workers Union, the Vegetarian Association of Ghana, the Rastafari Council, the Ghana Muslim Association, the Christian Council, the Catholic Bishops Conference**, and notable individuals such as **Samia Nkrumah** (politician and daughter of Kwame Nkrumah). The group has varying orientations to agriculture and GMOs, but they share a common objective—opposing the Plant Breeders Bill and immediate commercialization of GMOs— which they pursue under the unified umbrella of the Platform.

The adoption of “food sovereignty” was also a nod to the international food sovereignty movement organized under **La Via Campesina**, which advocates for peasant and small-scale farmers and agroecological practices (Edelman 2014). Interdisciplinary literature largely places agricultural commercialization a la the NGRA and GMOs at odds with food sovereignty efforts (Holt-Gimenez and Altieri 2013; McMichael and Schneider 2011; Thompson 2014). However, in Ghana, interlocutors do not see the two as inherently opposing.

Instead, rather than question the tools of the NGRA, activists question the viability and integrity of the governance structures behind these projects and the urgent humanitarian discourses in which the projects are based.

For instance, the **Ghanaian Platform** advocates for **two goals: an immediate moratorium on GM field trials in country and a withdrawal of the current draft of the Plant Breeders Bill**. Ghanaian activists are particularly opposed to Clause 9 of the bill, which defines a “plant breeder” as a resident or a “legal entity” registered in the country (Plant Breeders Bill 2013, iv–v). Given the broad definition of a plant breeder, activists worry that this clause will allow major biotechnology companies to apply for breeding rights and eventually dominate the market (Cleveland and Murray 1997). **For activists, the potential of foreign companies patenting local seeds is a continuance of an exploitative, racialized relationship of resource extraction between Ghana and the Global North** (Nkrumah 1965; Pierre 2012).

One day in GAFFP’s offices, Susie and I were discussing the Plant Breeders Bill when she interjected: “Legally he’s not allowed to share [the seed] with me! You understand? I mean this is just ... some other people have described it as something colonial. **It’s a new way of colonizing us, you know**, it’s a new way of taking over.” Susie trailed off, and when she picked up again, her voice was lowered: “They were here, [they] took away our ... great, great, great-grandfathers to go to America and farm and build their country for them.

Now they are so developed they are coming back here with what they have got, just to take away the little that we have, that we can call our own.”

Susie **describes development as a violent practice, situated squarely in a history of enslavement, its violent disruptions within West Africa and its role in developing the United States, so much so, that colonial enslavement is happening again**. “I think that people are brainwashed,” Nii, an activist and farmer said to me. “They are made to think that what they own, everything about them, is bad.

Especially those in the rural communities and the blacks.” He continued, noting how this impacted agriculture: “We are made to believe that our food is not good, the food that we used to feed our children is not nutritious.” Echoing Susie, Nii suggests that development interventions are racialized and create a situation wherein Ghanaian food and agricultural systems are denigrated as unhealthy.

In Ghana, as elsewhere, development is both desired and contested (Escobar 1995; Benton 2015; Pierre 2012), and Ghanaian activists articulate a future that excludes the very donors that set parameters for development. Such arguments were on display at a 2014 public forum held by the **Food Sovereignty Platform** in Accra. **Samia Nkrumah** opened the event by acknowledging her father’s vision for a sovereign Africa: It’s a vision that refuses to die. A vision for African freedom, African self-reliance, African self-sufficiency... and our ability to manage our own affairs ... This struggle against genetically modified foods, against the laws that will make it possible ...is closely linked to our struggle for genuine freedom.

Themes of independence and self-sufficiency carried throughout the day. Speaking after Nkrumah, a food sovereignty activist and NGO director explained to the audience: “If a country is so called ‘independent,’ and yet you cannot feed yourself, you have to depend on another country to feed you, then you are not independent, you are still being colonized ... our stomachs are being colonized!” Here, “feeding yourself” is reflective of both the state and the corporeal, and the ability to do so not dictated by choice as Bill Gates suggests (“letting their people have enough to eat”), but rather, by historical political-economic systems.

By naming and shaming the structural conditioning of Ghana’s supposed non-sovereign and undeveloped state, both speakers directly challenge discourses of the African continent—and African farmers—as deficient and unequipped for modernity.

Central to this is identifying the actors who activists believe stand in the way of achieving a self-reliant pathway to food security. In this case, donors were the focus of activists’ complaints, similar to Susie’s sentiments (“we are not starving”) that opened this article.

In November 2015, I stood outside the Law Court Complex — one of two judiciary centers in Accra—where **Food Sovereignty Ghana (FSG)**, a leading organization within the Food Sovereignty Platform, was giving a press conference. The group had just lost a case against challenging the legitimacy of GM rice and cowpea research on the basis of a technical error.²

The case, which took a better part of a year to hear, was the first time Ghanaian activists had challenged the legality of GMOs. Outside of the courts complex, **Edwin Kwaku Andoh Baffour**, FSG’s communications head, told reporters: We remain confident that the people of Ghana are not going to be swayed by the argument of science because there are no hungry people in this land. We produce more food than we need. Food rots. What we rather need is investment in roads, warehouses, manage post-harvest loss.

Edwin argues that basic infrastructure—rather than private investors or unique solutions—is required to achieve a food sovereign nation. Similar to Susie, by declaring “**there are no hungry people in this land,**” Edwin is not denying real challenges of food and nutritional access, but rather critiquing the development industry’s construction of Africa as a remote and hungry place (Ferguson 1994).

Thus, Ghanaian activists read suggestions of Africa needing GMOs as a marker of needy and inferior subjects (Trapp 2016). Both Nii and Susie speak of **alienation and inferiority that are reinforced by structural racism: imperialism, colonization, and the post-colonial, neoliberal world order** (Fanon 1952). By showing how feelings and constructions of inferiority are reflected on to land- and foodscapes (Guthman 2008; Ives 2014; Reese 2016), Susie and Nii indicate that race, power, and history are essential to the discussion of GMOs in Ghana. Activist statements captured in this section respond to development industry and global orders that continue to neglect Ghanaian agency.

However, unlike anti-GMO movements elsewhere that oppose globalization and neoliberalism (Fitting 2013), Ghanaian activists oppose neither. Nor are they opposed to agricultural modernization, technologies, or even the patenting of seed. Instead, Ghanaian activists propose to replace the Plant Breeders Bill with a document that explicitly protects farmers' rights to save, trade, and breed seeds, and that extends patent rights solely to Ghanaian breeders. Activists aim not to reject new technologies, but rather harness them for national good. Ghanaian scientists hold similar motivations.

Scientific Entanglements and "Imposed" Activities

The Ghanaian officials and scientists tasked with researching, regulating, and lobbying support for GMOs are a small group of bureaucrats and scientists housed in the CSIR, MESTI, and University of Ghana. Some officials have been part of GM efforts from early

on, while others are newcomers, integrated into projects by way of employment and/or interest. Over the course of multiple private and public meetings and interviews, I found a particular tension among this group: a joint acknowledgement that **genetic modification was a foreign technology**, but similar to scientists before them, a hope that it could be harnessed for national gain (Osseo-Asare 2014).

This was reflected by a concern, often expressed behind the scenes, that Samia Nkrumah was leading anti-GM protests. At a planning meeting I attended of the National Biosafety Authority, one Authority member balked while discussing Samia's activism, "[Kwame] Nkrumah built all this [CSIR] and you want to destroy it?" In public and private settings, many officials cited Kwame Nkrumah's (1965) vision of science as an anti-colonial tool as a personal motivator (Osseo-Asare 2014).

As I show in this section, despite Ghanaian officials entangled and complicated relationship with donors, they drew on Nkrumahist hopes that science and plant breeding could facilitate independence from donors.

"That man was 100 years ahead of his countrymen," a leading Ghanaian scientist and GMO proponent said to me as we sipped juice at a hotel in Accra. "[Nkrumah] had the foresight," she said, referencing a recent article by a Ghanaian policy analyst who argued that Nkrumah spearheaded research into genetic modification (Otokunor 2013).

Although Nkrumah predated genetic modification by a few decades, his vision of an agriculturally productive continent was a point of reference for many GMO proponents.

Unlike Droney's (2014, 365) study of Ghanaian herbal medicine scientists who believe they are "living after African science," Ghanaian officials believed genetically modified seeds (and their associated patents) could help fulfill Nkrumah's vision of a scientifically modern and sovereign state. In January 2017, soon after newly elected President Nana Akufo-Addo was sworn into office, John Dziwornu, the

vice president of the Ghana National Association of Farmers and Fisherfolk, and Rufai Ahmed Braimah (CSIR) published a letter to the new leader. 3

"Obviously Ghana is not a hungry country," they wrote, "As far back as 2013, it became evident that we had managed to meet the Millennium Development Goal on hunger reduction ... This is something the world rightly acknowledged us for achieving" (Dziwornu and Braimah 2017; FAO 2015). Dziwornu and Braimah continued, urging the president-elect to embrace GMOs to ensure continued food security.

As funders continued to use discourse marking Africa food insecure in general, Ghanaian officials grappled with how these discourses of food insecurity operate in a country that is widely food secure (Global Hunger Index 2016; MOFA 2013). This tension marked the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences' (GAAS) 2014 annual public forum. That year, the conference was dedicated solely to GMOs, and over three nights audiences packed the British Council in downtown Accra, eager to hear speakers discuss the new technology.

On the first night of the program, after a round of presentations by Ghanaian scientists, audience members took turn asking questions. One man asked Dr. Marian Quain, a presenter and scientist at CSIR, why CSIR was not researching GM maize. Dr. Quain explained that the current GM projects were brought to CSIR by AATF and that while maize was an important crop, funding was a challenge: We have to generate our own resource commitment to GM maize. And that is the problem I'm personally having now, because I also have GM sweet potato. I even just want to use it as training for capacity building. And because no organization is supporting it, I don't have funding to do it.

Dr. Quain's disappointment with the sweet potato project—the lack of institutional support and her desire to train young Ghanaian scientists—was palpable. She finally concluded, "we must commit funds to our research to solve our problems and not wait for someone to come and impose activities on us."

Dr. Quain's description of GM projects as "imposed" is notable, as proponents mainly discuss GMOs in terms of partnerships and local capacity. At the heart of this are patents and the Plant Breeders Bill, which proponents imagined would be a way for state scientists and research councils to gain revenue for their work. The more revenue the state councils were able to internally generate, one scientist said, the less they would have to "look for money all over the world."

Thus, the hope was that current GMO projects would set the foundations for GM research in Ghana and would allow for Ghanaian scientists to take advantage of expiring patents. At a 2016 workshop, one scientist told a room full of Ghanaian Members of Parliament that "a lot of [GM] patents have lapsed. Can we take them up now and develop them ourselves?"

Both Dr. Quain's presentation and the suggestion of lapsed patents indicate that genetic modification is a foreign technology, one that Ghanaian scientists could tap in to, but not necessarily generate on their own.

This tension reflects a reality never acknowledged in public: currently no Ghanaian lab is equipped to undertake genetic modification.

"One day," a national regulator said to me, "as experiences increase, a Ghanaian scientist may be brilliant enough to [genetically] modify a particular crop."

Until that day, Ghanaian GM projects will require technical and financial partnerships. The official's comment presupposes no Ghanaian scientist has know-how to genetically modify, though I heard otherwise from Ghanaian plant breeders. Regardless, the inability to genetically modify organisms in country raises questions about the sustainability of the projects, the likelihood of intellectual property rights being in favor of local breeders, and how revenue would flow. The genes "leased" for modification between CSIR and "donor" companies (Monsanto and Arcadia Biosciences, respectively) are "licensed ...royalty free for five years" (Schurman 2016, 7–8). After that, it is unclear what will happen to the byproducts made with those leased genes; agreements are not made public.

Still, the vision of Ghanaian scientists matters, and though Ghanaian professionals are very much entrenched in international donor and development networks, they regularly, albeit indirectly, critique the very webs in which they are entangled. **Proponents talk back to the Gates-ian idea of Africa as a starving, dire place and reject the humanitarian pro-poor international discourse surrounding GM crops by envisioning the state and state breeders to be equal beneficiaries of the technology.**

Conclusion

In this article, I have shown how **Ghanaian scientists, officials, and anti-GM activists share a desire for sovereign agricultural science and development.** As the ethnographic vignettes presented here demonstrate, anti-colonial utterances are not simply discursive tactics used by speakers; they are reflective of both contemporary life and imagined futures in postcolonial Ghana (Fanon 1952; Nkrumah 1965; Pierre 2012). Thus, it should not come as a surprise that Ghanaians critique and resist international discourses of Africa as a singular, starving place, insisting that assumptions of food deficiency may not be the best place to start conversations (Logan 2016; Reese 2016). It is this reality that Ghanaian scientists, officials, and activists call attention to when they write "obviously Ghana is not a hungry country," tell the press "there are no hungry people in this land," and declare "we are not starving." Ghanaian interlocutors demand to be recognized and included by development planners. In this way, Ghanaian scientists, activists, and officials carve ways to make their claims to the state, talk back to national and international development planners, and articulate visions of a food sovereign, agriculturally sufficient future.

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I thank my numerous Ghanaian interlocutors, who remain nameless to protect their privacy, but whose words line this article; in Accra, Francis Adi Sabarah and the Lustig Family; Drs. William Leap, Dolores Koenig, Adrienne Pine, and Rachel Schurman; UC **Berkeley's African Food Sovereignty Working Group**, who generously granted space to workshop this paper; Dr. Jacob Blanc, Laura Jung, Lindsay Bayham, and Brooke Pearson for their concise insights on this piece. I also thank the three anonymous reviewers for their robust and important feedback. Lastly, this research was generously funded by the **Wenner-Gren (Gr 9101) Foundation**, Fulbright-Hays Program, Explorers Club —DC, and American University.

Notes

1. Bt cotton was a joint venture between CSIR and Monsanto which stopped in 2016 after Monsanto withdrew funds.
2. Ghana's 2011 Biosafety Act requires the creation of a National Biosafety Authority to handle issues pertaining to genetic modification. At the time the case was filed, a Biosafety Committee existed, which

FSG argued was not equivalent to an Authority, and was thus in violation of the 2011 Act and the Cartagena Protocol.

3. Both Dziwornu and Braimah are graduates of the Cornell Alliance for Science, a multimillion dollar Gates Foundation initiative hosted at Cornell University that trains "science allies" on how to communicate issues related to biotechnology. Dziwornu and Braimah's letter was first published on the Alliance's platform.

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From: Jay Byrne
Sent: Tue, 29 Aug 2023 20:31:14 +0000
To: Tracy Powell; James Gaffney
Subject: Heads up: U.S. organic industry funded NGO known for attacking GMO supportive academics launches attack on AGRA (noting USAID funding)

FYI, this the type of "scene setting" posting that is usually followed by a series of articles teasing out various elements within the USRTK smear campaigns. Nothing particularly new here that hasn't already been shared via other attacks, but expect more to follow.

U.S. organic industry funded NGO known for attacking GMO supportive academics launches attack on AGRA: U.S. Right to Know posts FOIA and other documents criticizing the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africo funded by USAID, Gates and Rockefeller Foundotions for alleged agribusiness-interest linked policies August 29, 2023

Content Type: Stakeholder **Source:** U.S. Right to Know

Stakeholder: NGO **Region:** North America

URL: <https://usrtk.org/bill-gates/agra-documents/>

AGRA documents, evaluations

Posted: August 29, 2023 by [Stacy Malkan](#)

This page contains independent evaluations, strategy documents, country reports, and other information from AGRA (formerly the Alliance for a Green Revolution for Africa), a nonprofit supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, **USAID** and others that seeks to "transform" African agriculture by shifting farmers from highly diversified food production towards more specialized, market-oriented production involving a greater reliance on expensive inputs including synthetic fertilizer and commercial seeds.

With a recent [website update](#), AGRA appears to have removed much of this information from its website, including an [independent evaluation](#) released in 2021 that shows the 15-year effort to expand capital-intensive, high-input agriculture in Africa has largely [failed to achieve its goals](#) of improving food security. AGRA has not responded to questions about whether the documents will be posted. We provide them here for the public record.

Strategy documents

(b)(4) Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, The Rockefeller Foundation, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, USAID. 2017-2021 ([summary](#))

(b)(4)

Independent evaluations

(b)(4)

Mathematica, December 8, 2021 (b)(4)

(b)(4) February 2020

(b)(4) ITAD, January 7, 2020 (b)(4)

(b)(4) from ITAD evaluation document

Key findings of the 2015 independent institutional evaluation of AGRA; conducted by DAI, commissioned by the Gates Foundation. (From page 51 of the (b)(4) The Gates Foundation has refused to provide a full copy of this document and we have been unable to obtain it via FOIA.)

Country-specific outcome monitoring reports

PIATA 2019 Outcome Monitoring Reports:

[Uganda](#)

[Ethiopia](#)

[Ghana](#)

[Mali](#)

[Kenya](#)

[Malawi](#)

[Mozambique](#)

[Nigeria](#)

[Burkina Faso](#)

[Rwanda](#)

[Tanzania](#)

[Uganda operational plan 2018](#)

Briefing papers

[Feeding Africa's Soils: Fertilizers to support Africa's agricultural transformation, 2019](#)

[Soil health and climate change: Implications for food security in Sub-Saharan Africa, 2018](#)

[AGRA's Program for Africa's Seed Systems: The PASS Journey, 2017](#)

[Educating a new generation of African soil professionals, AGRA brief 1, August 2014](#)

AGRA Annual Reports

[2022](#)

[2021](#)

[2020](#)

[2019](#)

[2018](#)

[2017](#)

[2016](#)

[2015](#)

[2014](#)

[2013](#)

[2012](#)

[2011](#)

[2010](#)

[2009](#)

[2008](#)

Status reports

[Accelerating African Food System Transformation, 2022](#)

[A Decade of Action, 2021](#)

[The Hidden Middle: A Quiet Revolution in the Private Sector Driving Agricultural Transformation, 2019](#)

[Catalyzing Government Capacity to Drive Agricultural Transformation, 2018](#)

[The Business of Smallholder Agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa, 2017](#)

[Progress Toward Agricultural Transformation in Africa, 2016](#)

[Focus on Staple Crops, 2013](#)

[Investing in Sustainable Agricultural Growth, 2011](#)

[Progress Report, 2007-2016](#)

[Progress Report, 2007-2014](#)

Tax filings

[2018 IRS Form 990](#)

Alliance for a Green Revolution Forum (AGRF)

AGRF Declaration 2022

Seize the Moment Campaign, 2016

Other reports from Website materials

- Gates Foundation agriculture project in Africa flunks review

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From: Jay Byrne
Sent: Fri, 6 Jul 2018 17:02:44 +0000
To: Tracy Powell
Subject: Monitoring link which may be useful.

The links are on Bonus Eventus – so remember to login first to access.

- Find monitoring items: “direct action” reports here.
- This profile article is relevant to our discussion.
- Background on how Natural News’ Mike Adams created a “Hit List” here from GLP: FBI turns up heat on Mike Adams as 'Health Ranger' fiasco widens, plus Adams' archive and report by Discover here.
- Other recent F O I campaigns by related group which also has targeted USAID, Gates Foundation, et al. are from this person working for TWN & GP (who is almost certainly also associated with your requestor).

If you need an intro to academic attorney (b)(6) most familiar with this issue in the U.S. and how it’s used for intimidation and smear campaigns, at any point let me know.

Hope this is helpful. Feel free to reach out any time if we can be of assistance.

=====

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From: Jay Byrne
Sent: Mon, 13 Apr 2020 18:46:37 +0000
To: (b)(6); Tracy Powell
Subject: News reports claim Bt cotton in Mali being promoted for introduction by USAID and ag companies; opponents raising concerns citing Burkina Faso experience claims

ICYMI – we haven’t seen any official or other sources confirming what’s reported by Bamako here; however, this is getting syndicated in the region and is on the radar on the activists.

Mali’s *Bamako News* reports **USAID, Dow Agro**, other corporations have concluded five-year plan for introduction of Bt cotton into Mali, but some reluctant to embrace GM cotton in wake of Burkina Faso experience, where losses amounted to €70 million over five years ([see more](#))

If you have other intel/info on this that should be included in reporting and can let us know we can try to make sure facts are circulated and represented in other news coverage.

Jay Byrne, president
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Visiting our St. Louis Office? [Click here for details and directions](#) to 360 N. Boyle, 2nd Floor, St. Louis, MO 63108.

From: Jay Byrne
Sent: Fri, 22 Apr 2022 16:36:37 +0000
To: Tracy Powell
Subject: RE: Briefing to USAID biotech team members?

Too large to email – but you can access and download it here:

(b)(4)

I enjoyed interacting with your colleagues and hope we can stay connected with more frequency as pandemic restrictions allow.

Regards,
Jay

Jay Byrne, president
v-Fluence

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From: Tracy Powell <tpowell@usaid.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2022 11:19 AM
To: Jay Byrne <(b)(6)@v-fluence.com>
Subject: Re: Briefing to USAID biotech team members?

Thanks, Jay! Will do -- and if you're comfortable sharing your slides, feel free to send me the PDF/PPT attachment and I can archive for the team to access.

Regards,
Tracy

Tracy K. Powell, Ph.D.

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On Fri, Apr 22, 2022 at 12:18 PM Jay Byrne <(b)(6)@v-fluence.com> wrote:
If you want to send me contact info on the participants from today I can send them an invitation to receive reports and access the Bonus Eventus system.

Jay Byrne, president
v-Fluence

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From: Tracy Powell <tpowell@usaid.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2022 12:57 PM
To: Jay Byrne <(b)(6)@v-fluence.com>
Subject: Re: Briefing to USAID biotech team members?

Great! Thank you -- I've updated the invitation as suggested, and will send you a calendar invitation shortly for a Friday morning tech-check.

Regards,
Tracy

Tracy K. Powell, Ph.D.

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On Mon, Apr 18, 2022 at 1:53 PM Jay Byrne <(b)(6)@v-fluence.com> wrote:
Minor amendment suggested to title: "Briefing on global landscape of anti-biotech **stakeholders and tactics**" (advocacy might suggest narrower NGO focus, I'll be addressing NGO, political and commercial intersections).

Short bio blurb: Jay Byrne is president of v-Fluence – a global public affairs agency and founder of the Bonus Eventus network supporting favorable outcomes in food and agriculture through informed stakeholder engagement. His career spans more than 30 years with experience in public relations, campaign communications, and government affairs. He has held senior communications positions at the White House, U.S. Agency for International Development, and other commercial and government offices.

I probably have used Google Meet, but it's not something I use regularly. If you want to jump online for 5-10 minutes sometime that would be great. My afternoons this week (after 2) are all flexible or I can do this on Friday morning.

Jay Byrne, president
v-Fluence

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From: Tracy Powell <tpowell@usaid.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2022 12:22 PM
To: Jay Byrne <(b)(6)@v-fluence.com>
Subject: Re: Briefing to USAID biotech team members?

Hi Jay! Hope you're having a good start to your week. Just checking in to confirm this Friday's presentation, and touch base very briefly about online meeting logistics:

1. Please let me know if you have a preferred presentation title (if not, I can stick with my placeholder "Briefing on global landscape of anti-biotech advocacy")
2. Ditto if you have a bio blurb you'd like me to use.
3. Are you familiar with the GoogleMeet platform we'll be using? Let me know if you'd like to schedule a 10-minute tech-check sometime beforehand. It might be easiest for you to share any slides directly by sharing your screen during the presentation, but we can explore other options if necessary.

Looking forward to the discussion!

Regards,
Tracy

Tracy K. Powell, Ph.D.

Agricultural Research Advisor, Center for Agriculture-Led Growth
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On Tue, Apr 5, 2022 at 11:48 AM Tracy Powell <tpowell@usaid.gov> wrote:
Excellent, thank you! I'll circulate a placeholder calendar invitation shortly, and we can check in to confirm logistics as the date approaches. Let me know if/when you have a specific presentation title, and could you share a short bio when you have a moment?

Looking forward to the discussion! Have a great April in the meantime...

Regards,
Tracy

Tracy K. Powell, Ph.D.

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On Tue, Apr 5, 2022 at 11:35 AM Jay Byrne <(b)(6)@v-fluence.com> wrote:
If it's only remote, why don't we shoot for 4/22 at 11 am Eastern. I'll hold the slot.

Jay Byrne, president
v-Fluence

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From: Tracy Powell <tpowell@usaid.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 9:52 AM
To: Jay Byrne <(b)(6)@v-fluence.com>
Subject: Re: Briefing to USAID biotech team members?

No problem, Jay -- I myself am a prime offender when it comes to losing track of things like this (even in relatively calm times!), so I definitely understand.

USAID is teetering on the brink of returning to the office but hasn't taken the plunge yet, so unfortunately I think a virtual briefing would still be the best format to maximize participation. To get the ball rolling, here are a few potential times -- but feel free to suggest alternatives if these aren't convenient for you:

- Monday (4/11) -- noon-5pm EDT
- Wednesday (4/22) -- 11am-5pm EDT
- Monday (3/25) -- 3-5pm EDT

Very excited to hear the latest updates, as well as acquaint new team members with the underlying, longstanding dynamics in this space! Hope you're doing well in the meantime.

Regards,
Tracy

Tracy K. Powell, Ph.D.

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On Tue, Mar 29, 2022 at 5:24 PM Jay Byrne <(b)(6)>@v-fluence.com> wrote:
My apologies Tracy – I too lost track of this and ball was in my court. These are busy, busy times...

Again, I'm more than happy to do a briefing and can schedule coming in around your schedule – I think you originally mentioned something online, my preference is in person now that we're trying to get back to a little bit of normalcy, but am happy to do a hybrid or all online if that's the only option.

I've been trying to be back in our DC office at least once a month so if you want to suggests some dates/windows that would be best for you I can work around your schedule when I make my plans to be in DC for April and May.

Your list of topics works for me – we've been updating our materials and evolving analyses. The big take-away (which I think we conveyed last time we met) has been the full conflation and major increase in volume of ag-biotech with chemical pesticide risk issues. You cannot talk about managing ag biotech (including NBTs) and not address pesticide (mis)information as well. NBTs and gene editing are not getting the free pass under the radar that they hoped for, but there are some interesting openings as well as challenges there. Broader socio-economic anti-corporate (anti-capitalism, free trade, and U.S.) themes have also grown steadily and are more and more influential in all regions. Geo-political influence linked to agriculture (and intersecting on multiple ag-biotech fronts) of course is dominated right now by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and what role China will play vis-à-vis global grain trade. Like I said, busy times...

As for adding colleagues to our system resources and content distribution reports just let me know who and what topics – we can add as many people as you'd like. We have several new daily and weekly reports available – let me know if you'd like to discuss and we can get on a call.

Regards,
Jay

Jay Byrne, president
v-Fluence

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From: Tracy Powell <tpowell@usaid.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2022 3:27 PM
To: Jay Byrne <(b)(6)@v-fluence.com>
Subject: Re: Briefing to USAID biotech team members?

Hi Jay!

Sorry, I lost track of time on this query... just following up to see if there's a good time in the coming weeks to give that briefing.

FYI, I've also received some interest from other inter-Agency colleagues about joining. Would you be open to presenting to a somewhat larger group of USG staff who engage around biotech policy issues, beyond the small core of USAID's biotech team? (Likely mostly USDA and DoS, but possibly a few other stray participants.) I'm very open to your suggestions, but thinking back to past presentations I've seen you give, I think there would be particular interest in learning more about current trends in:

- global networks & funding flows on ag-biotech outreach/advocacy
- motivations & approaches of diverse actors that aim to influence global public discourse / social media around ag-biotech
- emerging tactics & messaging

I'm happy to chat or provide further information if it would be helpful. Hope you're having a good spring!

Regards,
Tracy

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On Thu, Feb 10, 2022 at 5:22 PM Tracy Powell <tpowell@usaid.gov> wrote:
Fantastic! Thanks, looking forward to it.

Regards,
Tracy

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On Thu, Feb 10, 2022 at 5:21 PM Jay Byrne <(b)(6)@v-fluence.com> wrote:
Happy to schedule something Tracy – let me just review calendar and come back to you with some windows.

Jay Byrne, president
v-Fluence

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From: Tracy Powell <tpowell@usaid.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2022 3:23 PM

To: Jay Byrne <(b)(6)@v-fluence.com>
Subject: Briefing to USAID biotech team members?

Dear Jay,

I hope you're having a good start to 2022! I'm reaching out to see if you might be willing to deliver one of your briefings on the global landscape of anti-biotech advocacy to USAID/RFS's ag-biotech team. The details are very flexible, and open to your input -- I'm imagining an informal ~1-hr online webinar, sometime in the next several weeks, to a fairly small USAID audience of individuals who engage significantly on international biotech programming, with lots of opportunity for Q&A. (You'd basically be a "guest star" at one of our team meetings.)

For context on my end -- Here at USAID, I am (much to my relief) no longer weathering an extended staffing bottleneck on my own, and have been thrilled to welcome some new staff to the Bureau for Resilience & Food Security's ag-biotech team over the past year or so. Some arrived with extensive professional experience in this area already -- while others are relative newcomers to the unique global context of ag-biotech. Particularly as I bring the latter group up to speed on supporting USAID biotech programming, I've been missing the pre-COVID learning opportunities normally afforded by sending them to meetings and conferences, and am looking for alternate opportunities to expose some of my new colleagues to key contextual information. You sprang instantly to mind! (You delivered a similar briefing at USDA a few years back that I found particularly eye-opening when I first started supporting this portfolio.)

Let me know if you might have bandwidth to come e-visit us over the coming few weeks, and feel free to reach out by e-mail or phone with any questions. In the meantime, have a great rest of the week!

Regards,
Tracy

Tracy K. Powell, Ph.D.

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From: Jay Byrne
Sent: Mon, 12 Dec 2016 17:16:08 +0000
To: Tracy Powell
Cc: Paul Tanger; (b)(6)
Subject: RE: FW: New User Registered on Bonus Eventus

Thanks and sorry I didn't connect directly with Paul at the meeting.

Paul – feel free to create an account at (b)(4) (“request membership” form on right side of login page) and we’ll approve your access. We’ll add you to our **daily plant biotech monitoring snapshot** and **weekly cross-topic “good news” summary reports**. You can unsubscribe anytime by clicking the unsub link on those emails if you don't want to receive.

Please feel free to contact me our anyone on our team (Shae Johnson is our VP and senior plant biotech team lead) with any questions, comments or requests.

Best regards,

Jay

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Jay Byrne, president
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From: Tracy Powell [mailto:tpowell@usaid.gov]
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2016 10:57 AM
To: Jay Byrne <(b)(6)@v-fluence.com>
Cc: Paul Tanger <(b)(6)@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: FW: New User Registered on Bonus Eventus

Thanks, Jay -- I've been enjoying the summary e-mails, but your presentation last week reminded me that I hadn't set up my account yet!

As an FYI, in case you didn't meet him at the PBS event on Tuesday, we have a new hire named Paul Tanger (cc'd) who will be working with USAID's biotech portfolio. We're still waiting for him to get his official badge/clearance and usaid.gov e-mail address, but once he does, he'll be submitting a membership request, too. (Sounds like you prefer to work on a referral basis, so I wanted to put in a plug for him!)

-Tracy

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On Mon, Dec 12, 2016 at 11:50 AM, Jay Byrne <(b)(6)@v-fluence.com> wrote:
Tracy – you should be all set with access to BE; let us know if you have any questions, comments or requests.

Best,

Jay

=====

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From: Tracy [mailto:tpowell@usaid.gov]

Sent: Monday, December 12, 2016 10:42 AM

To: (b)(6)@bonuseventus.org; Nina Shariff <(b)(6)@v-fluence.com>; Jay Byrne <(b)(6)@v-fluence.com>

Subject: New User Registered on Bonus Eventus

New User Registered for an account on Bonus Eventus. Here are the login details of new user account:

Username : (b)(4); (b)(6)

Email : tpowell@usaid.gov

(b)(4)

From: Tracy Powell
Sent: Tue, 2 Jan 2018 19:33:02 +0000
To: Jay Byrne
Cc: (b)(6) Josh Gilder SMTP
Subject: Re: FYI: Uganda issues intel updates

Thank you, Jay! Appreciate you keeping close tabs on the situation.

Regards,
Tracy

Tracy K. Powell, Ph.D.
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On Tue, Jan 2, 2018 at 2:28 PM, Jay Byrne <(b)(6)@v-fluence.com> wrote:

I know you and your colleagues are aware of the developments over the holiday in Uganda around the pending biosafety bill. We are working closely providing supplemental analysis and support to PBS and their team, but wanted you to know you can follow our monitoring reports here: (b)(4) (summary of reported content included below). We have supplemental analysis we're sharing with the PBS team on how the story unfolded online and sources (including some "fake news" profiled sites) which were clearly seeking to amplify the early reports with supplemental disinformation to make them worse than the original Museveni letter to shape the resulting public dialogue.

Supporters of sound science applications to public policy in our network have been alerted, are reacting and active promoting favorable supportive content with key Ugandan stakeholders via social media to counter misinformation. (b)(4)

(b)(4) Do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or requests.

News summary:

Commentary: Nnimmo Bassey of anti-GMO Health of Mother Earth Foundation writes for Nigerian business news outlet, voicing concern that Nigeria will be "flooded" with GMOs in 2018, praises Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni's refusal to sign Uganda's biosafety bill

January 2, 2018 **Source:** Business Day | **Stakeholder:** NGO **Region:** Africa

| **Favorability:** Negative

URL: <https://www.businessdayonline.com/will-nigeria-flooded-gmos-2018/>

Will Nigeria be flooded by GMOs in 2018? JANUARY 2ND, 2018 Do Nigerians know what the safety level of foods on their dining tables would be in 2018? That is a trillion Naira question. The short answer is no. We give two quick reasons for this. A reading of the body language of the permitting

News: NTV Uganda reports **disappointed reaction from scientists to Museveni rejection of biosafety bill**; NARO claims President was misguided by anti-GMO activists

December 30, 2017 **Source:** NTV Uganda | **Stakeholder:** Media/News **Region:** Africa

| **Favorability:** Neutral

URL: <http://www.ntv.co.ug/news/local/29/dec/2017/president-museveni-rejects-gmo-bill-21592>

NTV Uganda Published on Dec 29, 2017 VIEW FULL REPORT VIDEO President Yoweri Museveni's refusal to assent to the Biotechnology and Bio-safety bill which Parliament passed in October 2017 has left some scientists deeply disappointed. The proposed law sought to consolidate all regulatory frameworks that facilitate the safe development and application of biotechnology and providing mechanisms to

Commentary: Isaac Ongu of Cornell Alliance for Science notes Ugandan President Museveni's letter reveals anti-biotech activists have his ear on National Biosafety Bill, raising same issues opponents raised; notes Museveni wants research, regulatory authority for GMOs moved to his office

December 29, 2017 **Source:** Cornell Alliance for Science

| **Stakeholder:** Academic **Region:** North America | **Favorability:** Favorable

URL: <https://allianceforscience.cornell.edu/blog/uganda%E2%80%99s-president-challenges-nation%E2%80%99s-new-gmo-bill>

Uganda's President challenges nation's new GMO bill Friday, December 29, 2017 By Isaac Ongu In the early morning hours of Dec. 27, a scanned copy of a letter purportedly from Uganda President Yoweri Museveni's office started popping up on social media. The letter — addressed to Speaker of Parliament Rebecca Kadaga — challenged some aspects

News: Ugandan news site reports **producers want to use GM crops as part of solution to pest, disease plagues**; critics argue large corporations want to control food production through GMOs

December 29, 2017 **Source:** PRI | **Stakeholder:** Media/News **Region:** Africa

| **Favorability:** Neutral

URL: <https://www.pri.org/stories/2017-12-29/amid-drought-and-pests-can-gmos-save-ugandas-farmers>

Development & Education Amid drought and pests, can GMOs save Uganda's farmers? GlobalPost December 29, 2017 · 10:15 AM EST By Julian Hattem Uganda is, quite literally, a banana republic. The east African country is the world's second-largest banana producer, and every day Ugandans consume an average of 1.5 pounds of bananas each. Long, green plantains

News: Xinhua reports on Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni's refusal to sign Biosafety law allowing GMOs, due to concerns about contaminating indigenous crops and patents

December 29, 2017 **Source:** Xinhua | **Stakeholder:** Media/News **Region:** Africa

| **Favorability:** Neutral

URL: http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-12/29/c_136860111.htm

Syndicated by The Guardian, Vanguard, News Agency of Nigeria, Coastweek, and PM News. Ugandan president refuses to sign biosafety bill into law Source: Xinhua| 2017-12-29 18:46:55|Editor: Yurou KAMPALA, Dec. 29 (Xinhua) — Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni declined to sign a bill into law which allows genetically modified organisms (GMO) into the country, a parliament spokesperson said Friday. Chris Obore,

News: Uganda Grapevine reports Museveni refuses to sign food "corrupting" GMO bill citing concerns over mixing with indigenous crops, labeling and patents

December 28, 2017 **Source:** The Grapevine | **Stakeholder:** Media/News **Region:** Africa

| **Favorability:** Negative

URL: <http://www.thegrapevine.co.ug/2017/12/28/museveni-refuses-to-sign-gmo-bill-that-seeks-to-corrupt-the-food-we-eat/>

AGRICULTURE: MUSEVENI REFUSES TO SIGN GMO BILL THAT SEEKS TO CORRUPT THE FOOD WE EAT By Grapevine President Yoweri Museveni has declined to

sign into law a bill on the development and application of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) technology in the country. The National Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill, 2012 seeks to provide a regulatory framework

News: Uganda Soft Power news channel amplifies reports President Museveni seeking biosafety bill revisions; adds quotes of concern of GMO monopoly over organic, need for precautionary measures and concerns about EU trade impact

December 28, 2017 **Source:** Soft Power | **Stakeholder:** Media/News **Region:** Africa
| **Favorability:** Negative

URL: <https://www.softpower.ug/museveni-wants-law-on-gmos-revised-to-protect-indigenous-varieties/>

Museveni Wants Law On GMOs Revised To Protect Indigenous Varieties BY PAUL AMPURIRE President Yoweri Museveni has expressed concern over the recently passed National Biosafety Act 2017 warning that genetically modified crops could contaminate the indigenous ones which Ugandan farmers have developed over the years. The law is intended to provide a legal and regulatory

News: Uganda's Daily Monitor reports on President Museveni's decision not to sign Biosafety Bill into law, sending it back to Parliament to examine patent rights of indigenous farmers and sanctions for mixing GMOs with indigenous crops and animals

December 28, 2017 **Source:** Daily Monitor | **Stakeholder:** Media/News **Region:** Africa
| **Favorability:** Mixed

URL: <http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Museveni-declines-to-sign-GMO-bill-into-law/688334-4243964-wfynm9z/index.html>

This article was syndicated via numerous regional news services including allAfrica, Business Daily, NTV and News Africa. The Business Daily also reported on this topic. Museveni declines to sign GMO bill into law THURSDAY DECEMBER 28 2017 [Image] President Museveni has declined to sign into law the National Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill, 2012. FILE PHOTO In Summary The Government of

News: Ugandan news outlet reports on President Yoweri Museveni's letter to Speaker of Parliament Rebecca Kadaga, voicing concerns with Biosafety Law, specifically regarding patents and mixing of GM seeds with traditional seeds

December 28, 2017 **Source:** Chimp Reports | **Stakeholder:** Media/News **Region:** Africa
| **Favorability:** Mixed
URL: <http://chimpreports.com/museveni-punches-holes-in-biosafety-law-in-letter-to-kadaga/>

Syndicated by The Uganda Today. AGRICULTURE Museveni Punches Holes in Biosafety Law in Letter to Kadaga By Alfred Opio Posted on December 28, 2017 [Image] A COLLAGE OF PRESIDENT YOWERI MUSEVENI AND REBECCA KADAGA President Yoweri Museveni, who is waiting to sign the controversial National Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill into law, has written to the Speaker of

Statement: Text of Museveni letter to Parliament addressing issues with proposed biosafety bill

December 27, 2017 Biotech, Biotech Related, Biotech Related—Economics (socio-political) Africa,uganda biosafety bill

Source: | **Stakeholder:** GOV **Region:** Africa | **Favorability:** Mixed **URL:** n/a

(Text of original PDF circulated on social media channels – available here – including misspellings and errors as written in original document) PO/17 21st December, 2017 Rt. Hon. Rebecca A. Kadaga Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda KAMPALA THE BIO-SAFETY LAW I am writing in connection with the “Bio-Safety Law” which, in fact, means “genetic

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Jay Byrne, president

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From: Jay Byrne
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 4:28 PM
To: (b)(6)
(b)(6); 'Tracy Powell' <tpowell@usaid.gov>
Cc: Josh Gilder SMTP (b)(6)
Subject: Update: Gene drive FOIA campaign by anti-GMO NGOs

Several participants at our meeting asked us about the recent attack on gene drives as part of our tracking of advocacy around NBTs. I couldn't recall which people specifically asked but thought you'd know who at your agencies would be interested.

On December 1st a coalition of anti-GMO NGOs led by ETC Group and the Third World Network released claims that FOIA'd emails revealed a conspiracy by the U.S. military with multinational organizations including the Gates Foundation and Monsanto to covertly influence policy-making at the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity to allow gene drive technologies (characterized as "genetic extinction" weapons and "extreme genetic engineering") to be released without appropriate regulation or review of potential consequences. This campaign is an extension of an ETC Group led SynBio Watch coalition involving dozens of anti-GMO NGOs with financial support from EU anti-GMO foundations and U.S. natural products companies. A

summary of NGO opposition to NBTs (including gene drive technology) (b)(4) (and attached), with links to profiles of the key NGOs involved included.

(b)(4)

Monitoring summary (latest to earliest):

Commentary: German anti-GMO news site amplifies ETC Group's report on emails it obtained demonstrating U.S. military and Gates' Foundation's interest in gene drive technology, highlights concerns about potential ecological consequences

December 12, 2017 **Source:** Informationsdienst Gentechnik | **Stakeholder:** Media/News
Region: Europe | **Favorability:** Negative
URL: <https://www.keine-gentechnik.de/nachricht/32890/>

Automated translation. US Military and Gates Foundation pushing for Gene Drives 12/12/2017
A US military research facility has so far invested \$ 100 million in the development of Gene Drives. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, with the help of a public relations firm, is trying to get the United Nations on a Gene Drive friendly

News: AAAS Science Magazine writer questions ETC Group-led coalition FOIA campaign conspiracy allegations over regulating gene drives; Gates Foundation funded academics and NGOs response implies anti-GMO NGOs using "nefarious" claims to thwart open dialogue and achieve stated goal of moratorium

December 12, 2017 **Source:** Science Magazine | **Stakeholder:** Media/News
Region: North America | **Favorability:** Neutral
URL: <http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2017/12/there-really-covert-manipulation-un-discussions-about-regulating-gene-drives>

Is there really a covert manipulation of U.N. discussions about regulating gene drives? By Jon Cohen It had scandal written all over it. Disclosed emails revealed that a covert coalition lobbying for relaxed regulations around a genetic extinction technology, with help from a well-funded public relations firm, Emerging Ag, was attempting to game the system and

News: **Russian state-sponsored Sputnik Radio** amplifies ETC Group (called a "human rights watchdog") FOIA campaign claiming US military investing in "genetic extinction" technologies turning gene-drives into "ethnic weapons"; contrasts with quotes from **Vladimir Putin** noting responsible development of technology in Russia

December 11, 2017 **Source:** Sputnik | **Stakeholder:** Media/News

Region: Europe | **Favorability:** Negative

URL: <https://sputniknews.com/military/201712111059884236-darpa-genetic-research-united-nations/>

DARPA Genetic Extinction Research a Mistake – Human Rights Watchdog CC0, MILITARY & INTELLIGENCE 04:35 11.12.2017(updated 09:07 11.12.2017) The US advanced military research body – DARPA – announced that it will invest tens of millions of dollars into genetic extinction research. While the official aim of this research is said to be fighting harmful insects,

Commentary: **ETC Group's** Silvia Ribeiro writes for Mexico's La Jornada, examines emails obtained by ETC Group and Third World Network showing U.S. military and Gates Foundation's investment in gene drives, argues the **technology presents an unacceptable threat**

December 11, 2017 **Source:** La Jornada | **Stakeholder:** NGO

Region: South America | **Favorability:** Negative

URL: <http://www.jornada.unam.mx/2017/12/09/opinion/023a1eco>

Syndicated by La Haine. Saturday, December 9, 2017 US Army, Gates and Monsanto behind transgenics to extinguish species Silvia Ribeiro * Through requests for access to public information, a group of civil society organizations, including the Third World Network and the ETC Group, obtained more than 1,200 emails from researchers from public universities in the United

Commentary: Motherboard VICE writers question Nature's illegal hacking characterization of Edward Hammond and TWN gene drive FOIA tactic

December 11, 2017 **Source:** VICE | **Stakeholder:** Media/News

Region: North America | **Favorability:** Neutral

URL: https://motherboard.vice.com/en_us/article/d3x7z7/nature-editorial-juxtaposes-foia-email-release-with-illegal-hacking-gene-drive

'Nature' Editorial Juxtaposes FOIA Email Release With Illegal Hacking: One of science's most important publications assumes science journalists don't know how to do their jobs. By Jason Koebler & Sarah Emerson Private emails between scientists working on a controversial genetic technology called "gene drive" were released last week. Obtained through a Freedom of Information Act

Commentary: Navdanya International official writes for Italian alt news site, says U.S. military, large companies and foundations invest millions in gene drive tech, claims they manipulate scientific debate on technology that puts the environment at serious risk

December 8, 2017 **Source:** Comune | **Stakeholder:** NGO

Region: Europe | **Favorability:** Negative

URL: <https://comune-info.net/2017/12/dichiarazione-guerra-alla-biodiversita-del-pianeta/>

This article is syndicated on Navdanya International. Biodiversity thieves now are serious Ruchi Shroff | December 8, 2017 by Ruchi Shroff * The US military, large private companies and foundations are investing hundreds of millions of dollars on "gene drive" technology, which includes, among the various applications, the targeted extinction of living species deemed harmful to humans. This is

Commentary: Navdanya's (Vandana Shiva) Seed Freedom asserts "Gene Drives Files" show U.S. DARPA spending \$100 million on accelerating research into gene drive technology, Gates Foundation paying PR firm to influence UN CBD's discussions on technology as opponents call for international moratorium on technology

December 7, 2017 **Source:** Seed Freedom | **Stakeholder:** NGO

Region: Asia | **Favorability:** Negative

URL: <http://seedfreedom.info/gene-drive-extinction-technology-is-a-war-against-the-planet-and-biodiversity/>

Gene drive extinction technology is a war against the planet and biodiversity On December 7, 2017 Navdanya International, 7 December 2017 Hundreds of millions of dollars are being invested by U.S. Military, companies and foundations on gene drives, a highly controversial technology aimed at genetic extinction. This is what emerges in The Gene Drives Files

News: Fast Company amplifies anti-GMO NGO "Independent Science News" report that emails obtained from University of North Carolina show Gates Foundation paid PR firm to influence UN's moratorium on gene drive technology, which allows for editing of genes in order to cause extinction in an animal species

December 7, 2017 **Source:** Fast Company | **Stakeholder:** Media/News

Region: North America | **Favorability:** Neutral

URL: <https://www.fastcompany.com/40504380/the-gates-foundation-hired-a-pr-firm-to-influence-the-uns-gene-drives-policy>

12.06.17 Report alleges the Gates Foundation funded a PR firm to influence the UN's gene drives policy Emails obtained from the University of North Carolina through a Freedom of Information Request show that the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation helped fund a PR firm to try to influence the UN's moratorium on the controversial new

News: U.K.'s Verdict reports on release of emails showing U.S. DARPA investing \$100 million in gene drive technology in bid to reduce numbers of malaria-carrying mosquitoes, notes UN Convention on Biological Diversity debating whether to halt research on gene drive technology next year

December 7, 2017 **Source:** Verdict | **Stakeholder:** Media/News

Region: North America | **Favorability:** Neutral

URL: <https://www.verdict.co.uk/darpa-gene-drive-technology/>

7th December 2017 The US is investing in gene drive technology — should we use genetic engineering to eliminate disease? Scarlett Evans Scarlett is a freelance writer and journalist Emails released this week under freedom of information rules show that the US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (Darpa) is investing \$100 million in gene drive

Commentary: The **Bulletin of Atomic Scientists** amplify Guardian reporting on anti-GMO ETC Group FOIA campaign claims that U.S. military investing in "genetic extinction" technologies via gene drives

December 7, 2017 **Source:** The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists | **Stakeholder:** NGO

Region: North America | **Favorability:** Neutral

URL: <https://thebulletin.org/darpa-invests-100-million-gene-altering-technology11331>

WHAT WE'RE READING 7 DECEMBER 2017 DARPA invests \$100 million in gene-altering technology By Elisabeth Eaves Once scientists discovered a way to permanently transform a given population of organisms, it was only a matter of time until governments and militaries started exploring what they could do with the technology. In 2012, researchers first discovered the

Commentary: Nature editorial emphasizes importance of continued scrutiny of gene-drive technology by scientists, argues recent email release by NGOs is an "unfair attempt to create damaging and polarizing spin," notes it could damage trust in scientists

December 7, 2017 **Source:** Nature | **Stakeholder:** Academic

Region: North America | **Favorability:** Favorable

URL: <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-017-08214-4>

EDITORIAL 05 DECEMBER 2017 Gene-drive technology needs thorough scrutiny Scientists must continue to play their part in pointing out the potential environmental dangers. PDF version At a meeting in Montreal, Canada, this week, scientists and green campaigners will be among those discussing how a gene-editing technology could influence the environment. And although it might not

Commentary: **March Against Monsanto** amplifies media reports about alleged attempts by Gates Foundation to manipulate UN decision-making process regarding gene drives, claims GM technology could be used to kill entire species, calls on gene drive opponents to submit comments via online forum

December 6, 2017 **Source:** March Against Monsanto | **Stakeholder:** NGO

Region: North America | **Favorability:** Negative

URL: <https://www.march-against-monsanto.com/gates-foundation-secretly-paid-experts-to-manipulate-un-over-gene-drives/>

Gates Foundation Secretly Paid "Experts" to Manipulate UN Over Gene Drives By Marcus Dorsum On December 5, 2017 FOIA requested emails recently revealed a conspiracy between the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and a PR firm named Emerging Ag, to get a secret coalition of academics to pull strings and manipulate a United Nations decision

Commentary: Gizmodo reports on **ETC Group claims that DARPA investment in gene drives lacks transparency**, but counters that defense agency has been significant voice warning about gene drive risks

December 6, 2017 **Source:** Gizmodo | **Stakeholder:** Media/News

Region: North America | **Favorability:** Negative

URL: <https://gizmodo.com/why-darpa-is-investing-big-in-gene-drives-1821028638>

Why DARPA Is Investing Big in Gene Drives By Kristen V. Brown One day scientists could use technology like gene drive to engineer away pests like mosquitoes. IMAGE: Getty Images A powerful and controversial new genetic engineering technology called a gene drive offers the potential to drastically reshape our world by overriding natural selection. And the US

News: [Russia Today \(RT\) amplifies ETC-Group conspiracy claim that U.S. military investing in gene drives to create weapons from plants and animals](#)

December 6, 2017 **Source:** RT | **Stakeholder:** Media/News

Region: Europe | **Favorability:** Negative

URL: <https://www.rt.com/usa/412019-pentagon-darpa-gene-drive/>

Pentagon revealed as top funder of controversial gene editing tech RT: 6 Dec, 2017 07:34 The US military is the world's top funder of a controversial gene editing technology capable of altering global ecosystems. Emails obtained by an environmental advocacy group show that the Pentagon has been secretly funding 'gene drive' studies. Over 1,200 emails

News: [Survivalist conspiracy news site reports secretive U.S. military agency investing \\$100 million in gene drive research, calls it genetic extinction technology, predicts report will heighten tensions ahead of UN expert committee meeting on gene drive technology this week](#)

December 5, 2017 **Source:** SHTF Plan | **Stakeholder:** Media/News

Region: North America | **Favorability:** Negative

URL: http://www.shtfplan.com/headline-news/us-military-invests-in-doomsday-genetics-technology-my-main-worry-is-that-we-do-something-irreversible_12042017

This article was syndicated on Global Research. US Military Invests In 'Doomsday Genetics' Technology: 'My Main Worry Is That We Do Something Irreversible' Mac Slavo December 4th, 2017 SHTFplan.com Amid United Nations fears that genetic extinction technology could be used by militaries, a United States military agency has invested \$100 million in the doomsday biological

News: AFP reports working group under UN's Convention on Biological Diversity reviewing gene drive technology that holds promise of eradicating malaria-bearing mosquitoes, with **critics warning against potential military use of technology**

December 5, 2017 **Source:** Agence France-Presse | **Stakeholder:** Media/News

Region: Europe | **Favorability:** Neutral

URL: <https://sg.news.yahoo.com/genetic-tool-doom-species-under-un-review-152302379.html>

This article was syndicated on Phys.org. Genetic tool that can doom a species under UN review Marlowe HOOD AFP News 5 December 2017 For some, a new cutting-edge technology called gene drive is the silver bullet able to wipe out invasive species decimating island wildlife, and eradicate the malaria-bearing mosquitos that killed nearly half ...

Commentary: **Corporate Europe Observatory** NGO highlights release of "Gene Drive Files," claims they reveal how external actors with vested interest in development of gene drives trying to influence work of UN CBD's Ad-Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology

December 5, 2017 **Source:** Corporate Europe Observatory | **Stakeholder:** NGO

Region: Europe | **Favorability:** Negative

URL: <https://corporateeurope.org/food-and-agriculture/2017/12/gene-drive-files-reveal-covert-lobbying-tactics-influence-un-expert>

Gene Drive Files reveal covert lobbying tactics to influence UN expert group December 3rd 2017 This week, a UN expert group is meeting to address issues around so-called gene drives, a highly controversial genetic extinction technology with potential applications for agricultural, conservation or military use. The expert group (officially the Ad-Hoc Technical Expert Group, AHTEG,

News: New Zealand Herald reports on U.S. military's interest in local research on gene drives to eradicate predatory rats, Landacre Research's Dan Tompkins noted importance of addressing concerns, as some see conservation use as a backdoor for ag applications

December 5, 2017 **Source:** New Zealand Herald | **Stakeholder:** Media/News

Region: Oceania | **Favorability:** Neutral

URL: http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11952874

NEW ZEALAND The Big Read: What happened when one expert killer was visited by the US military's science agency 4 Dec, 2017 6:15pm [Image] Possums, rats and stoats are predators that cause severe impact to native flora and fauna – and it's possible genetic technology could kill them all. By: David Fisher Senior writer, NZ Herald

Commentary: Alt-health marketer and conspiracy writer **Mike Adams** amplifies claims U.S. developing genetic extinction weapons to exterminate populations on demand; claims Africans and blacks will be targeted

December 5, 2017 **Source:** Natural News | **Stakeholder:** Commercial

Region: North America | **Favorability:** Negative

URL: <https://www.naturalnews.com/2017-12-05-darpa-developing-genetic-doomsday-weapon-exterminate-populations-gmo-wmd.html>

DARPA developing "genetic doomsday" weapon to exterminate populations on demand...
GMOs to become WMDs Tuesday, December 05, 2017 by: [Mike Adams](#) (Natural News) The U.S. military agency known as DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) is investing \$100 million into so-called "genetic extinction technologies" that could be deployed to exterminate targeted human populations. Emails acquired under

Commentary: **Sustainable Pulse** amplifies gene drive FOIA attack claiming U.S. military engaged in genetic extinction technology research promoted by Gates Foundation at CBD

December 6, 2017 **Source:** Sustainable Pulse **Stakeholder:** NGO

Region: Europe **Favorability:** Negative

URL: <https://sustainablepulse.com/2017/12/04/gene-drive-files-show-us-military-as-top-funder-of-genetic-extinction-technology/#.WjBRO0qnE2w>

Gene Drive Files Show US Military as Top Funder of Genetic Extinction Technology

News: Germany's Frankfurter Rundschau reports Gates Foundation spent \$1.6 million to recruit gene drive advocates to influence UN-convened expert group on synthetic biology, prevent moratorium on gene drives called for by 170 groups including **Friends of the Earth International**, **La Via Campesina**

December 5, 2017 **Source:** Frankfurter Rundschau | **Stakeholder:** Media/News

Region: Europe | **Favorability:** Neutral

URL: <http://www.fr.de/wirtschaft/gates-foundation-lobbyarbeit-fuer-gentechnik-statt-fuer-gerechtigkeit-a-1400391>

Auto-translation from German. Lobbying for genetic engineering instead of justice The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is officially fighting for more justice in the world, while financing a

public relations firm to help break up controversial genetic engineering. 03.12.2017 By Kathrin Hartmann Crispr / Cas 9 – behind this acronym is a technology that promises incredible

Commentary: French NGO Inf'OGM's Christophe Noisette amplifies ETC Group's release of 1,200 documents showing U.S. military funding for research on gene drives, and Gates Foundation's lobbying activities to promote their use, notes Inf'OGM will continue its analysis

December 4, 2017 **Source:** Inf'OGM | **Stakeholder:** NGO

Region: Europe | **Favorability:** Negative

URL: <https://www.infogm.org/6405-forcage-genetique-finance-armee-us-fondation-gates?lang=fr>

Automated translation. United States – Genetic Fortification Funded by the Army and the Gates Foundation PDF VERSION by Christophe NOISETTE Publication date: 4 December 2017 Following a lawsuit, the NGO ETC Group managed to obtain 1200 documents that show, in particular, that the US military heavily funds research on genetic forcing and that the Bill and

News release: ETC Group announces over 1,200 released emails reveal U.S. military is the top funder of gene drives, as well as Gates Foundation's \$1.6 million lobbying campaign, highlights allegations that PR Firm Emerging Ag seeks to influence UN discussions

December 4, 2017 **Source:** ETC Group | **Stakeholder:** NGO

Region: North America | **Favorability:** Negative

URL: <http://www.etcgroup.org/content/gene-drive-files>

Amplified by GMWatch. The news release was also syndicated on Sustainable Pulse, Organic Consumers Association. The Gene Drive Files Disclosed Emails Reveal Military as top funder. Gates Foundation paying \$1.6 million to influence UN Expert Process Submitted on 04 December 2017 WASHINGTON, D.C. —Over 1,200 emails released under open records requests reveal that the U.S. military is now the

Commentary: Anti-GMO NGO “Independent Science News;” Jonathan Latham criticizes Gates Foundation for hiring PR firm Emerging Ag to allegedly manipulate UN decision-making process on gene drives, according to FOIA-obtained emails

December 4, 2017 **Source:** Independent Science News | **Stakeholder:** NGO

Region: North America | **Favorability:** Negative

URL: <https://www.independentsciencenews.org/news/gates-foundation-hired-pr-firm-to-manipulate-un-over-gene-drives/>

Amplified by GMWatch. BIOTECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT, NEWS DECEMBER 4, 2017
Gates Foundation Hired PR Firm to Manipulate UN Over Gene Drives by Jonathan Latham, PhD
The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation this year paid a PR firm called Emerging Ag \$1.6 million to recruit a covert coalition of academics to manipulate a UN decision-making process over gene drives, according to emails

Commentary: ETC Group-led SynBio Watch post alleges FOIA campaign reveals major U.S. military role in gene drive development; cites connections with Monsanto, "spooks" and targeting of Africans with "nefarious" and "dual-purposes" gene drives to "militarize" the environment

December 2, 2017 **Source:** SynBio Watch | **Stakeholder:** NGO

Region: North America | **Favorability:** Negative

URL: <http://genedrivefiles.synbiowatch.org/2017/12/01/us-military-gene-drive-development/>

Gene Drive Files Expose Leading Role of US Military in Gene Drive Development.
DECEMBER 1, 2017 BY ADMIN A trove of emails (The Gene Drive Files) from leading U.S. gene drive researchers reveals that the U.S. Military is taking the lead in driving forward gene drive development. Emails obtained through a freedom of Information request by U.S.-based

News Release: ETC Group-led SynBio Watch press release claims FOIA reveals Gates Foundation PR firm "secretly" stacked UN expert panel to prevent CBD moratorium for "extinction technology" gene drives; allegations include "covert" collaboration with governments and U.S. military

December 2, 2017 **Source:** SynBio Watch | **Stakeholder:** NGO

Region: North America | **Favorability:** Negative

URL: http://genedrivefiles.synbiowatch.org/2017/12/01/gates_foundation_pr/

Gates Foundation paid PR firm to secretly stack UN Expert process on controversial extinction technology DECEMBER 1, 2017 BY ADMIN Documents received under Freedom of Information requests reveal that the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation 2 paid a private agriculture and biotechnology PR firm \$1.6 million 1 for activities on Gene Drives. This included running a covert 'advocacy coalition' 3 which appears to have

Commentary: David King, credited as one of the founders of the anti-GM food campaign, writes for The Ecologist, summarizing successes in the movement over the past 20 years, looking ahead to future challenges in opposition to gene editing

December 1, 2017 **Source: The Ecologist** | **Stakeholder: NGO**

Region: Europe | **Favorability:** Negative

URL: <https://theecologist.org/2017/dec/01/anti-gm-food-campaign-celebrates-20-years-success-we-cant-be-complacent-argues-dr-david>

The anti-GM food campaign celebrates 20 years of success – but we can't be complacent David King 1st December 2017 The Big Gene Gathering took place Herefordshire during 1997 and the following December the UK's anti-GMO movement was born. DR DAVID KING has been an activist in the movement since the beginning. Here, he explores

Commentary: Third World Network amplifies article by Edward Hammond of Prickly Research on International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture's (ITPGRFA) meeting in Kigali, Rwanda, examining its decision on genetic sequence information

November 21, 2017 **Source: Third World Network** | **Stakeholder: NGO**

Region: Asia | **Favorability:** Negative

URL: N/A

Title : TWN Info: Plant Treaty to Address Genetic Sequence Information Date : 2017-11-21
Contents: TWN Info Service on Biosafety, Sustainable Agriculture, IP, Biodiversity and TK 21
November 2017 Third World Network www.twn.my Dear friends and colleagues, The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) has decided to begin serious work

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Jay Byrne, president

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From: Tracy Powell
Sent: Fri, 15 Jan 2021 21:15:42 +0000
To: Jay Byrne
Cc: Faith Bartz Tarr; Marc Gilkey; Jeff Latzke
Subject: Re: Global Biotech Updates for new team members?

Thank you, Jay!

Regards,
Tracy

Tracy K. Powell, Ph.D.
Agricultural Research Advisor, Center for Agriculture-Led Growth
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On Fri, Jan 15, 2021 at 10:14 AM Jay Byrne <(b)(6)@v-fluence.com> wrote:

Tracy - Happy to add any of your colleagues to access the Bonus Eventus resources and daily biotech newsletter; *as a USAID alumnus it's the least I can do*. I hope you are all healthy and safe as we start the New Year.

Faith/Marc – you will receive an invitation email from BonusEventus.org in addition to being added to the daily global biotech update and our weekly highlights newsletter. The daily update can be a bit of a fire hose – **if you want to stop receiving it at anytime just let us know and we'll change your subscription account**. Otherwise, **if you unsubscribe for any one of our newsletters the system will unsubscribe and block you from receiving all other newsletters, emails or alerts** we share.

Once you get your introduction letter you just need to create your login (you can do this anytime) by filling out the request form at (b)(4) – once we receive your request we'll approve it (typically w/in a few hours during normal U.S. business hours) and you'll be able to login and access our news monitoring system, archives, stakeholder research platform and other resources.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions, comments or requests.

Regards,

Jay

Jay Byrne, president

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From: Tracy Powell <tpowell@usaid.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2021 9:49 AM
To: Jay Byrne <(b)(6)@v-fluence.com>
Cc: Faith Bartz Tarr <fbartz@usaid.gov>; Marc Gilkey <mgilkey@usaid.gov>
Subject: Global Biotech Updates for new team members?

Dear Jay,

Happy New Year! I hope you're well, and weathering the dismaying circumstances unfolding in/around the Capitol lately, as well as the broader disruptions of COVID over the past months.

I'm reaching out because USAID's biotechnology team is growing! I'd like to briefly introduce two new members: Faith Bartz-Tarr and Marc Gilkey (cc'd). **Both would like to start subscribing to the daily Global Biotech Updates/Bonus Eventus updates list; would it be possible to add them?**

Hopefully the world will return to a semblance of normality at some point this year, and I'll have an opportunity to make introductions in person! In the meantime, thanks, and please let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,

Tracy

Tracy K. Powell, Ph.D.
Agricultural Research Advisor, Center for Agriculture-Led Growth
Bureau for Resilience & Food Security

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