

Zimbabwe urged to lift ban on growing genetically modified food

From poultry products to fish, potatoes to apples, Johnson Moyo, a primary school teacher in Bulawayo, has come to enjoy what many Zimbabweans once considered the finer things in life.

While such foodstuffs might be part of a normal grocery list elsewhere, for Moyo and many poorly paid civil servants like him they were luxuries that have only recently become affordable for the “average man,” as he puts it.

The reason lies in the provenance of the food: it is imported, and some of it is farmed using genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Moyo knows, and he doesn't mind.

“These items are relatively cheap,” Moyo said. “They are keeping my family fed.”

The cheaper alternatives to locally grown food are particularly welcome in a country where agricultural mismanagement has combined with drought, believed related to climate change, to create chronic food shortages.

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