

Rwanda inches towards embracing GMO crops as part of long-term modernization plan

[The Rwandan] Parliament approved the relevance of a draft law governing biosafety, which aims to address the potential risks associated with genetically modified organisms (GMOs), protect biodiversity, and preserve the integrity of the environment, according to the government.

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Rwanda's Vision 2050, according to an explanatory note of the bill, aims at ensuring high quality standards of living for all Rwandans while targeting attainment of upper middle-income country status by 2035 and high-income status by 2050. In view to achieve this vision, there is progression of the development and application of biotechnology.

Currently, it added, the trend is in genetic engineering for the production of pharmaceuticals, industrial materials and agriculture.

Despite advancements in the development and application of biotechnology, the explanatory note indicated, there are broad concerns about the potential risks resulting from modern biotechnology that may have an adverse effect on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and human health.

The draft law, through which the government seeks to address identified issues, is composed of five chapters and 34 articles.

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