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"Quotable Quotes"

BIOTECHNOLOGY AND BIOSAFETY IN UGANDA



Quotable Quotes: Biotechnology and Biosafety in Uganda

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Preface

Quotable Quotes: Biotechnology and Biosafety in Uganda is the first publication to highlight the opinions and words of notable personalities in Uganda, who have added their voices to many, to support the need for Uganda to regulate and/or use modern biotechnology to advance its national agenda. Some have appreciated that modern biotechnology has a lot to offer Ugandans especially in transforming agricultural outcomes, promoting sustainable environmental management, and strengthening the human and animal drugs manufacturing industry. Others call for enacting the relevant legislation to avoid unregulated introductions and use in Uganda. The words of the people presented in this short pamphlet, are words of champions for a nation on the move; a nation that seeks to harness the safe use of science and technology to make its people healthier and wealthier. We hope that these words will resonate to others and can become part of a country-wide message of hope, resilience, and commitment to uplift Ugandans, through empowering citizenry to make informed decisions for sustained impact.

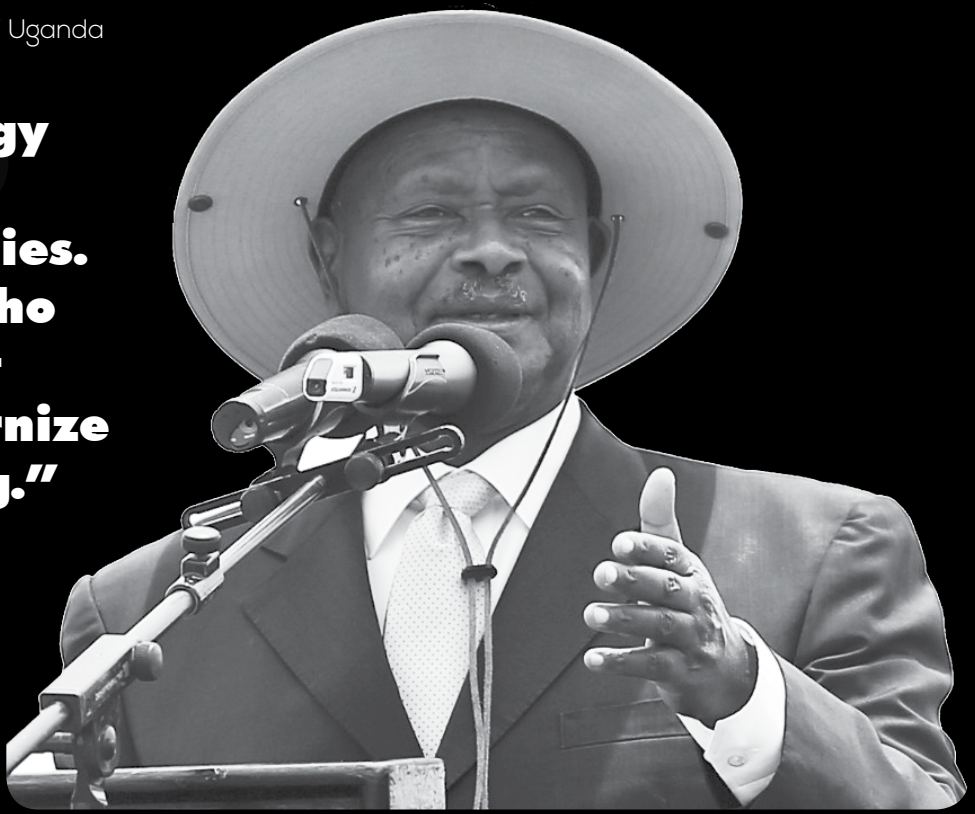
Uganda is at the cusp of modernity and it is critical for the nation to remain committed to grooming talent in science and technology by harnessing new knowledge for sustained progress.



H.E. YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI

President of the Republic of Uganda

"Biotechnology is to impart certain qualities. Legislators who are against it should modernize their thinking."



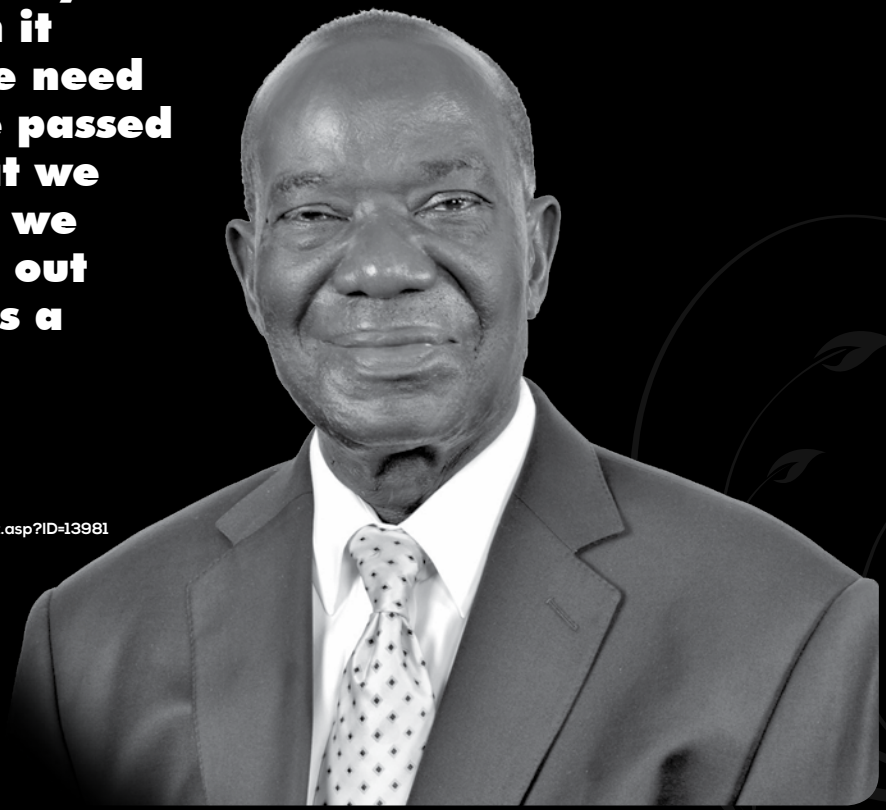
World Food Day celebrations in Uganda, October 16th, 2015.

https://www.geneticliteracyproject.org/2015/10/28/ugandas-president-museveni-endorses-gmos-tipping-scales-in-reluctant-parliament/

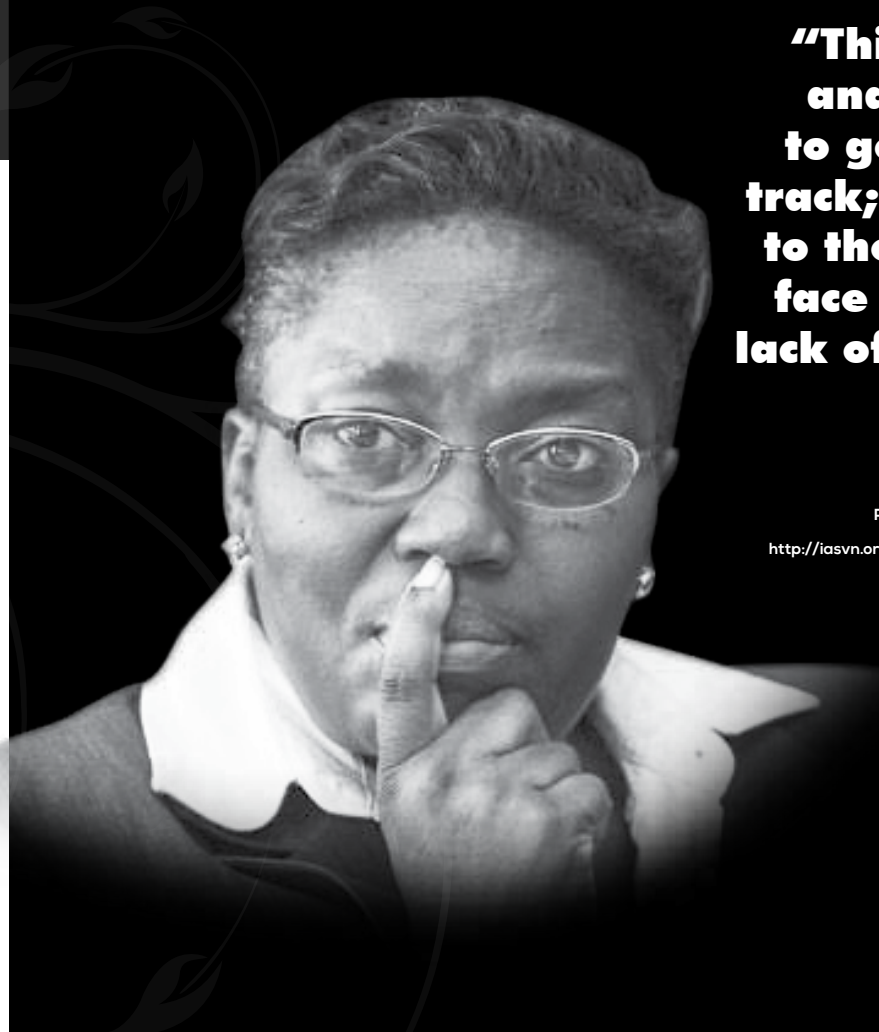
“For Uganda to maximally but safely benefit from it (biotechnology) too, we need the proposed law to be passed by Parliament such that we regulate what benefits we want from it and leave out what we do not want as a country. ”

2nd National Agricultural Biosciences Conference
23-25 November 2015. Kampala,

Uganda http://www.isaaa.org/kc/cropbiotechupdate/article/default.asp?ID=13981



H.E. EDWARD K. SEKANDI
Vice President of the Republic of Uganda



"This country needs science and technology innovation to get our economy back on track; and to get the answers to the biggest challenges we face such as climate change, lack of employment, and slow economic growth".

Parliamentary Science Week exhibitions held from December 8-12, 2014

http://iasvn.org/en/tin-tuc/Biotech-Innovations-Impress-Speaker-of-Parliament-at-Science-Expo-3003.html

RT. HON. REBECCA KADAGA

Speaker of Parliament of Uganda

- Woman Member of Parliament, Kamuli District (1989-2021)

"We got an explanation from scientists and we resolved that this Bill should be passed with amendment. The National Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill was harmonized by the NRM caucus. What remains is to move together to the floor of Parliament and pass this important Bill into law."

NRM Parliamentary Caucus Meeting, September 2015.

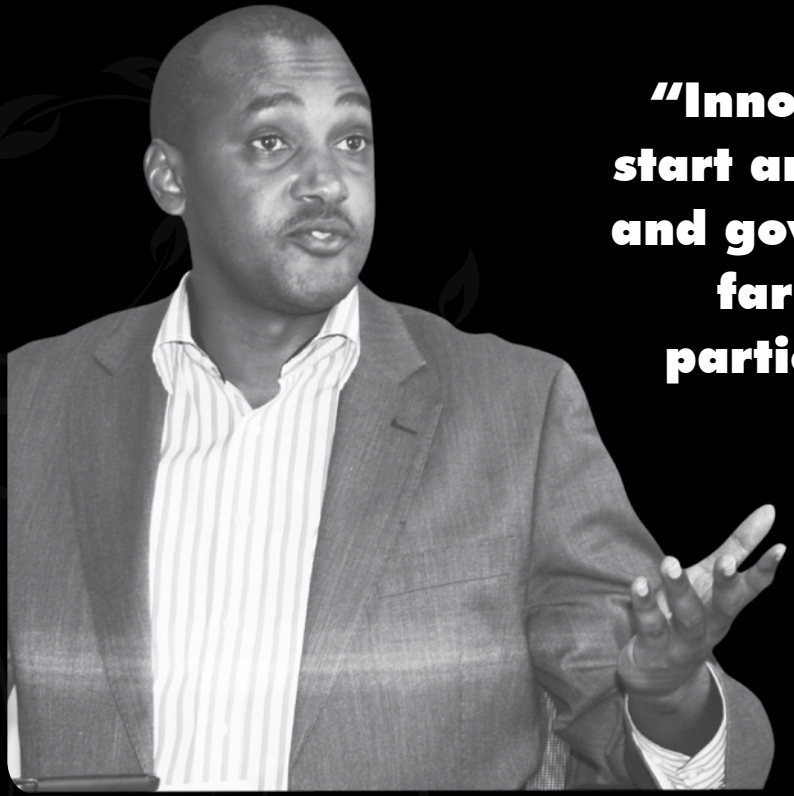
http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/NRM-caucus-backs-GMOs/-/688334/2707408/-/w4x9fkz/-/index.html



HON. RUTH NANKABIRWA

Govt. Chief Whip

- Minister of State for Fisheries (May 2011- March 2015)
- Minister of State for Microfinance (February 2009 - May 2011)

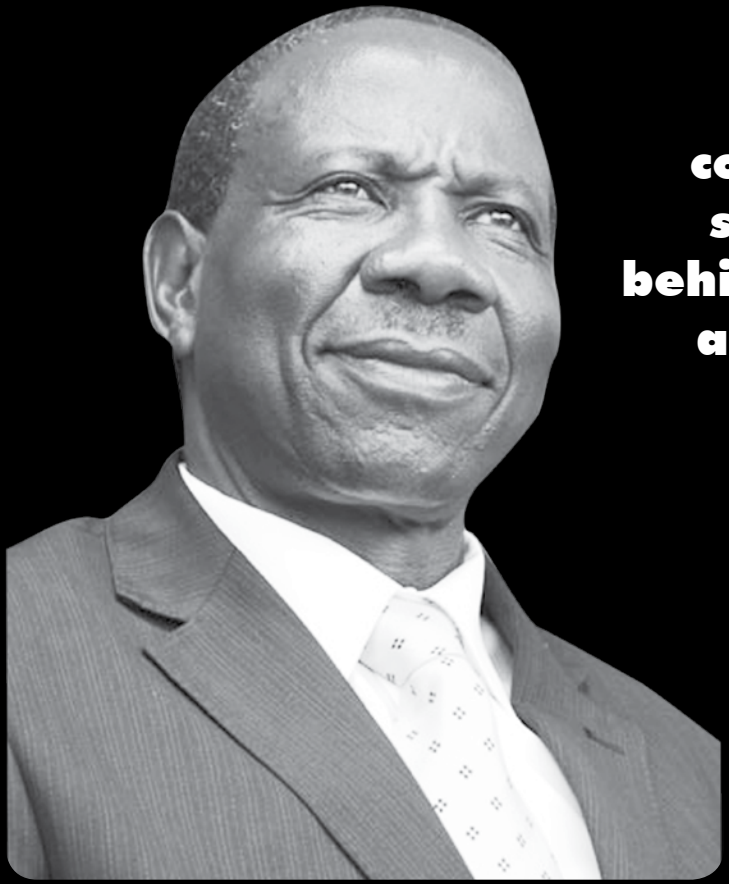


"Innovations will no longer start and end in laboratories and government offices since farmers are now actively participating in discussions involving science and technology."

Joint Farmers' Advocacy Workshop on Biotechnology Tools and Innovation and First OFAB Anniversary Event, 2008
http://www.ofabafrica.org/UserFile/OFABUganda-I.pdf

HON. FRANK TUMWEBAZE

- Minister for the Presidency and Minister for the Kampala Capital City Authority (2012- 2016)
- Member of Parliament, Kibale East County, Kamwenge District (2016-2021)
- Member of Parliament, Kibale County, Kamwenge District (2011-2016)



"Science and technology is the way to go; any country that does not think scientifically is always left behind. So, the Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill is one of the much-needed laws".

Appearing before Science and Technology Committee of Parliament, September 2014.
http://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1309420/gmo-withdrawn-minister

HON. MATIA KASAIJA

- Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
- Member of Parliament, Buyanja County, Kibaale District (2016-2021)

"It is a very important piece of legislation because we have so many GMOs that are unregulated. ...there is a problem of crop diseases like banana wilt and lack of seedlings. So, this discussion is crucial to find a way forward that will address these issues."

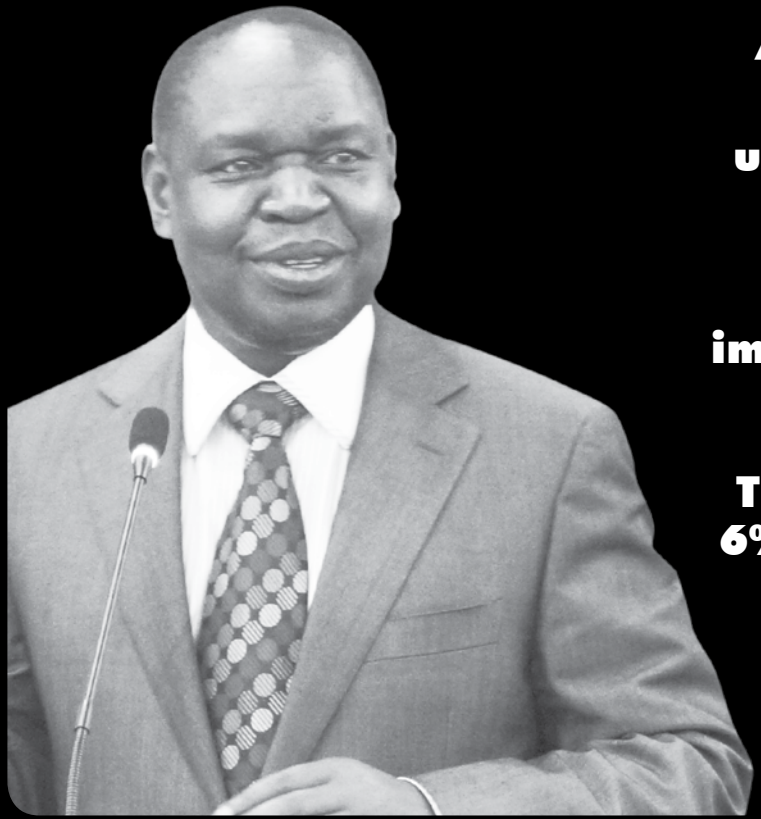


NRM Caucus meeting, November 2013.

http://mobile.monitor.co.ug/News/NRM-caucus-convenes-to-debate-GMO-Bill/-/691252/2087178/-/format/xhtml/-/9nd66p/-/index.html

HON. DAVID BAHATI

- Minister of State for Finance in charge of Planning
- Member of Parliament, Ndorwa County West, Kabale District (2011-2021)



"Let's understand what this [Biosafety law] can do for us to improve economy, food security, create jobs. The Bill should be passed this financial year so it can be implemented and regulations made available to support effective implementation. The GDP growth rate now at 6% can immediately move by 2% with appropriate use of biotech."

Uganda Biotechnology and Biosafety Consortium, Annual General Meeting, 2015.

HON. JACHAN FRED OMACH

- State Minister for Finance- General Duties (2006-2016)
- Member of Parliament, Jonam County, Nebbi District (2001-2016)

"Technologies remain on the shelves, yet they should be used to solve issues. The large body of public agricultural research institutes under NARO, universities and the private sector—all of them involved in research—should have caused a bigger impact than it has happened".



2nd Biennial NARO Scientific Conference, November 3-7, 2014, Kampala

http://www.monitor.co.ug/Magazines/Farming/Scientists--research-to-have-a-bigger-impact-at-the-grassroots/-/689860/2526648/-/9t6lfkz/-/index.html

HON. TRESS BUCYANAYANDI

- Minister for Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (May 2011- May 2016)
- Member of Parliament, Bufumbira County South constituency, Kisoro District (May 2011- May 2016)

“From the work of Gregor Mendel in the nineteenth century - which laid the foundation for modern classical breeding, to the unravelling of DNA in the twentieth century - that ushered in the era of genetic engineering, agriculture has always progressed in tandem with advances in our understanding of biology. That is to be expected because new knowledge should take us forward rather than backwards!”



Interview with the Minister of Agriculture
https://www.isaaa.org/resources/publications/briefs/50/download/isaaa-brief-50-2015.pdf

HON. ZERUBABEL MIJUMBI NYIIRA

- State Minister of Fisheries (March 2015- May 2016)
- State Minister of Agriculture (May 2011-March 2015)
- Member of Parliament, Bururuli County, Masindi District (2016-2021)

"It is important that we demystify the misinformation about biotech and use it for improved food production for a healthy and prosperous population."

3rd Annual National Biotechnology Essay Awards Ceremony
National Crops Resources Research Institute (NaCRRI) Namulonge,
October 8, 2015



HON. SUNDAY STEVENS TIKODRI TOGBOA

- State Minister for Higher Education and Technology (May 2015-2016)
- Deputy Vice Chancellor, Makerere University (2009-2013)

"... if we trust witch doctors and medical doctors, who we believe can cure our illnesses, then why don't we trust 'agricultural doctors' to cure our hunger. For this matter, I urge MPs to pass this Bill as soon as possible."



Presentation to legislators on the Status of Biotechnology Research in different NARO institutes| December, 2014

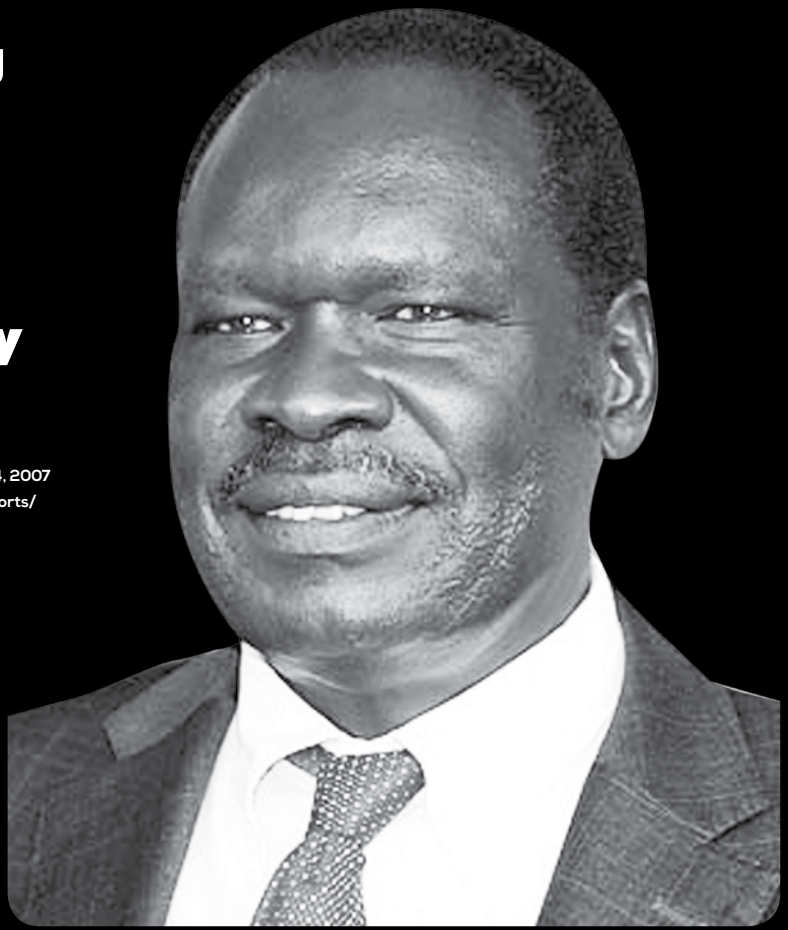
http://www.monitor.co.ug/Magazines/Farming/Biotech-crops-ready-for-release--no-law-in-place-yet/-/689860/2550072/-/15iqpuvz/-/index.html

MAJ. GEN. JIM MUHWEZI (RETIRED)

- Minister of Information and National Guidance (March 2015 – May 2016)
- Member of Parliament, Rujumbura County, Rukungiri District (2011-May2016)

"Biotechnology is an accessible and exciting new development that is already improving the way people live. Let us give our African farmers an opportunity of choice."

Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology, Uganda Chapter Launch, December 14, 2007
http://www.ofabafrica.org/sites/all/uploads/web-photos/meeting-reports/reports/OFAB-UG1-report.pdf



ENG. HILARY OBALOKER ONEK

- Minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees
- Member of Parliament, Lamwo County, Lamwo District (2001-2021)
- Minister for Energy & Minerals (February 2009 - May 2011)
- Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (2006-2009)

"Modern agri-biotechnologies hold enormous potential for revolutionizing African agriculture toward driving economic transformation, so our governments need to facilitate science and not stifle progress."



Voices and Views: Why Biotech https://www.isaaa.org/resources/publications/briefs/50/download/isaaa-brief-50-2015.pdf

PROF. MORRIS OGENGA-LATIGO

- Member of Parliament, Agago North Constituency, Agago District (2016-2021)
- Leader of Opposition in Parliament of Uganda (2006-2011)
- Former Professor of Entomology and Ecology, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda.

"The Biosafety Bill, 2012, if passed into law will provide for a regulatory framework to facilitate safe development and application of biotechnology."



HON. ANTHONY SSEMULI

- Member of Parliament, Buwekula County, Mubende District (2011-2016)
- Member of Parliament, Mubende Municipality, Mubende District (2016-2021)
- Chairman, Science and Technology Committee of Parliament (2011-2016)

"The policy on Biotechnology and Biosafety was passed in 2008/2009 and cabinet was given three months at the time to table the Bill before Parliament; however until today, it has never been tabled and passed"



B4FA's Insights: Africa's future – can biosciences contribute? Book launch April 2013, Kampala.

http://b4fa.org/b4fa-book-stirs-discussion-mps-review-ugandan-biosafety-bill/

HON. DENIS HAMSON OBUA

- Member of Parliament- Ajuri County, Alebtong District (2011-2021)
- Member, Parliamentary Committee on Science and Technology



"Genetically modified foods are already on market and people are consuming them without knowing. Therefore parliament should come up with a bill to regulate them so that whoever needs them buys them. However,...a bill to regulate genetic modifications doesn't mean we are against the innovation."

Public debate by Makerere University Academic Staff Association (MUASA), Kampala, July, 2013.
http://www.chimpreports.com/11545-parliament-urged-to-regulate-gmos/

HON. ROBERT KAFEERO SEKITOLEKO

- Member of Parliament, Nakifuma County, Mukono District (2016-2021)
- Vice Chairperson, Science and Technology Committee of Parliament (2011-2016)

"The wind of technology is blowing and Uganda has to prepare well or else risk being blown off its feet."

"The environment is better off with biotech to deal with drought, pests and low productivity as opposed to the use of pesticides."

Uganda Biotechnology and Biosafety Consortium, Annual General Meeting, 2015



HON. BEATRICE ATIM ANYWAR

- Member of Parliament, Kitgum Municipality (2016-2021)
- Woman Member of Parliament, Kitgum District (2011-2016)
- Shadow Minister for Water and Environment (2011-2016)

"The whole concept of GMOs has been riddled with fears and misconceptions. I will cautiously support GMOs as long as they have been developed, modified and tested by our own scientists."



HON. DR. MICHAEL LULUME BAYIGGA
Member of Parliament, Buikwe South Constituency,
Buikwe District (2011-2016)

Interview with IRIN, KAMPALA, 27 November 2013
http://www.irinnews.org/analysis/2013/11/27

"The country needs to urgently embrace appropriate technologies that can move the sector [agriculture] forward...research institutions have developed improved seeds and other agricultural inputs that are disease/ pest-resistant and high yielding, including genetically modified organisms (GMOs). MPs' approval of the Biosafety and Biotechnology Bill 2012 would therefore be step in the right direction".

http://observer.ug/features-sp-2084439083/57-feature/27231-agriculture-praised-as-central-but-starved-of-govt-funding



DR. SAMUEL K. MUGASI
Executive Director
National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS)

"We want the Bill in order to enable us to regulate the development and application of GMOs. At the moment, we don't have control over GMOs that enter into the country."

Interview with IRIN, KAMPALA, 27 November 2013
http://www.irinnews.org/analysis/2013/11/27



MISS. CONSOLATA ACAYO
Assistant Commissioner for Information, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries



"It is necessary to strengthen our regulatory systems and capacities to oversee the use of this technology."

2nd Annual National Biotechnology Essay Writing Contest Awards Ceremony, October 2, 2014 | NaCRRI-Namulonge

http://www.isaaa.org/kc/cropbiotechupdate/newsletter/default.asp?Date=10/8/2014#12768

DR. EVELYN LUTALO

- Environmental Scientist, National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)
- Member, national team reviewing and updating the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAP), specifically in relation to biotechnology and the biosafety status of Uganda.

"Biotechnology provides an opportunity for NARO to partner with the Pharmaceutical Society of Uganda to conduct research that will provide raw materials for drugs and other pharmaceutical products from our local commodities. For example through enhancing maize and cassava starch, enhancing milk lactose, and increasing eucalyptus and antimethrine oils".

Biotechnology Stakeholders' Meeting, 22nd May 2015, Kampala, Uganda



MR. SAMUEL OPIO
Secretary General
Pharmaceutical Society of Uganda



DR. FRED MUHUMUZA
Development Economist, quoting Late Dr. Christopher Kassami- Secretary to the Treasury.

"Genetic modification may be a science but it is a strategic way of dealing with economic setbacks from severe droughts, aggressive pests and diseases, raising productivity, increasing incomes and lowering poverty."

http://www.monitor.co.ug/OpEd/Commentary/Tribute-Kassami-pillar-economics/-/689364/3116740/-/kv71taz/-/index.html

"Our researchers have developed genetically modified bananas and cassava, which are resistant to bacterial wilt and cassava brown streak respectively. Farmers have visited the research institutes at Kawanda and Namulonge and seen the crops and have asked for planting material. However, they have been told they cannot have access to these varieties without a law in place."

Farmers petition Speaker on Biotechnology Bill, April 2016.

http://www.monitor.co.ug/Magazines/Farming/Farmers-petition-Speaker-biotechnology-Bill/-/689860/3177736/-/ercxoyz/-/index.html



MR. DOMINIC ETELLU

- National Farmers' Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology (NAFFAB)
- Farmer



"I urge young people to think about becoming job creators; to practice agriculture because it is and will continue to be Uganda's backbone. Young people should get involved in learning about modern biotechnology so they can know how we can improve agriculture and help to get rid of unemployment."

Residential internship for Miss Uganda Foundation, National Crops Research Institute (NaCRRI) Namulonge, March 2015.

http://www.monitor.co.ug/Magazines/Farming/Youth-urged-to-embrace-technology--opportunities-in-agriculture/-/689860/2671380/-/g852p3/-/index.html

MISS. LEAH KALANGUKA

Miss Uganda 2014

About UBIC

UBIC is a hub for information and knowledge sharing on agricultural research in Uganda.

MISSION

To foster public understanding of agricultural research for informed decision-making

VISION

Better agricultural outcomes

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Contact Us:

Ubic
Uganda Biosciences Information Center

Uganda Biosciences Information Center (UBIC)
National Crops Resources Research Institute, Namulonge
P.O. Box 7084 Kampala, Uganda
Phone: 0414 573016
Email: ubic.nacrri@gmail.com
www.ugandabic.org

ugandabiosciencesinformationcenter

@UgandaBIC

UBICNaCRRI