



**THE NATIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY**

***PROMOTING DEVELOPMENT ANCHORED ON BIOTECHNOLOGY***

**COMPANY PROFILE**

**CONTENTS**

- 1 INTRODUCTION.....3**
  - 1.1 OUR MISSION..... 3
  - 1.2 OUR VISION ..... 3
  - 1.3 OUR CORE VALUES ..... 3
  - 1.4 OUR SHAREHOLDERS.....3
  - 1.5 OUR CUSTOMERS ..... 4
  - 1.6 OUR SUPPLIERS ..... 4
  - 1.7 OUR EMPLOYEES ..... 4
  - 1.8 OUR SOCIETY ..... 4
- 2 Overview of Departments.....4**
  - 2.1 Regulatory Affairs Department..... 4
    - 2.1.1 Short-term plans ..... 5
    - 2.1.2 Long term plans ..... 5
  - 2.2 Research and Development ..... 5
    - 2.2.1 Short term plans ..... 5
    - 2.2.2 Long term plans ..... 5
  - 2.3 ICT and Public Awareness ..... 6
    - 2.3.1 Short-term plans ..... 6
    - 2.3.2 Long-term plans..... 6
- 3 Strategic partnerships.....6**
- 4 Income generating activities.....7**
- 5 Geographical Coverage .....7**
- 6 Summary of Expertise .....7**
  - 6.1 Internal ..... 7
  - 6.2 External.....7

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

The National Biotechnology Authority (NBA) is a strategic arm of the Government of Zimbabwe established through the National Biotechnology Authority Act [*Chap. 14.31*] of 2006. NBA's mandate is to: support and manage biotechnology research, development and application; to provide for the constitution of a Board of the Authority; to provide for the establishment of the National Biotechnology Fund for the development of the products of biotechnology; to provide for the fixing of standards of quality and other matters relating to products of biotechnology produced in Zimbabwe; and to provide for matters connected with or incidental to the foregoing.

As the National Competent Authority for all biotechnology, biosecurity and biosafety matters, NBA advises Government on aspects of biotechnology and ensures that biosafety and biosecurity measures which minimize the impact of biotechnological processes on national security, human health, animals, plants and the environment are done in accordance with the provisions of the NBA Act. In a bid to promote the safe use of biotechnology processes and products, the NBA focuses on the following three key areas namely: regulation of biotechnology processes and products; support in research and development and public understanding of biotechnology and biosafety issues.

### **1.1 OUR MISSION**

To develop and sustain the national economy through innovation and technology.

### **1.2 OUR VISION**

To be the hub for biosafety, biotechnology research and development, contributing 20% to GDP by the year 2018.

### **1.3 OUR CORE VALUES**

- Excellence
- Innovation
- Integrity
- Accountability
- Fairness

### **1.4 OUR SHAREHOLDERS**

We owe it to our shareholders. They expect best returns on their investments. We shall therefore endeavour to ensure that every dollar invested in us, is used in furtherance of our shareholder interests.

## **1.5 OUR CUSTOMERS**

Are our reason for being. We shall therefore offer them exceptional value for money through mother's touch customized services.

## **1.6 OUR SUPPLIERS**

Help us exceed our customer expectations. We shall therefore deal with them honestly and fairly.

## **1.7 OUR EMPLOYEES**

Are our most treasured asset. We shall therefore afford them an excellent working environment with adequate room for personal growth.

## **1.8 OUR SOCIETY**

We exist to contribute to a better life for all. We shall therefore be sensitive and responsible citizens.

## **2 Overview of Departments**

### **2.1 Regulatory Affairs Department**

The Regulatory Affairs department is responsible for managing biotechnology, research, development and application in Zimbabwe. It aims to contribute to the country's socio-economic development through a competent regulatory framework that enhances safe and responsible use of biotechnology. Additionally the department is responsible for advising Government on all aspects concerning the development, production, use, application and release of products of biotechnology.

The major duties of the department are:

- Processing applications for import permits for products of biotechnology.
- Supervising the importation/exportation of food, feed and seed.
- Registration and audit of biotechnology facilities.
- Biosafety policy development.
- Supervising the contained use, trial release and general release of biotechnology products like GMOs.
- GMO surveillance and testing.
- Capacity building training for biosafety courses like risk assessment.

### **2.1.1 Short-term plans**

- Capacity building of NBA staff and the country's biotechnology researchers..
- To ensure safe application of biotechnologies through registering and auditing facilities used for biotechnology, biosecurity, research and applications.
- To come up with regulatory frameworks and standards for labelling products containing/consisting of /made from GMOs
- To establish a centralised Regulatory Affairs database

### **2.1.2 Long term plans**

- To establish a fully functional National Reference biotechnology facility.
- Implement a GIS based GMO surveillance programme.
- To develop a natural biosafety framework

## **2.2 Research and Development**

The mandate of this department is to spearhead the development of biotechnology research and development into products and services through prioritized interventions leading to sustainable socio-economic development.

### **2.2.1 Short term plans**

- Database of all biotechnology researches.
- Database of biotechnology researchers in Zimbabwe.
- Biosafety and biosecurity research.
- Capacity development of NBA staff and biotechnology researchers.
- Maintain continuity of the Tissue culture project at the Horticultural Research Institute.
- Establish MOUs to engage the UZ for a bilateral relationship in MSc Biotechnology programme for human resource capacity development.
- Promote private / public sector partnerships in biotechnology.

### **2.2.2 Long term plans**

- Establish a library for internal & external use by researchers.
- Establish a laboratory to be used for research and also for training of scientists.

## **2.3 ICT and Public Awareness**

The department is mandated to actively create public understanding of biotechnology, biosecurity and biosafety in Zimbabwe. To this end the department takes advantage of major events or all forms of media in creating public awareness.

### **2.3.1 Short-term plans**

- To develop a comprehensive package of biotechnology promotional material targeting policy makers, implementers, women and youth and the general public.
- Using the electronic and print media as vehicles for disseminating biotechnology, biosecurity and biosafety information.
- Use of major exhibitions as platforms for promoting public understanding of biotechnology and its responsible use.
- Organizing workshops and seminars to promote public dialogue on biotechnology and its responsible use.
- To develop a state of the art website.

### **2.3.2 Long-term plans**

- Establish an automated permit system.
- To establish a Bio-informatics Centre.
- Software applications
- Improved infrastructure – fibre optic platform

## **3 Strategic partnerships**

NBA has formed strategic partnerships with various organisations which include Government Ministries, Regional Biosafety Offices, SADC, COMESA, AU/NEPAD-ABNE, Open Forum for Agricultural Biotechnology (OFAB), African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF), Southern African Network of Biosciences (SANBio), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), GMASSURE-Assuring agricultural and food safety of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in Southern Africa, Regional Agricultural and Environment Innovations Network-Africa (RAIEN AFRICA), Biotechnology Trust of Zimbabwe (BTZ), Research Council of Zimbabwe (RCZ), Tobacco Research Board (TRB), Medical Research Council of Zimbabwe (MRCZ), Scientific Industrial Research and Development Council (SIRDC), AfricaBio, Horticulture Research Institute (HRI), Standards Association of Zimbabwe(SAZ). These partners assist the NBA in fulfilling its mandate.

#### **4 Income generating activities**

1. Processing applications for import/export permits for products of biotechnology.
2. Supervising the importation/exportation of food, feed and seed.
3. Registration and audit of biotechnology facilities.
4. Supervising the contained use, trial release and general release of biotechnology products like GMOs.
5. Capacity building training for biosafety courses like risk assessment

#### **5 Geographical Coverage**

The NBA is responsible for spearheading all biotechnology and biosafety activities in Zimbabwe. Therefore, as the National Competent Authority in biotechnology its niche covers the whole of Zimbabwe.

#### **6 Summary of Expertise**

##### **6.1 Internal**

All departments are endowed with a technical staff complement that has at least a BSc qualification in their areas of competence. These include:

- Biotechnology
- Biosafety
- Crop science
- Computer Science
- Biological science
- Communication
- Financial Accounting
- Human Resources
- 

##### **6.2 External**

The NBA has a database of external experts who are readily available to assist the NBA in executing its mandate these include scientists from various fields including: molecular biologists, plant breeders, veterinary doctors, environmentalists, microbiologists, biochemists, ecologists, socio economists, medical doctors, toxicologists, geneticists.