

## **Just Governance: The Nigerian BioSafety Law-Implications for Nigerians & Africa**

### **ACTION PLAN**

The Churches in Nigeria (Catholic and non-Catholic), along with other Religious bodies in Nigeria, form structures that stretch to the grassroots of the country. With the dynamism and the expertise of the Civil Society and Faith-based organizations, we are capable of forming a formidable network to resist the release of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) in Nigeria. This is the time to come together as a united force to protect our country against the monster of Biotechnology agro-business corporations and their science of death called GMOs. As the African says, *“When the spiders unite their webs, they can tie a lion”*.

We are a country of religious people and it is imperative that we put this campaign in the hands of God knowing that this a fight for our life and God is the author of life, and with him ALL THINGS are possible

However, heaven only helps those who help themselves! It is therefore urgent that we organize as local communities, church communities and inter-faith groups, religious communities, students and youth bodies, farmers, consumers, women groups, NGOs and across Local Governments, dioceses and states for massive sensitization and awareness campaigns. We must utilize every available media, flyers, regular and social media platforms, local languages, town hall meetings, pulpits, councils traditional rulers, women’s group meetings, community meetings, organizing workshops and trainings in the schools and universities, reaching out to relevant agencies (Environment and Agriculture), and other strategies (the list is not exhaustive) to sensitize our people on the negative impacts of GMOs to our food security, health and environment while at the same time promoting agroecology.

HOMEF, FoE/ERA, CBCN, ADJP, AFJN, AEFJN, and other organizations in the coalition are available to help you tease out your strategies and support you in their executions (their contacts are given underneath).

Other strategies include:

Strategic Mapping, training and capacity building, data collection on consumers, review reports of consumers and researchers of GMOs and circulate them.

Establish food safety task group, create a responsibility matrix, and identify who is responsible for what via the group for specific advocacy actions.

Organize campaigns for the government to support smallholder farmers through the development of infrastructures that promote sustainable agriculture and food sovereignty.

Promote campaigns to repeal the Nigerian Bio-Safety law in its present form and the worst scenario being a review of the law and incorporation of the reviews of HOMEF/ERA/FoEN. AEFJN would assist to draft a letter to your representatives in the parliament if there is need for any group who would use that strategy.

Each participant or groups of participants would endeavor to take an action taken by September 30 and communicate such to the contacts underneath.

HOMEF, FoEN/ERA, CBCN, ADJP, AFJN, AEFJN, would form the steering group to evaluate actions taken and monitor the situation of the Bio-safety law and GMOs in Nigeria.

Communications:

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