

Bunyoro Sites' Custodians Petition Kingdom on GMOs

The custodians of the sacred sites in the kingdom are concerned that the partnership between National Agricultural Research Organization and the kingdom may include genetically modified organisms, that they are opposed to.

Custodians of sacred sites in Bunyoro have petitioned the Kingdom against its partnership with the National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO). They say this could be a move to hoodwink the kingdom into allowing genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

Early this year, Bunyoro Kingdom entered an agreement with NARO to promote agricultural research. According to the agreement, the kingdom would partner with NARO in the promotion of coffee growing, banana growing, apiary and dairy farming.

However, custodians of sacred sites (Abaramirizi) say this could be a hidden move to lure the kingdom into allowing genetically modified seeds. They demanded that the partnership be reviewed and discussed with them and other kingdom subjects.

{“In performing our rituals, we use indigenous seeds, yet the kingdom has entered partnership with NARO to promote improved seeds. We fear that these improved seeds could see indigenous seeds getting extinct. We ask that the kingdom agreement with NARO be presented to subjects for scrutiny”.}

////Cue in “Emikorre yaitu.....

Cue out:Kubuza ezaitu.”/////

The petition was presented by Asuman Kato Irumba, the in charge Nsonga Ijumika sacred site in Buseruka.

The petitioners had the backing of the National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE). Denis Tabaro, the Program Officer in charge Culture and Evaluation at NAPE says sacred natural sites must be harnessed and kept in their natural state.

//Cue in: “Sacred natural sites.....

Cue out:of African temples.”//

The document is signed by eight lead petitioners. Bunyoro has more than 40 custodians of sacred natural sites. These are charged with performing periodical rituals to appease ancestors and ask for blessings to the king and his subjects. Sacred natural sites in Bunyoro include water bodies, hills, forests, rocks and caves, among others.

Bunyoro Prime Minister, Norman Lukumu pledged to table it to the King for consideration. He however clarified that the partnership has areas of collaboration, and GMOs is not one of them.

Tagged with: [bunyoro kitara kingdom](#) [genetically modified organisms](#)

Read more: <http://ugandaradionetwork.com/story/bunyoro-sites-custodians-petition-kingdom-on-gmos#ixzz3pqEVct6n>