

PUBLIC IMPUTES CONSIDERED IN THE DECISION OF THE APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RELEASE OF THE POD BORER RESISTANT COWPEA BY THE SAVANNA AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (CSIR-SARI)

Source	No. of signatures	Concern / Position	Reasons for the position	Response from NBA
Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology	83	Supported the release of the pod borer resistant cowpea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher yield of PBR cowpea crop • Adaptable to harsh Climate conditions • Disease resistance • Contributes to the growth of economy • Increase farmers income • Reduce pest resistance • Enhance economic growth • Enhance food security • Reduction in imports of Cowpea • Economically beneficial • Safe to health • Enhance nutritional value of food • Reduction in the use of chemicals • Enhance foreign exchange • Promote employment for economic growth • Reduce pesticide use • reduce cost of production • Promote low production cost and increased yield • Reduce poverty • Improve economic income source of revenue • No negative effect • Reduce cost of production 	Noted
University of Ghana, Legon	85	Supported the release of the pod borer resistant cowpea		
University of Development Studies.	204	Supported the release of the pod borer resistant cowpea		
University of Energy and Natural Resources.	102	Supported the release of the pod borer resistant cowpea		
Farmers in the Northern Region.		Supported the release of the pod borer resistant cowpea		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tolon • Tolon nyankpala • Tempane • Garu • Manga • Nankpawie • Sorbelle • Damango • Chinchang 	120 108 50 50 124 130 104 220 86 121			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief and Sibelle • Bawku • Bawku-gentiga 	<p>24 29</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmentally friendly Promotes research in GMO crop production 	
<p>Farmers in Ashanti Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Akokoa community • Amentin • Bonnye • Dromankuman • Ejura • Fante newtown • Teacher krom 	<p>30 38 113 1 107 37 75</p>	<p>Supported the release of the pod borer resistant cowpea</p>		

Food Sovereignty Ghana (FSG) Organisation	1	Did not support the release of the pod borer resistant cowpea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of public awareness and participation. • The GMO contains super toxin which is not good for Ghanaians. • Lack of conclusive studies on health impact of the product. • Only agronomic performance data on the GM cowpea was provided to the NBA. “No molecular data, genetic stability and unintended effect caused by the process of genetic engineering, gene flow to other cultivated subspecies or wild relatives, impact on non-target organisms and health risks at the stage of consumption”. 	Noted
Centre for Climate Change and Food Security (CCCFS) Organisation	1	Did not support the release of the pod borer resistant cowpea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The process of public engagement has not been well advertised, thereby, casting a thick shadow of doubt on the whole process • Non availability of important data regarding the application and mechanisms the NBA intend to use in granting the request of the applicant. 	Noted
Total Signatures	2,043			

We appreciate every contribution the general public make to the management of modern biotechnology and its products in Ghana. The NBA, upon receipt of the comments from both those in support and those not in support of the approval of the application on the environmental release of the PBR Cowpea, gave all the seriousness the comments deserved in making decision on the application.

We wish to assure the public that all comments were carefully analysed to identify and assess how far the safety and non-safety concerns have been addressed by the applicant. A copy of the application and the table are available for public information.

The NBA works in consonance with the Biosafety Act, 2011 (Act 831), and the relevant procedures under the Biosafety (Management of Biotechnology) Regulations, 2019 (L.I. 2383) to review all applications specified by the Act, including the current application.

The NBA wishes to assure the public of its cooperation in all matters regarding management of GMOs in Ghana. We take this opportunity to urge the public to follow the progress and updates on the activities of the NBA on our website.

Thank you.

ERIC AMANING OKOREE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER