

## **GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS AND GLYPHOSATE STATEMENT**

### **Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)**

As one of South Africa's leading food and beverage producers, Pioneer Foods' primary objective is to offer consumers excellent value via competitively priced products of the highest quality and safety. Accordingly, we adhere to all applicable regulations including all relevant and associated labelling requirements, in order to provide consumers as much information as required.

Modern biotechnology has made significant strides towards the availability, quality, safety and nutritional value of food. Therefore, in line with our strategy and market demands, we support scientific research in this field as well as the responsible use and application of genetically modified raw materials and ingredients in food.

National government and the departments that deal with genetic modification are important stakeholders; and as such Pioneer Foods will continue to engage them to insist that the environment at large and human health are not placed at risk through this modification; and that the products enhanced by modern biotechnology are scientifically tested, safe approved and regulated.

### **Glyphosate**

Pioneer Foods understands and appreciates the widespread concerns pertaining to the use of glyphosate in GMO crop production. We recognise that this matter will remain a contested and controversial subject in the media and public discourse for the foreseeable future, fueled by differing scientific studies.

While the safety of glyphosate remains contested, Pioneer Foods is committed to following the stipulated regulations provided by the South African government. We have a responsibility to our shareholders, clients and consumers to comply with legislation as well as empirical scientific evidence. Pioneer Foods abides by South African law which regulates the use and maximum residue levels (MRLs) of glyphosate. However, we continue to refer to international best practice for guidance and actively monitor any international developments and/or new regulations pertaining to the use of GMO and glyphosate.

We monitor contradictory scientific evidence in this area to stay informed of the latest and most accurate information. In this regard we acknowledge the findings presented by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) in 2015 which classify glyphosate as a 'possible' or 'probable' human carcinogen, while the majority of scientific evidence available to date shows that glyphosate is unlikely to pose any carcinogenic risk to humans.

Furthermore, in addressing the ongoing shortage of non-GMO crops and to subsequently build and boost local supply and availability, we are committed to partnering with enterprise development initiatives focused on innovative non-GMO farming methods. With a long term vision, investing in these initiatives will help to contribute to the sustainability of GMO-free crops in South Africa.

Food safety is a top priority at Pioneer Foods and we therefore carefully analyse the contents of all our products. As a result of consumer queries and concerns we have voluntarily undertaken to screen for glyphosate residual levels in all relevant products. We acknowledge that it is our responsibility to provide consumers with accurate facts that they can trust; empowering them to make their own informed decisions for a healthy lifestyle. The comprehensive labelling on all our packaging is clear, accurate, and allows our consumers to easily determine the GMO status of any of our products.

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