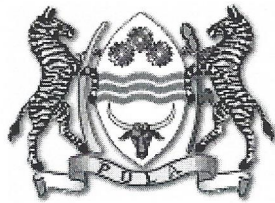


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**ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO BE ADDRESSED TO: THE DIRECTOR OF  
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH**

REF: AR 9/5/20B VI (100)

28 March 2018

The Executive Secretary  
Convention on Biological Diversity

**Capacity and needs in the detection and identification of living modified organisms,  
including a list of laboratories and their specific activities.**

The above subject matter refers.

The Department of Agricultural Research as the Biosafety Competent Authority has designated its genetic laboratory for the detection and identification of living modified organisms (LMOs). The laboratory currently has 2 nominated personnel with academic and professional expertise in biotechnology and molecular biology expertise. However, there are needs that should be addressed for the success of LMOs detection and identifications:

- Easy to use and reliable technical tools for the detection
- Technical tools and guidance (manuals and methodologies) to detect and take measures to respond to unintentional releases of living modified organisms
- Training and equipping personnel on sampling, detection and identification of LMOs
- Participation in proficiency testing and validation
- Financial resources for the upgrading of laboratory procedures, such as, but not limited to equipment and analytical reagents

Thank you.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Machacha'.

D. Machacha  
**FOR/DIRECTOR OF AGRIC RESEARCH**

**Mission**

*Our mission is to identify, develop and promote innovative and appropriate technologies that will enable our customers to optimize productivity through:*

- ❖ Efficient utilization of agricultural resources
- ❖ The use of improved genetic resources
- ❖ Good agricultural management practices

*We will achieve this mission through team-work, collaborative effort, dedication, motivation and a well resourced research environment*