



Republic of Rwanda
Ministry of Environment

RWANDA ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (REMA)



Kigali, on **03 SEP 2025**
N° 132/BIOS/DG/2025

Director General
Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB)
KIGALI

Dear DG,

Re: Approval for the Intentional Introduction of Living Modified Cassava into the Environment

Reference is made to your letter with Ref. No. 01.11/0538/025/TN/HQ dated 19th June 2025 regarding the application for the introduction into the environment of Living Modified Cassava (LM Cassava), for cultivation and use in Rwanda. The application specifies that the LM Cassava contains event 4046, which confers resistance to Cassava brown streak disease;

Reference is made to the Law No. 025/2024 of 16/02/2024 governing biosafety in Rwanda in its article 7 stipulating that *"the intentional introduction of a living modified organism into the environment is among activities subject to the permit application"*;

REMA, with support of the National Biosafety Committee (NBC), conducted a comprehensive review of the risk assessment submitted by Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB). The assessment addresses the safety of the LM Cassava [*Manihot esculenta* C.] event 4046, specifically regarding resistance to Cassava brown streak disease (CBSD). This review also considered the existing body of scientific knowledge on the subject.

Based on the findings, REMA has noticed that the LM Cassava does not pose any additional risk to human and animal health, or the environment, when compared to its conventional counterpart.

Taking into account the evaluation made, we hereby grant approval for the intentional introduction into the environment of LM Cassava event **4046 (Unique identifier: DPS-Ø4Ø46-8)** containing Cassava brown streak virus (CBSV) and Uganda Cassava brown streak virus (UCBSV) *coat protein (CP) genes* which conferred resistance to the Cassava brown streak disease. This approval covers the use of LM Cassava for cultivation, food, feed and processing.

This approval is subject to the following conditions and requirements:

- Scope of release:** The intentional introduction into the environment of LM Cassava shall be restricted solely to the approved event 4046 containing CBSV and UCBSV *coat protein (CP) genes*, the single genes, and their progeny cultivars/lines. No genetic material resulting from intra- or inter-specific crosses with other LM Cassava event(s) shall be introduced into the environment without prior written approval from REMA.
- Monitoring and Reporting:** RAB shall ensure regular monitoring of the LM Cassava (Event 4046) during all phases, including cultivation, handling, transport, and use. If RAB becomes aware of significant new information indicating potential adverse effects on biological diversity, or on human or



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animal health, RAB shall immediately inform REMA and propose appropriate risk management measures.

3. **Validity of the permit:** This approval is valid for a renewable period of ten (10) years counted from the date of issuance.
4. **Transfer of permit:** RAB may transfer this permit to another person or institution only upon prior written approval by REMA. Upon transfer, all conditions and requirements of this permit shall remain fully applicable to the new permit holder.

Failure to comply with any of the stated conditions may result in the revocation of this approval and the imposition of legal and administrative penalties as prescribed by the Law governing Biosafety in Rwanda.

Sincerely,

Juliet KABERA
Director General



Cc:

- Hon. Minister of Environment
- Hon. Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources
- Director General, RICA

KIGALI