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National News

KARI launches investigations on dangers of GMOs

By George Kebaso

THE Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) has started investigations on whether Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) are destroying the environment.

Yesterday, KARI in conjunction with Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) launched a facility to enable it carry out biosafety and ecological risk assessments.

"Through the Biosafety Greenhouse Extension, we will be able to investigate if there is a possibility that GMOs could be affecting any organisms in the environment," said a scientist.

The scientist who requested anonymity said once the facility is operational, experts will also find out what else is being affected by GMOs.

The move comes in the wake of a raging debate on whether the country should embrace biotechnology as an avenue for sustainable food production.

A Biosafety Bill to regulate trade and research in biotechnology has been drafted and is awaiting parliamentary approval. The Bill has, however, been rejected by some groups.