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LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY WATCH | PUBLIC STATEMENT

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Unauthorised GM Cotton Varieties
CEFSAR Calls for Enforceable Sanctions

CEFSAR calls for transparent, proportionate and enforceable accountability over the four GM cotton varieties identified by the National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) to have been secretly and illegally introduced into Nigeria. Administrative suspension must lead to a reasoned enforcement outcome, with prosecution where the evidence establishes an offense.

The NBMA reported that MIC 561 BGII, MIC 563 BGII, BIOSEED-FIYAH CH1001 and BIOSEED-FIYAH CH1002 were registered on 26 March 2026 by the National Committee on Naming, Registration and Release of Crop Varieties, Livestock Breeds and Fisheries without NBMA approval. It also reported unauthorised trials and directed suspension of further registration and release action.

NBMA subsequently reported disposal of approximately 950 kg of unauthorized transgenic cotton seeds traced to Fiyah Global Concept Limited and additional regulatory sanctions. **CEFSAR acknowledges that action and requests disclosure of the sanctions imposed, their legal basis, compliance status and any connection to the four named varieties.**

CEFSAR requests the following action

1 Publish the evidence and decisions. Release the four registration dossiers, trial details or records of their absence, inspection reports, risk assessments, suspension directive and enforcement findings. Publish a dated action plan and identify the institutions responsible for implementation.

2 Secure materials and correct the register. Trace all affected seed lots and trial sites; use lawful inspection, seizure and facility-closure powers where justified. The NBMA should immediately, withdraw the affected registrations.

3 Apply sanctions where liability is established. Refer the offenders for prosecution before the Federal High Court; seek applicable statutory fines and, for individuals convicted of offenses carrying custodial penalties, imprisonment. Pursue corporate and officer liability where the law and evidence support it, permit revocation where applicable, and court-ordered forfeiture or remediation where warranted. Refer proven official misconduct to the competent disciplinary authority.

CEFSAR urges the responsible authorities to deliver published findings, corrective orders and legally sustainable sanctions. Suspension and seed disposal must not become substitutes for accountability. Neither commercial influence nor institutional status should shield any proven breach.

SIGNED

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