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HORIZON

## GMO law to go live



Dr Waweru Gitonga of KARI examining a stand of genetically modified cotton in Mwea. PHOTO/FILEMAU

By DAVID NJAGI

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Kenya's long-awaited biosafety law is likely to become operational this month — well over a year after the 1

President Mwai Kibaki signed off parliament's approval of the biosafety legislation in February 2009, after 2 allowing the commercialisation of genetically modified organisms.

About two months ago, the former agriculture minister William Ruto confirmed that the biosafety guidelines

Now, Harrison Macharia — chief science secretary of the newly created National Biosafety Authority (NBA bill, and thus its official commencement date, will happen soon.

Kenya will become the fourth African country to implement such legislation, after Burkina Faso, Egypt and

Muo Kasina, principal research officer at the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute said that research that has legislation will now be able to undergo open field trials, and mass production of GMOs will attract more inv

He added that the regulations will encourage transgenic research and help address the country's brain drain.