Advancing Regional Integration
through Competitive Markets
and Empowered Consumers

07 September 2026

CCCC Merger Inquiry Notice No. 47 of 2026

Notice of Inquiry into the Proposed Acquisition by Advanta Holdings B.V. of Hytech Egypt USA LLC

It is hereby notified in terms of Regulation 44(11) of the COMESA Competition and Consumer Protection Regulations (the "**CCCPR**") that the COMESA Competition and Consumer Commission (the "**CCCC**"), after receiving a notification in terms of Regulation 42 of the CCCPR regarding the proposed acquisition by Advanta Holdings B.V. ("**Advanta**" or the "**Acquirer**") of Hytech Egypt USA LLC together with Misr Hytech Seed International S.A.E and Hytech Seed Kenya Ltd (collectively, the "**Target Group**"), intends to embark on an inquiry in terms of Regulation 47 of the CCCPR.

The parties submitted that Advanta is ultimately controlled by UPL Limited (together with its directly and indirectly controlled affiliates, "**the UPL Group**"). The UPL Group operates in the agricultural sector, offering an integrated portfolio of innovative and sustainable agricultural solutions and services. Advanta is a global agricultural solutions company with a portfolio of advanced hybrid seeds and post-harvest solutions. Advanta develops, produces, and sells locally adapted, high-quality seeds with advanced traits, designed to support global nutrition security and sustainability. In the Common Market, the UPL Group operates in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The parties submitted that the Hytech Egypt USA LLC is an Egyptian-based seed company. The Target Group is a research-based market driven seed business that develops, produces and markets hybrid seeds of white corn, yellow corn, grain and fodder sorghum, sweet corn, and vegetables. In the Common Market, the Target Group operates in Egypt and Kenya.

The parties submitted that the proposed transaction concerns the acquisition of sole control by Advanta of the Target Group.

The parties further submitted that the proposed transaction would provide the sellers with a natural and timely exit from the Hytech business. The proposed transaction

Kang'ombe House, 5th Floor
P. O. Box 30742
Lilongwe 3
Malawi

+265(0)111 772466
+265 (0) 999 970 269
compcom@comesacompetition.org
www.comesacompetition.org

also aligns with Advanta's broader strategic objectives by enabling it to access a high-growth region and strengthen its research and development capabilities.

In accordance with the provisions of the CCCPR, the CCCC will determine, among other things, whether the proposed transaction is likely to substantially lessen competition in the Common Market and whether the proposed transaction is or would be contrary to the public interest as provided for under Regulation 47 of the CCCPR.

In view of this, the CCCC hereby gives notice to all interested stakeholders, including competitors, suppliers, and customers of the parties to the proposed transaction to submit written representations to the CCCC with regard to the subject matter of the proposed inquiry by emailing them to: sbundhun@comesacompetition.org. All written representations should be sent to the CCCC not later than **28 September 2026.**

If you wish to seek further details and/or clarifications on any aspect of this proposed transaction or need assistance, you may get in touch with **Ms. Sunjida Bundhun, Manager Mergers and Acquisitions, Competition Division,** on Tel: +265 (0) 111 772 466 or sbundhun@comesacompetition.org.

All written representations submitted to the CCCC will be treated with the strictest confidentiality and will only be used for the purpose of this inquiry.