

GM food-crops in developing countries: blessing or curse?

There is immense pressure on developing countries to adopt genetically modified (GM) crops in the shortest possible time to supposedly ensure food security and boost agricultural productivity. Being a signatory to the WTO's Agreement on Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights, however, Pakistan is obliged to protect intellectual property rights (IPRs) of multinational organisations introducing GM plant varieties into the country. Multinational giants like Monsanto have been in [a tussle with the Punjab government](#) over payment mechanisms for infringement of these IPRs before it expands its GM seed business.

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