

View from France: Can Europe overcome its reflexive anti-GMO bias?

Genetically modified organisms have almost become taboo in Europe. There is only one GMO cultivated in the European Union—Monsanto's MON810 corn, which is only approved for sale in limited markets and has run into moratoriums enforced by several state-member governments. Approval for the Amflora potato made by BASF and used for paper-making was annulled last week. Both products are victims of anti-GMO sentiment. Yet, elsewhere in the world, in GM crops are being cultivated on a large scale. Marion Guillou, President and CEO of the French Institut national de recherche agronomique (INRA) from 2004 to 2012, spoke to ParisTech Review about the benefit-risk balance for GM products and analyzes why Europe continues to resist the technology.

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