

Anti-biotech backlash attempts to reframe Green Revolution in negative light

Can we agree that the Green Revolution was, on balance, a good thing? You know, kinda like the industrial revolution. Yes, the latter created new problems that had to be addressed—there were pros and cons—but would you rather go back to living in a pre-industrial society?

Robert Zeigler, director general of the International Rice Research Institute, notes in the latest issue of *Cosmos* that who viewed the downsides of the Green Revolution through a certain ideological lens would go on to oppose new beneficial agricultural technologies. As Zeigler observes,

the strange brew of anti-corporate sentiment, extreme environmentalism, romanticised traditional organic but land-hungry agriculture and fear of new technologies boiled over to create a powerful anti-technology backlash. The extreme regulations for GMO crops demanded by self-proclaimed protectors of the environment, had the perverse result that only the largest multinationals could afford to develop such crops. Predictably, this resulted in the same camp denouncing the growing domination of agriculture by multinationals. As costs for developing crop varieties escalated, the few seed companies that could afford the work focused only on areas with large markets. The marginal farmers were once again excluded.

This time, though, who is to blame?

Read the full, original article: [Framing the Green Revolution](#)