

Safety certificates for Chinese GM crops expire, with no sign of renewal

Safety certificates for the only homegrown experimental genetically modified staple food crops to have the credentials expired yesterday, with no sign that the Ministry of Agriculture will renew the documents. But advocates of the technology staged GM rice-tasting events in Beijing and 22 other cities across the mainland, with some expecting the government to give the nod for commercialisation of one crop in five years.

The ministry issued the certificates for one GM corn and two GM rice varieties five years ago to great controversy because they were the first staple foods to get the endorsement. The ministry insisted the crops were safe but have since repeatedly stressed that commercial planting and sales were strictly banned.

“It’s like admitting a car is safe to run on the road but not giving it a licence plate,” said Jiang Tao, senior engineer at the Chinese Academy of Sciences’ Institute of Genetics and Developmental Biology.

Read the full, original article: [GM foods in limbo in China as safety certificates expire](#)