

Monsanto likely to appeal Mexican ruling blocking GMO soy planting

A small group of beekeepers in Mexico has inflicted a blow on biotech giant Monsanto, which has halted the company's ambitions to plant thousands of hectares of soybeans genetically modified to resist the company's pesticide [Roundup](#).

In July, a district judge in the state of Yucatán overturned a permit issued to Monsanto by Mexico's agriculture ministry, Sagarpa, and environmental protection agency, Semarnat, in June 2012 that allowed commercial planting of [Roundup-ready soybeans](#).

The permit authorised Monsanto to plant its seeds in seven states, over more than 253,000 hectares (625,000 acres), despite protests from thousands of Mayan farmers and beekeepers.

Central to the ruling was the Mexican constitution, specifically the government's obligation to fully consult indigenous communities before making any major decision about what happens, including what is grown, on their territory. The judge ordered planting to stop and gave Sagarpa six months to carry out full and proper consultations with indigenous farmers.

Read full original article: [Sweet victory for Mexico beekeepers as Monsanto loses GM permit](#)