# Asia poised to overtake anti-GMO Europe in farming innovation

If current economic growth trends persist, the “Great Divergence” between Western Europe and East and South Asia in per capita income that commenced two hundred years ago will close sometime this century. Key to the closing will be greater accessibility to technology and higher education in East and South Asia and the relentless diffusion of knowledge including in the biosciences.

Powerful new biological technologies like genomics and synthetic biology are just beginning to be applied in ways that can sever the link between economic growth and carbon pollution. Precise genomic editing of cereal grains could equip rice, wheat, and maize with nitrogen fixation capabilities, thus reducing the need for synthetic fertilisers with their environmental and atmospheric costs. East and South Asia, facing major food production challenges, ecological limits, pollution from fertiliser use, and drought from climate change, may take the lead over the West in adopting innovative food crop technologies.

**The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis. Read full, original post:** Divergence, Convergence, and Innovation: East-West Bioscience in an Anxious Age