Vietnam requiring foreign firms build GM corn plants as condition to enter market

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Companies will have to invest in genetically modified (GM) corn grain production plants in Vietnam in the next four to five years as one of the conditions to get a license to sell the commodity in this market.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development mentions this condition in a circular it is preparing to draft so as to control GM crops in Vietnam, and help Vietnam avoid heavy reliance on GM seed imports and effectively manage GM-related issues that might arise.

In March, the ministry issued a decision allowing Syngenta to supply GM corn varieties NK66 BT, NK66 GT and NK66 BT/GT for large-scale farming in Vietnam.

Asked about the condition for investment in a GM seed plant in Vietnam, Syngenta said it would follow the rule as part of its long-term investment in this market. The firm plans to develop a production facility whose capacity would be decided by market demand. Pham Duc Tuan, who is in charge of legal affairs at Syngenta, said producing GM corn grains in Vietnam is not a concern but leasing vast farmland for a production facility is.

Read full, original post: GM corn trading firms required to build facilities