

Is shifting from GMO sugar beets to sugar cane detrimental to environment?

**The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis.**

Last week it was reported that demand for cane sugar is up, and outstripping supply. This comes as major food manufacturers are starting to reformulate their products in reaction to pending GMO labeling laws, in Vermont and potentially from the US Congress.

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I'm sure many critics of biotech crops will see this as a step in the right direction. However, it will be interesting to see how they justify this shift. As it's gone out of fashion to worry publicly about potential and imagined health risk of biotech in respectable circles, the current tactic is to opine about the environmental impacts of biotech crops. The problem here is that it's nearly impossible to argue that switching from the biotech sugar beets that currently make up the bulk of the US sugar supply to sugarcane is in any way a net benefit to the environment. Sugarcane is an environmentally intensive crop. It requires large amounts of water and often threatens local aquifers. It is a tropical crop which requires the deforestation of vital, biodiverse habitat to allow for new production.

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. . .the faux environmentalism of the Anti-GMO movement comes into greater and greater focus as they rack up another real world victory. Or should I say, "victory".

**Read full, original post:** Another not so sweet victory for the Anti-GMO movement