

How will agriculture industry mergers, China's GMO policies affect small farms?

How will the mega-mergers of Dow Chemicals and Dupont, Bayer and Monsanto and Syngenta and China National Chemical Corp. — ChemChina, for short — affect the incomes and livelihoods of farmers in the “global south”?

Immediately and directly, not much, according to several agriculture and development experts. The Big Six multinationals operate in a commercial agriculture market for farming inputs that, for now, is still out of reach for most smallholder farmers.

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At their core, the industry megamergers are about achieving breakthrough innovations, many of which can work their way into rural agriculture...

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The development of new GMO technologies... could have a significant impact on smallholder farming. As chemical companies expand their footprints in developing countries, GMO product lines ... can... eventually trickle down to the smallholder level. With that could come potentially large changes to the price of seeds, farming techniques, crop yields and, ultimately, farmer incomes.

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Apart from South Africa, countries in Africa do not have officially approved policies that sanction GMO food crops. But a potential billion-person Chinese export market could tilt national policies in favor of GMO-based agriculture.

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis. Read full, original post: Will big agriculture mergers impact smallholder farmers?