

## GMO ban in Chinese province highlights major difference between public and government on biotech crops

Heilongjiang province, the bread basket of north-east China, has banned the planting of genetically modified (GM) crops – the country's first such ban at the provincial level. Given that Heilongjiang produces [one tenth](#) of China's staple food crops, the move has sparked controversy and raised questions about the future of GM foods policy in the world's biggest consumer market.

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China has neither officially approved the planting of GM corn, rice or soya nor banned it outright. So far, no GM staple crops have been granted a license for commercial planting. However, China does allow the [import](#) of 80 different types of GM product for use in food processing, and large quantities of GM corn and soya are regularly imported.

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China's [Food Safety Law](#) currently requires that GM food products be clearly labelled but lax law enforcement means that cheap unlabelled imported soya is dominating the Chinese market and damaging the interests of non-GM soya farmers and processors.

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So far there are no signs that China's central government objects to Heilongjiang's move. But it is worth noting that Beijing is promoting the commercialisation of GM crops.

**The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion, and analysis. Read full, original post: [Local and central government differ over GMO policy](#)**