China agrees to evaluate 8 GMO crops in trade deal with US, ending long delay

China's promise to evaluate eight varieties of U.S. genetically modified crops by the end of [May 2017] under a trade deal marks a step forward in a years-long process that has held up seed sales in the United States, the world's top grains exporter.

Every new variety of GMO crop has to win approval in export markets before it can be sold there.

China's review covers crops grown from seeds developed by major agrichemical companies, including Monsanto Co, Dow Chemical and DuPont, the U.S. Commerce Department and the companies said.... They have been stuck in the Chinese approval process for up to six years.

Dow AgroSciences said Chinese approval would be key to the roll out of its new Enlist corn and soybeans seeds in the United States, where over 90 percent of corn is genetically modified.

China was the top export market for U.S. agriculture products, valued at over \$21 billion, in 2016 and is the world's biggest buyer of soybeans. It has roiled markets and sent prices sliding in the past when it has taken a tough line on imports of certain GMO products.

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion, and analysis. Read full, original post: China's vow to review U.S. GMO crops may speed seed sales