

Ireland's ag minister wants to make island GMO-free global seed refuge

Ireland should work to have all-island status as GMO-free to maintain biodiversity, according to Minister of State for Agriculture Andrew Doyle.

The island, north and south, could be a “reservoir” of safe genetically modified organism-free (GMO) seed varieties in the event of an international food scare, he believes.

It is his personal view and contrary to that of Teagasc, [Ireland's] Agricultural and Food Development Authority, which takes the “follow the science” view, he admits.

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Mr.Doyle, who has responsibility for food, forestry and horticulture, said: “We’re not going to be an organic island and I don’t think we should even try to. Organic has its place but it is not mainstream.”

[organicireland](#) Image type unknown

Agriculture Minister Andrew Doyle,
pictured with a member from the Irish
Food Board Bord Bia, supports GMO-
free Ireland

However, he believes that Ireland could be a seed bank for mainstream arable crops such as wheat, oats and barley.

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The point he stresses is that it would be easier for Ireland to “isolate and keep things clear when you’re not on a big land continent”.

“The wind can cross-contaminate. But on an island off the continent on the west coast of Europe where the prevailing wind is, not always but mainly south-westerly, it doesn’t tend to blow from any other land mass.”

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis. Read full, original post: [GMO-free Ireland a possibility says Minister](#)