

## Armenia remains 'cautious' on imports of GMO food

Armenia is cautious about the use of products with genetically modified organisms (GMO) and seeds, Deputy Minister of Agriculture Ashot Harutyunyan said....

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According to the deputy minister, Monsanto first appeared in Armenia in 1998 and according to the ministry's data, in 2017 it imported only 125 kg of seeds of vegetable crops to Armenia. The deputy minister claimed also that no local producer of agricultural crops cooperates with Monsanto now. GMO products ... first appeared in Armenia in the early 90s, coming as humanitarian aid.

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"To this day, the pros and cons of GMOs have not yet been fully clarified and therefore Armenia must display cautiousness in this issue. It is important that comprehensive studies are conducted for a final decision," said Harutyunyan.

Armenia's State Food Safety Service jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture is developing a legislative package on regulation and restriction of the import of genetically modified products (GMOs) into the country. The agency plans to introduce a system for marking GMO products, which will be sold on separate shelves.

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