

Russia funds articles questioning GMO safety in bid to hurt US ag industry, research shows

Politics isn't the only issue where Russia seeks to sway U.S. opinion.

The former communist country is trying to influence American's attitudes about genetically engineered crops and biotechnology, according to new Iowa State University research.

Russia is funding articles shared online that question the safety of GMOs in an effort hurt U.S. agriculture interests and bolster its position as the "ecologically clean alternative" to genetically engineered food, said Shawn Dorius, an ISU assistant sociology professor.

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Turning the U.S. or world against GMOs "would have a clear negative effect on an industry in the U.S. and could advantage Russia," Dorius said.

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The ISU researchers, already looking at how U.S. media portrayed genetic engineering and biotechnology, decided to include GMO news articles published on the U.S. versions of RT and Sputnik, news sites funded by the Russian government.

They found RT and Sputnik produced more articles containing the word "GMO" than five other news organizations combined: Huffington Post, Fox News, CNN, Breitbart News and MSNBC.

RT accounted for 34 percent of GMO-related articles among the seven sites; Sputnik articles made up 19 percent.

Read full, original post: [Anti-GMO articles tied to Russian sites, ISU research shows](#)