

Does Ireland's GMO crop cultivation ban undermine push for sustainable agriculture?

At a time when we should be focussed on building a robust agriculture system that can cope with global climate changes, we insist that farmers work with one hand tied behind their back.

Just last month, the [Court of Justice of the European Union ruled](#) that a novel plant breeding method known as CRISPR/Cas should be regulated in the same way as 'traditional' genetically modified (GM) crops.

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The regulations that govern the use of GM technology at [the] EU level have served only to halt research and development on GM in Europe with no credible scientific evidence for such a go-slow.

Now, some would seek to use the same restrictive regulations to halt this new technology.

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We also note [the Irish government's recent decision](#) to prohibit the cultivation of genetically modified crops in Ireland. As the rubber-stamping of an EU directive, this was heralded as "copper-fastening" Ireland's GM cultivation-free status.

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[C]ultivating GM crops has reduced pesticide application in agriculture by 6191 million kg worldwide for the first 20 years of their use (1996-2015). The technology has also reduced greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture equivalent to taking 11.9 million cars off the roads.

A [report on 18 June](#) highlighted how Ireland is ranked "second worst in EU for tackling climate change" and will not meet EU 2020 commitments

Read full, original article: ['Ireland's decision to prohibit GM crops doesn't make sense'](#)