## In boon to poor farmers, Ghana poised to introduce GMO crops

Though the nation already imports genetically modified organisms (GMOs), Ghana is ready to introduce genetically modified (GM) crops into its production. The government of Ghana is working to quickly introduce GMOs as part of the <u>Planting for Food and Jobs</u> initiative. This plan strives to improve food security and increase domestic crop production through biotechnology. This change is good news for poor Ghanaian farmers who will be able to save money with these more resilient crops. However, even though there are many benefits to adopting such changes, genetically modified organisms in Ghana aren't without potential dangers and consequences.

In 2011, Ghana introduced the <u>Biosafety Act</u> to legally introduce GMOs to the country and ultimately allow farmers to use GMOs in their crop production process. The nation already imports GMOs. The Council for Scientific Industrial Research (CSIR) was still needed since it was required to test and study specific GM crops to ensure their safety for the general public.

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Earlier this month, Amaning Okoree, CEO of the National Safety Authority, declared that the government had built all necessary regulations and all reliable studies had concluded that it would be safe to allow genetically modified organisms in Ghana's market. "We are ready for any promoter or commercial organization of biotechnology product that wants to release GMO foods," he declared in a statement.

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