Crop biotech industry fears 'mistrust of science' stifling farming innovation in Europe

For several weeks last fall I spent much of my time traveling across Europe, visiting with many of the representatives from the major players in the world's crop protection/seed business.

It was very refreshing to discover what many of these <u>companies are up to now that the wave of industry</u> <u>consolidation</u> that began in 2016 is finally subsiding. It was also great to hear from these global entities regarding their business plans for agriculture globally in such far-reaching places as Asia, the Middle East, the Pacific Region, and the Americas.

[Editor's note: Eric Sfiligoj is the Editor of CropLife Magazine]

And then there's Europe.

Considering that all of these companies are based in Europe, it was a little odd to not hear much about market plans for this continent. But I quickly realized why once I heard more from the company representatives.

"I'm very concerned for future innovation for agriculture in Europe," BASF's Markus Heldt said. "In Europe there's a clear mistrust of science, and it's not improving."

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