

GMO crops still 'sticking point' as US-China trade deal moves toward completion

China's lengthy approval process for genetically modified crops remains a sticking point in talks to end the trade war between China and the United States....

Beijing has taken years to approve new strains of GM crops, which U.S. companies and farmers have complained stalls trade by restricting the sales of new products from companies such as DowDuPont Inc, Bayer AG, and Syngenta AG .

The issue is one of a host of U.S. complaints that the administration of President Donald Trump is demanding China address if it wants to end trade disputes that have cost both countries billions of dollars and slowed the global economy.

Trump on [April 4] said the two sides were getting very close to a deal that could be announced in about four weeks, though there were still differences to be bridged.

GM crops and the approval process are still a "big issue" in the discussions, said one of the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

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It is unclear what differences on the issue remain. The United States wants China to accelerate its approval process and make it more similar to Washington's.

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