GMO 25-year safety endorsement: 280 science institutions, more than 3,000 studies

urrently, there is a social and political controversy about the safety of foods produced from genetically modified (GM) crops. However, in the scientific community, there is no dispute or controversy regarding the safety of these crops. To date, more than 3,000 scientific studies [1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8] have assessed the safety of these crops in terms of human health and

environmental impact. These studies together with several reviews performed on a case-by-case from regulatory agencies around the world have enabled a solid and clear scientific consensus: GM crops have no more risk than those that have been developed by conventional breeding techniques.

In addition, there is also extensive literature that compiles the socioeconomic and environmental benefits that transgenic crops have reported in two decades of commercialization [9,10].

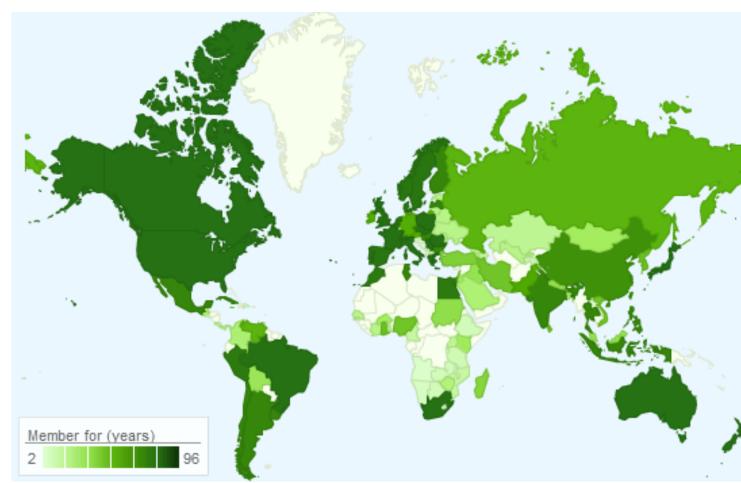
This document brings together the public statements of technical and scientific institutions that adhere to this consensus. I made an update based on this document from ChileBio that initially included 40 official documents representing about 190 institutions - the document from ChileBio was subsequently updated in 2017 with the institutions and statements attached here.

The update shows that 284 technical and scientific institutions recognize the safety of GM crops and their potential benefits. Interestingly a large part of these institutions are located in Europe, the continent that has put more obstacles to the commercialization of these crops. On the other hand, the countries with most organizations in favor of GM crops are United Kingdom (33), United States (25), Italy (23), Spain (16) and Germany (11).

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Final number

After categorizing the different institutions from Africa (14), Asia (5), Europe (89), Latin America (8), North America (28), Oceania (7) and internationals (15), a total of 166 institutions was obtained. If we add the 101 academies and 27 scientific unions that signed the document of the International Council for Science (ICSU), we get a figure of 294 institutions.



Map of ICSU member countries.

However, in the current 121 national scientific institutions that are members of ICSU, 13 already appear on the categorization by continents – the academies of sciences of Australia, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, Czech Republic, France, India, Kenya, Ghana, Vatican, Mexico, UK and United States, and these academies where members of ICSU before the document was signed in 2003. Therefore, if we subtract these 13 members, we get a figure of 281 institutions.

But we must note that the European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC) is composed of 29 members, and 26 already appear on the categorization by continents or in the declaration of ICSU. So we must add the 3 remaining institutions (ALLEA, 'Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts', and the 'Spanish Royal Academy of Sciences') adding a final figure of 284.

In conclusion, 284 technical and scientific institutions recognize that GM crops are not riskier than those produced by conventional breeding, and/or the potential benefits of these crops.

INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE ORGANIZATIONS ON CROP BIOTECHNOLOGY SAFETY



THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

(Chicago)

"There is no scientific justification for special labeling of genetically modified foods. Bioengineered foods have been consumed for close to 20 years, and during that time, no overt consequences on human health have been reported and/or substantiated in the peer-reviewed literature."

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

(Washington, D.C.)

"The science is quite clear: crop improvement by the modern molecular techniques of biotechnology is safe."

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

(Washington, D.C.)

"To date more than 98 million acres of genetically modified crops have been grown worldwide. No evidence of human health problems associated with the ingestion of these crops or resulting food products have been identified."

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE (United Kingdom)

"Foods derived from GM crops have been consumed by hundreds of millions of people across the world for more than 15 years, with no reported ill effects (or legal cases related to human health), despite many of the consumers coming from that most litingious of countries, the USA."

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION (Relaium)

"The main conclusion to be drawn from the efforts of more than 130 research projects, covering a period of more than 25 years of research, and involving more than 500 independent research groups, is that biotechnology, and in particular GMOs, are no more risky than conventional plant breeding technologies."

THE UNION OF GERMAN ACADEMICS OF SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

(Germany)

"In consuming food derived from GM plants approved in the EU and in the USA, the risk is in

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Daniel Norero is a biochemistry student and works in the Laboratory of Molecular Plant Pathology at the Catholic University of Chile. He is the founder of the Hispanic biotechnology advocacy movement "Sí Quiero Transgénicos" and also writes for the Chilean Skeptical Association and LatinAmericanScience. Follow him on Twitter @DanielNorero

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