World's first GM lager: Could beer made from genetically modified wheat usher in a new era of GMO crop acceptance?

Argentina's <u>Bioceres Crop Solutions Corp.</u>, the farm technology company that's trying to convince the world to eat genetically-modified wheat, is <u>in talks</u> with Buenos Aires craft beer maker <u>Rabieta</u> to brew the first-ever GM lager.

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The deals would come on the heels of a similar <u>contract</u> with confectioner <u>Havanna</u> as Bioceres seeks to go where no company has before by winning worldwide acceptance for gene-edited wheat.

While the vast majority of the world's soybean and corn crops are already GMOs, these are laregly fed to livestock. Biotech wheat, on the other hand, would be directly eaten by humans in bread and pasta, something consumers and regulators have roundly rejected in the past.

HB4's selling point is that it tolerates drought at a time when farmers from the Americas to Oceania are grappling with climate change and extreme dryness.

Argentina, a top wheat exporter, <u>gave</u> final approval to plant HB4 [recently] following <u>authorization</u> for consumption by its chief buyer Brazil. Still, exporters <u>worry</u> that cargoes to wheat importers that haven't yet cleared HB4 will be contaminated with the GM strain, locking Argentina out of those markets. Traders' fears may begin to diminish if, as Bioceres hopes, Australia <u>becomes</u> the second major global grain supplier to green-light planting.

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