

Viewpoint: ‘We need to reduce imports’ — Colombian food security proponents urge expanding GMO crops to reach food sovereignty goal

During his inaugural speech, President Gustavo Petro stated that “Colombia is a country that must and can enjoy food sovereignty to achieve zero hunger,” for which he pointed out that the State, together with the private sector that wants to join, must “guarantee the full healthy food for the entire Colombian society and achieve export surpluses”.

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Currently, Colombia imports about 12 million tons of food or the equivalent of 30% of what is consumed in the country, according to the report by the environmental organization Greenpeace entitled Manifesto New Food Culture.

For the executive director of Agro-Bio [María Andrea Uscátegui], there is the possibility of sowing more in the country with the efficiency generated by modernization and all the practices that are applied to seeds with technology.

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Questioned about the stigma that still weighs on these crops, María Andrea Uscátegui pointed out that this is supposedly due to “misinformation that has been spread on the subject. Unfortunately, scientists were not very used to communicating and I think that has been lacking”.

It is necessary, as she indicated, “that those who develop technology tell the impact and benefits that this can have for humanity”, and considers that some sectors “have taken advantage of this silence to make propaganda that has not benefited technology but has demonized it.”

[Editor’s note: This article has been translated from Spanish and edited for clarity.]

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