In its quest for food security, China scales up GMO and gene edited crop approvals

In a significant leap towards self-reliance in food security, China celebrates the success of a three-year trial planting homegrown genetically modified (GM) corn and soybeans, marking a pivotal point in its agricultural modernization efforts. Spearheaded by Professor Lai Jinsheng and his team at China Agricultural University, the development of indigenous “scissors” for gene editing represents a breakthrough in overcoming Western technology blockades, highlighting China’s determination to harness cutting-edge technology for agricultural innovation.

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The recent success of GM corn and soybean trials further demonstrates the potential of genetically modified crops in bolstering food security, a critical aspect of the country’s modernization drive.

As China continues to push the boundaries of agricultural technology, the implications of these developments extend beyond national borders. Proposals to share technology with Africa to increase crop yields hint at China’s broader vision for global food security. Meanwhile, the focus on enhancing farmers’ incomes through the promotion of advanced food crops signifies a holistic approach to modernization that balances technological advancement with socio-economic development. With agriculture receiving unprecedented political attention, the coming years are likely to witness further transformative changes in the sector, reinforcing China’s position as a leader in agricultural innovation and food security.

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