

Genetically Modified Plants in Germany -

plantings, regulation & public debate



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Plantings - commercial releases 1

- 3.700 hectares *announced* to the register (Feb. 2008: 4.500)
- 3.200 hectares *planted* (2008)
- 2.700 hectares *planted* (2007)
- 950 hectares *planted* (2006)
- 350 hectars *planted* (2005)

3.599 of 3.700 hectares in four eastern federal states

1.8 to 2.0 million hectares (2008/
2009) increasing!



www.greenpeace.de

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Plantings - commercial releases 2

- commercial releases in Germany since 2005
- only GM maize MON810
- **but** multiplication of planting material of Amflora (GM starch potato of BASF) under Part B of 2001/18/EC



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Plantings - field trials 1

- until now up to 200 field trials since 1991
- *highlights 2009:*
 - GM wheat
 - GM potato (Amflora multiplication, *Phytophthora*-resistant, so called *Cholera* potato)
 - GM maize, GE maize, GE maize ... (Bt, HT, Bt-HT ...)
 - GM sugar beet, GM rape seed ...

Plantings - others

- field trials with respect to the integration of a GM seed variety to the german seed list
 - we had a lot of trials during the last years but the information where they took place are usually not public > loopwhole in the law

Regulation - national level 1

- gene technology act - *general*
 - protection of human health & the environment
 - ensure the so called ‚coexistence‘ with food and feed production with GE, with conventional, or with organic production
 - exploring, developing, using *and* promoting the scientific, technical and economic benefits of GE

(implementation of the EU regulation)



Regulation - national level 2

- gene technology act - *highlights*
 - location register (monitoring & coexistence)
 - joint and several liability
 - good farming practice, so far only for GM maize
- Who pays for the coexistence measures ?

Regulation - national level 3

- labeling „without *genetic engineering*“
 - no GM plants in food, no GM plants in fodder
 - 0.9 % treshold of the EU regulation
 - some additives, and some vet-medicines possible in fodder, if they are not available from other sources
 - some additives possible in food, if they are not available from other sources (so far only theory)
 - delayed starting point for some animals
- our focus is the soy issue !!!
- we (GeN) were in favour of the old regulation without any exceptions and a new regulation in the sense of „fed without GM plants“, but the outcome as it is, is better than no outcome



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Regulation - national level 4

- MON810 ban in Germany? (§ 26 a 2001/18/EC)
 - Minister Aigner (Agric) ... *hmm, hmm*
 - Minister Gabriel (Env) ... *hmm, hmm*
- Farmers: the largest farmers association (DBV): „our members want both: GE & non GE“. But on the local level the members are usually against GE and in favour of a ban
- all other farmers associations are in favour of a ban!

Regulation - national level 5

- Aarhus Convention -
Almaty amendments
 - process of ratification under way
- public participation, access to information, access to justice
- **civil society is a partner in environmental decision making**
- Almaty opens AC for GE issues

2008: meeting in Cologne back-to-back with Biosafety Protocol meeting in Bonn



Regulation - federal states level 2

- control measures
 - nature protection, labeling, ...
- 800 meters buffer zone to FFH- and other protected areas with special butterflies
 - 1st Brandenburg, 2nd Saxonia, 3rd Bavaria (announced)

federal state of Brandenburg (2007)



Public debate - short history

- parliament (Bundestag-*Enquete*-Kom) commission on GE (1984 - 1987)
- GeN had been funded in 1986
- first industry facility for Insulin production (around 1988)
- first local groups ... first release in 1991

citizens watch petunia !

- strong (but top down) campaign against rBST
- first GM soy import 1996



Public debate - recent years 1

- 180 GE free regions (farmer to farmer initiatives, together with other groups)
- local initiatives in the regions of commercial plantings and field trials
- bee keepers!
- coalitions on the federal states and national level
- civil disobedience; groups *harvest* the GM plants in summer, people announce it advance with their names on the internet; allocations of test site (8 times in 2008) & sit ins

Public debate - recent years 2

- risk debate incl. EFSA
- general doubts against authorities & scientists
- seed rights monololists
- patents
- coexistence & contamination

- hundrets and hundrets of public debates ... often with a film as a starter
- talking, talking, talking (find the weak part of the chain/ in the social network around the GE farmer !)



Public debate

Crash Test for GM maize - strengthen indepent risk research !!!

- How much Bt toxin is in genetically modyfied maize?
- Put the GM maize in a climate chamber!
- strengthen independent risk research
- involve more & other experts
- suspend import & cultivation



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Public debate - what's next

- MON810 ban, re-evaluation
- new applications in Brussel: **Bt11, 1507, Amflora**
- regional sovereignty

- Lucerne (Switzerland)
International Conference of GMO-Free Regions in Europe

Food & Democracy

(April, 24th/ 25th 2009)

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