

EU GMO POLICIES, SUSTAINABLE FARMING AND PUBLIC RESEARCH

This briefing paper addresses:

- Global challenges in agriculture
- Public sector research
- Experiences with GM crops to date
- The EU regulatory framework
- Survey among farmers and scientists

Survey conclusions

- There are many constraints in cultivating crops and trees in Europe for which conventional breeding has limited potential to provide adequate solutions, and for which biotechnological tools are already available.
- Current GMO policies in the EU deprive farmers of potential benefits and of the freedom to choose.
- Much public-sector biotechnology research for sustainable agriculture in Europe has been slowed, stopped or moved abroad, because of regulatory hurdles and costs to prevent destruction of field research.

Briefing paper recommendations

- Governments and EU institutions are urged to execute the current regulatory system in the way they themselves designed it, while upholding the freedom of choice for farmers.
- Farmers and public-sector scientists are called upon to better engage with the general public and policy makers.

Background information and references can be found on:

www.greenbiotech.eu