

## Farmers–Scientists Network

### *Press Release on Destruction of GMO Field Trials*

The world is facing daunting challenges: rampant malnutrition, growing world population, climate change, increasing environmental degradation. Farmers need to produce more, with less input and lower impact on the environment. This calls for a “sustainable intensification” of agriculture. For this, farmers need crop plants that give higher yields, use water more efficiently, are less dependent on fertilizers and pesticides, have a higher nutritional value and many more.

This immense challenge **cannot** be solved by conventional approaches alone, but requires the involvement of new technologies. Plant biotechnology can offer solutions to the problems that lie ahead. Yet, over the last few years European public research in this area has slowed down and sometimes even come to a halt, and in many EU countries farmers are not allowed to grow the GM crops that have been assessed for safety in accordance with EU rules.

The European Farmers–Scientists Network met on 5-6 September at the 2011 InnoPlanta Forum in Uplingen, Germany, to exchange experiences with testing and growing - or not being allowed to test and grow – GMOs.

The farmers and scientists from 12 countries concluded that the current political arbitrariness and the field destructions by activists prevent the development of the full potential of plant biotechnology for the common good.

The Farmers-Scientists-Network stress that:

- Approvals of genetically engineered plants must be **science-based!**
- Farmers and scientists need clear and predictable **legal rules and true freedom of choice!**
- All segments of plant and animal production **need workable thresholds!**
- **It is time to stop the ideological trench warfare over genetically modified plants!**
- More information should be given to the public about the **realized benefits** of plant biotechnology worldwide!
- **The destructive actions of radical activists must be sternly countered!**