Coexistence: GM and non-GM agriculture

The coexistence information system contains experiments and studies concerned with the establishment of coexistence between GMO, and conventional and organic agricultures and in the food processing.

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Genetically modified maize cultivation: Measures to avoid mixing of GM and conventional maize

Health and Consumer Policy Commissioner John Dalli presented a new report on coexistence to the EU Agriculture Council at its meeting on 27 September 2010 in Brussels. The measures it proposes are intended to minimise the mixing of genetically modified and conventional maize. According to Commissioner Dalli, the report is designed to help member states produce their own coexistence regulations. At the same time, it became clear during the meeting that a large number of member states are voting against plans to transfer decision-making powers relating to the cultivation of GMOs to national level.

New coexistence - Guidelines in the EU: Cultivation bans are now permitted

On 13 July 2010, the EU commission decided on new guidelines for coexistence. These mark a turning point in the European policy on gene technology. Essentially, the Member States are now allowed to enforce their own concept of 'Coexistence'. Whereas previously 'gene technology-free zones were only possible on the basis of voluntary agreements, Countries may now prohibit the cultivation of certain genetically modified plants.

Nationalisation of the GMO cultivation decision: “The buck has been passed to the Member States.”

In the near future the EU Member States are to have the possibility themselves to restrict or ban the cultivation of genetically modified crops to prevent adventitious presence of GM material in other products. GMO Safety has spoken with Prof. Dr. Hans-Georg Dederer from the Faculty of Law at the University of Passau about the room for manoeuvre of the Member States.

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