

# FACING THE FACTS ON GMOS IN THE EU

## MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE



### 6 TIMES LAND AREA OF ITALY

That's how big the global area of biotech crops is, about **180 million hectares**<sup>1</sup>



### GREATER ROME AREA

That is the EU's share: **0.13%** of the EU's arable land<sup>2</sup>



### 18 MILLION FARMERS PLANTED GMOS IN 2015...

that is about **6 million** more than all EU farmers put together!

And yet...

**34 MILLION TONNES OF GM SOYA ARE BEING IMPORTED INTO THE EU EACH YEAR!** → that's equivalent to **60 kg** for each of the EU's **500 million citizens**!



**1 EU LEADER, SPAIN**, with over **1.2 million ha** of GM corn cumulatively adopted since 1998 to fight the corn borer... When European farmers can choose, they grow it!



**THE PURPOSE** → to feed our cows, pigs and chickens, and produce high value products!<sup>3</sup>



## SAFE AND ESSENTIAL FOR A GROWING WORLD

The truth is that **GMOs are safe**<sup>4</sup> and provide multiple benefits!

- They can be used in crops to develop **drought and water tolerance, improved nutritional profiles, insect resistance, prevent yield loss, and to improve CO<sub>2</sub> savings and profit margins** for farmers through reducing the use of other inputs.
  - They undergo **rigorous testing** that can last as much as 5 years or more.
  - Over **3 trillion GMO meals** have been eaten worldwide.
  - **0 cases of harm**... for human or animal<sup>2</sup> health from eating GMOs have ever been substantiated.



## BUT THE BENEFITS CAN BE MULTIPLIED

- Today there are still **3,100,000 global annual deaths per year from malnutrition**. And GMOs are helping to close the gap.
- According to the European Commission<sup>5</sup>, disrupting GMO trade to the EU would lead to a **€9.6 billion yearly loss**, and some estimates are even higher!<sup>6</sup>



**1.** So **why** are the EU and its member states hindering the development and application of this promising technology, which we rely on?

**2.** The fact is that:

- “*Biotechnology for crop improvement must be part of the response to societal challenges*”, and the “*EU is falling behind new international competitors in agricultural innovation*”, having implications for science, innovation, and the environment.<sup>7</sup>
- “*There is compelling evidence that GM crops can contribute to sustainable development goals with benefits to farmers, consumers, the environment and the economy.*”<sup>8</sup>

**While Europe scratches its head, the rest of the world is moving ahead...**



**ISN'T IT TIME FOR EUROPE TO FACE THE FACTS, AND START SUPPORTING AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY?**

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.isaaa.org/resources/publications/briefs/51/topfacts/default.asp>

<sup>2</sup> Arable EU land is estimated at ca. 107 million hectares for 2016 on p57 of [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets-and-prices/medium-term-outlook/2014/fullrep\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets-and-prices/medium-term-outlook/2014/fullrep_en.pdf). Latest statistics for GM cultivation in the EU state 16,870 hectares or 0.13%

<sup>3</sup> Infographic on the EU benefits from GM trade. EuropaBio, April 2015 [http://www.europabio.org/sites/default/files/infographic\\_eu\\_benefits\\_from\\_gm\\_trade.pdf](http://www.europabio.org/sites/default/files/infographic_eu_benefits_from_gm_trade.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.easac.eu/home/reports-and-statements/detail-view/article/planting-the.html>

<sup>5</sup> European Commission Study on the Implications of asynchronous GMO approvals for EU imports of animal feed products, December 2010

<sup>6</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/analysis/external/asynchronous-gmo-approvals>

<sup>7</sup> € 30 billion yearly loss according to Schmitz et al., Institut für Agribusiness, Gießen. “Sektorale und volkswirtschaftliche Auswirkungen von EU-Strategien zur Begrenzung von eisenreichen Importfuttermitteln bzw. zur Umstellung auf gentechnikfreie Futtermittel heimischer Herkunft” (Agribusiness-Forschung Nr. 34), May 2015. Quote is translated from this summary article by the author of the study.

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.easac.eu/home/reports-and-statements/detail-view/article/planting-the.html>