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.7

There is compelling evidence that GM crops can contribute to sustainable development goals with benefits to farmers, consumers, the environment and the economy.”8

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

6 TIMES LAND AREA OF ITALY
That’s how big the global area of biotech crops is, about 180 million hectares.

18 MILLION FARMERS PLANTED GMOs IN 2015, that’s 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.3

SAFE AND ESSENTIAL FOR A GROWING WORLD

The truth is that GMOs are safe4 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 CO2 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 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, disrupting GMO trade to the EU would lead to a €9.6 billion yearly loss, and some estimates are even higher!6

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?

1. 1 https://www.isaaa.org/resources/publications/briefs/51/toptenfacts/default.asp
6. € 30 billion yearly loss according to Schmitz et al, Institut für Agribusiness, Gießen: “Sektorale und volkswirtschaftliche Auswirkungen von EU-Strategien zur Begrenzung von eiweißreichen 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.
7, 8 http://www.easac.eu/home/reports-and-statements/detail-view/article/planting-the.html

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