Top ten statistics on GMOs

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EuropaBio
The European Association for Bioindustries

50 years	**of undue delays in the EU...**	... have been incurred by the European Commission to date by breaking administrative timelines fixed in EU law regarding GM authorisations[1]. This is not a safety issue, as the products in question have all been found as safe as their conventional counterparts.
€ 9.6 billion	**of unnecessary costs to the EU economy...**	... is what a report published by the European Commission estimated when examining the impact of trade-related incidents with shipments sent back to the countries of origin, as a consequence of the slow pace of the GM authorisation process in the EU, combined with a zero tolerance policy[2].
€ 300 million	**worth of EU research confirming GMO safety...**	... was co-financed by the European Commission. This work involved more than 400 independent research groups and confirmed that "the use of more precise technology and the greater regulatory scrutiny probably makes GMOs even safer than conventional plants and foods[4]", and that "GMOs are not per se more risky than conventional plant breeding technologies[3]".
Trillions	**of GMO meals...**	... have been eaten worldwide[5].
0	**cases of harm...**	... for human health from eating GMOs have ever been substantiated[6].
2500	**GMO product authorisations...**	... have been issued by competent authorities in 59 countries[7], based on scientific risk assessment. These authorisations covered a total of 25 crops and 319 GM events. In the EU, 46 GM crop events have been authorised for import and two for cultivation[8].
170 million	**hectares of GM crops...**	... were grown worldwide in 2012 by over 17 million farmers, most of whom were smallholder farmers in developing countries[9]. This is more than one and a half times the arable land available in the EU, and more than one and a half times the number of all farmers in the EU[10].
€ 443 million	**of lost income for EU farmers...**	... per year have been estimated to result from their lack of access to GM technology, as a minimum. The maximum estimate is € 929 million per year[11].
10 million	**cars off the road...**	... is the equivalent of how much greenhouse gas emissions were saved in 2011 with the use of GMOs[12].
108.7 million	**hectares of land were saved...**	... from being farmed between 1996 and 2011 with the use of biotech crops[13]. Higher productivity of GM crops means more can be grown on a given piece of land, which contributes to preserving land that currently provides a haven for biodoversity or is used for conservation.

1 EuropaBio, "Half a century of undue delays in the EU Approval of GM Products" http://www.europabio.org/filter/agricultural/type/position

2 Economic impact of unapproved GMOs on EU feed imports and livestock production, http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/analysis/external/asynchronous-gmo-approvals/summary_en.pdf

3 "EC-sponsored Research on Safety of Genetically Modified Organisms" (1985-2000) http://ec.europa.eu/research/quality-of-life/gmo/

4 "A decade of EU-funded GMO research" (2001-2010) ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/fp7/kbbe/docs/a-decade-of-eu-funded-gmo-research_en.pdf

5 George Freeman MP quoted in FT http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/bcdb19c0-87e5-11e2-8e3c-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2UZPUyKsx

6 George Freeman MP quoted in FT http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/bcdb19c0-87e5-11e2-8e3c-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2UZPUyKsx

7 ISAAA: http://www.isaaa.org/resources/publications/briefs/44/executivesummary/default.asp

8 European Commission, EU register of authorised GMOs: http://ec.europa.eu/food/dyna/gm_register/index_en.cfm

9 ISAAA: http://www.isaaa.org/resources/publications/briefs/44/executivesummary/default.asp

10 Eurostat: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-FK-12-001/EN/KS-FK-12-001-EN.PDF

11 J Park, I Mc Farlane, The impact of the EU regulatory constraint of transgeniccrops on farm income http://www.academia.edu/424870/The_impact_of_EU_regulatory_constraint_of_transgenic_crops_on_farm_income

12 G Brookes and P Barfoot, Key environmental impacts of global genetically modified (GM) crop use 1996–2011 http://www.landesbioscience.com/journals/36/article/24459/

13 ISAAA: http://www.isaaa.org/resources/publications/briefs/44/executivesummary/default.asp