

Genetically Engineered Crops and Foods: Regional Regulation and Prohibition

An Ongoing Project of:



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AFRICA

Country	GMO-free Regions	Legislative information
Algeria		
Angola		
Benin		
Botswana		
Burkina Faso		
Burundi		
Cameroon		
Cape Verde		
Central African Republic		
Chad		
Comoros		
Congo (Democratic Republic)		
Congo (Republic)		
Djibouti		
Egypt		
Equatorial Guinea		
Eritrea		
Ethiopia		
Gabon		
Gambia		
Ghana		
Guinea		
Guinea-Bissau		
Ivory Coast		
Kenya		
Lesotho		
Liberia		
Libya		
Madagascar		
Malawi		
Mali		
Mauritania		
Mauritius		

Morocco		
Mozambique		
Namibia		
Niger		
Nigeria		
Rwanda		
Sao Tome and Principe		
Senegal		
Seychelles		
Sierra Leone		
Somalia		
South Africa		
Sudan		
Swaziland		
Tanzania		
Togo		
Tunisia		
Uganda		
Zambia		
Zimbabwe		



ASIA

Country	GM-Free Regions	Legislative information
Afghanistan		
Bahrain		
Bangladesh		
Bhutan		
Brunei		
Burma (Myanmar)		
Cambodia		
China	Jilin and Liaoning provinces GM soy free.	The provincial government of Heilongjiang, China's leading soybean producer, has ordered GM soybeans to be kept out of the province.
East Timor		
Hong Kong		
India		
Indonesia		
Iran		
Iraq		
Israel		
Japan	<p>Eight rice farmers in Takashima, Shiga Prefecture, have started their own GM-free zone.</p> <p>September 2005: Tohoku Network, the first trans-regional GMO Free Zone declaration in Japan, set up by farmers from Yamagata Prefecture and consumers from Miyagi Prefecture. http://www5d.biglobe.ne.jp/%7Ecbic/english/2005/journal0510.html</p> <p>November 2003 Morioka city, Iwate: 450 person demonstration and 407,000 signature petition from all over Japan successfully stops GM rice trials in Iwate.</p> <p>Citizens' Biotechnology Information Center (CBIC) website provides monthly updates, in English, regarding GMO authorizations, regulations and prohibitions. http://www5d.biglobe.ne.jp/%7Ecbic/english/2005/index.html</p>	<p>In Iwate, Ibaraki and Shiga prefectures, the authorities have established guidelines that restrict GM crop production.</p> <p>February 2005: Hokkaido prefecture drafts ordinance to be implemented January 2006. Farmers will need governor approval to cultivate or carry out field trials on GM crops. http://biotech.dnsalias.net/or/2005/02/3943.shtml</p> <p>August 2004: Shiga Prefecture announced "guidelines concerning GM crop cultivation". However only farmland is covered – farmers asked to practice self-control. Field trials are not included. The Governor's initial enthusiasm seems much diluted. http://www5d.biglobe.ne.jp/%7Ecbic/english/2004/journal0410.html</p> <p>March 2004: Tsukuba (Ibaraki) Prefecture adopted a petition from December 2003, demanding the restriction of GM crop cultivation. The city, at the centre of GM crop trials in Japan, is currently working on GM guidelines. http://www5d.biglobe.ne.jp/%7Ecbic/english/2005/journal0504.html</p> <p>March 2004, Ibaraki Prefecture announced GM crop cultivation guidelines, the first prefectural government level initiative for GM restriction in Japan. Includes seeking consent by neighboring farms and measures to prevent cross-contamination. http://www5d.biglobe.ne.jp/%7Ecbic/english/2004/journal0403.html</p>

Jordan		
Kazakhstan		
Korea (North)		
Korea (South)		
Kuwait		
Kyrgyzstan		
Laos		
Lebanon		
Malaysia		
Maldives		
Mongolia		
Nepal		
Oman		
Pakistan		
Philippines	June 2005: Surallah, in South Cotabato province, declared to ban entry and planting of GE crops	July 2004: GMO-free ordinance passed in Bohol province banning Bt-corn and other GM crops from entering the province.
Qatar		
Russian Federation	Belgorod Oblast governor, Savchenko, has declared his province GM free, and vowed to prohibit the use of agri-biotechnology and instigate an import ban. http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200507/146130310.pdf	May 2006: Foods containing genetically modified products will be banned from Moscow schools and pre-school childcare centers as mandated by Mayor Yuri Luzhkov. http://www.itar-tass.com/eng/level2.html?NewsID=8196720&PageNum=0
Saudi Arabia		
Singapore		
Sri Lanka		
Syria		
Taiwan		
Tajikistan		
Thailand	1999: Thai government plans to set up GMO free zones.	
Turkey		
Turkmenistan		
United Arab Emirates		
Uzbekistan		
Vietnam		
Yemen		



EUROPE

Source: GMO-free Europe <http://www.foeeurope.org/GMOs/gmofree/countries/>

Country EU Member	GM-free Regions	Legislative information
European Union	<p>According to Friends of the Earth, May 2005, there are now 162 declared GM- Free regions and provinces in Europe. 4500 local governments have called for GM restrictions. http://www.foeeurope.org/press/2005/joint_17_May_gmo_free_zones.htm</p> <p>November 2003: Network of regions and local authorities set up to comment on EC Recommendation on Co-existence (2003/556/EC). Network issues 'Brussels Declaration' calling for legal status for GM free zones. http://www.gmofree-europe.org/PDFs/GMfree_reions_network_declaration.pdf</p> <p>4th February 2005: Network signs 'Florence Charter' – Charter of the Regions and local authorities of Europe on the Subject of Coexistence of Genetically Modified Crops with Traditional and Organic Farming. http://www.cor.eu.int/document/Highlight/Charter_of_regions_Feb_05.pdf</p> <p>Signatories to these declarations are indicated below.</p>	<p><u>October 2005</u>: The European Court of First Instance upheld the European Commission's stance, ruling that Upper Austria's ban on GM crops and foods is illegal. This will have great repercussions for other regions wishing to ban GMOs.</p>
Albania	<p><u>April 2004</u>: Five communes from the Vlore region declared themselves a GMO-free zone http://www.organic.org.al/activities1.htm</p>	
Andorra		
Armenia		
Austria	<p><i>Brussels Declaration</i>: Salzburg <i>Florence Declaration</i>: Upper Austria, Burgenland, Steiermark (Styria), Salzburg</p> <p><u>June 2003</u>: ALPA-ADRIA GM free 'bioregion' zone established. This encompasses 5 Alpine regions; Slovenia, Austrian regions Carinthia and Styria, Italian provinces Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Veneto.</p> <p>8 of Austria's 9 regions have GM-Free Initiatives: Tirol, Vienna, Carinthia, Salzburg, Burgenland, Styria, Upper Austria and Lower Austria. Over 100 municipalities have signed a GMO free resolution, including 23 in the Cross-border Pannonien region. http://www.gmofree-europe.org/documents/List%20of%20EU%20GMO-free%20areas.doc</p>	<p><u>2003</u>: The region of Upper-Austria drafted a law banning the cultivation of GMO seeds and plants.</p> <p><u>October 2005</u>: This law was ruled illegal, under internal market rules, by the European Court of First Instance.</p>
Azerbaijan		
Belarus		
Belgium	<p>39 communities in the Flemish speaking part of Belgium and 81 in the French speaking part have declared themselves GMO free.</p>	
Bosnia and Herzegovina		
Bulgaria	<p><u>May 2006</u>: The Satovcha Municipality has become the first Bulgarian region to pronounce their land free of GMO. http://www.gmofree-europe.org/countries/Bulgaria.htm</p>	

Croatia	Dubrovnik-Nerevta district now one of 09 GMO-free districts	
Cyprus	Cypriot municipalities of Germasogeia and Larnaca announced their areas as GMO free municipalities	
Czech Republic		
Denmark		
Estonia		
Finland		The councils of two municipalities (Hyvinkää and Loppi, both in Uusimaa-region, southern part of Finland) have banned the use of GMO's in public provisions (schools, day cares, nursing homes etc.).
France	<p><i>Brussels Declaration:</i> Limousin Region <i>Florence Declaration:</i> Aquitaine, Brittany, Ile de France, Limousin</p> <p>94 <i>départements</i>, in .22 regions have official GM free-declarations. See http://www.infogm.org/rubrique.php?id_rubrique=231 for developments and specimen declarations</p> <p>An up to date map detailing recent developments is available at - http://www.genet-info.org/-Europe/france.html</p>	
Georgia		
Germany	<p><i>Brussels Declaration:</i> Schleswig-Holstein <i>Florence Declaration:</i> Schleswig-Holstein</p> <p>50 GM-free zones have been declared, representing 430,000 hectares of farmland that farmers have promised not to plant with GM crops.</p> <p>Maps and up to date information at http://www.genet-info.org/-Europe/germany1.html</p>	<p>November 2004: German Parliament, Bundestag, adopts Genetic Modification act. This includes strict co-existence provisions to protect GM free farming through precautionary action, 'good farming practice', a site register, and a compensation scheme.</p> <p>http://www.verbraucherministerium.de/index-000265812B89107E9DEC6521C0A8D816.html</p>
Greece	<p><i>Brussels Declaration:</i> Thrace-Rodopi <i>Florence Declaration:</i> Drama-Kavala-Xanthi</p> <p>October 2004: The last of the 54 prefectures voted to declare themselves GM-Free. Region by region, the whole of Greece has declared itself GM-free</p>	
Hungary	<p>September 2004: The Cross-border region of Pannonien has declared itself GM free, convering 12 Hungarian municipalities.</p>	<p>Article 10 of Hungary's Gene Tech Act XXVII, allows for the creation of genetic-protective zones that do one/some/all of the following: Declare the municipality a GMO-free zone; Follow a GMO-free policy in the services provided by the municipality; Enhance and support GMO-free agriculture in all the possible ways; Follow the new proposals for the authorization of new GMOs and when necessary, inform the GenTech Committee that the municipality would want to be excluded from the scope of the authorization; and control the cultivation of GM plants in the locally protected areas. Thirty-one municipalities have agreed different combinations of these commitments.</p>
Iceland		
Ireland	<p>April 2004: the first local GM-free zone in Ireland was declared in Westmeath County on the farm of renowned author and beef farmer James Patrick Donleavy.</p> <p>22nd April 2005: 1000 GMO free zones were declared on Earth Day.</p> <p>As of May 2006: Irish GMO-free zones include 8 counties, 7 towns and 1,000 smaller areas. Counties Cavan, Clare, Fermanagh, Kerry, Meath, Monaghan, Roscomman, and Westmeath prohibit genetically modified seeds and crops, as do the local authorities of</p>	

	<p>Bray, Derry, Galway City, Navan, Newry, Mourne, and Clonakilty.</p> <p>http://www.gmfreeireland.org/map/index.php</p>	
Italy	<p><i>Brussels Declaration:</i> Tuscany <i>Florence Declaration:</i> Tuscany, Marche, Lazio, Emilia Romagna, Sardinia, Bolzano</p> <p>15 regions in total are declared GM free zones: Tuscany, Abruzzo, Basilicata, Campania, Puglia, Trentino Alto Adige, Umbria, Molise, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Lazio, Veneto, Liguria, Marche, Piedmont, Emilia-Romagne.</p> <p><u>October 2004:</u> Italian Farmer Association – Coldiretti – propose GM free Sicily. Approved by 72 municipalities so far.</p> <p><u>June 2003:</u> ALPA-ADRIA GM free ‘bioregion’ zone established. This encompasses 5 Alpine regions; Slovenia, Austrian regions Carinthia and Styria, Italian provinces Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Veneto.</p> <p>In total, over 1,800 Italian municipalities have declared themselves GM free, accounting for 80% of Italy’s territory</p>	<p>The new Italian co-existence law allows each region to ban or permit cultivation of GM crops. 27 provinces, nearly 1500 towns/communities and 15 of the country’s 20 regions have proclaimed themselves GM-free.</p> <p><u>April 2000:</u> Regional Law of the Italian Region of Tuscany declaring themselves GMO free. “Tuscany prohibits the cultivation and production of species that contain genetically modified organisms”</p>
Latvia		
Liechtenstein		
Lithuania		
Luxembourg		
Macedonia		
Malta		
Moldova		
Monaco		
Netherlands	<p><u>August 2004:</u> The local government of Culemborg declared itself GMO-free. The municipality may not use GM crops.</p>	
Norway		
Poland	<p><u>September, 2004:</u> Podkarpackie, Southeast Poland, first Polish region to declare itself a GMO free zone.</p> <p><u>November 2004:</u> Malopolska Province accepted a resolution to declare Malopolska a GMO Free Zone.</p> <p><u>February 2005:</u> The city of Kluczbork (12 sq Km, with 28,000 people), S.W. Poland, declared itself GMO Free</p> <p><u>December 2004:</u> Podlaskie Province regional government passed a statement that they intend to declare the province a "GMO-free zone".</p> <p><u>February 2005:</u> Province of Kujawsko-Pomorskie (1,700 sq km, population 2 million) put forward a statement declaring itself a GMO free Zone.</p> <p><u>March 2005:</u> Mazowieckie Province (population over 5 million),local authorities passed a GMO Free resolution</p> <p><u>March 2005:</u> Wielkopolska voted to make the Province a GMO Free Zone.</p>	

	<p>Other areas have taken steps, following province declarations, to ban GMOs.</p> <p>Suski region (Malopolska), Bochenski region (Malopolska), The Commune of Lacko (Malopolska), Krakow municipality (Malopolska), Polanow commune, (in the heart of a large scale, mostly intensive agricultural region, with several factory farms) and the community of Jordanow (Malopolska) have all put forward statements to declare themselves GMO Free Zones Detailed map available http://icppc.pl/pl/gmo/eng_index.php</p>	
Portugal	<p><u>2005</u>: City of Mora declared GMO-free. <u>August 2004</u>: The Algarve region declared itself GM-free</p>	
Romania		
San Marino		
Slovakia	<p><u>September 2004</u>: The Cross-border region of Pannonien has declared itself GM free, covering 10 Slovakian municipalities.</p>	
Slovenia	<p><u>June 2003</u>: ALPA-ADRIA GM free 'bioregion' zone established. This encompasses 5 Alpine regions; Slovenia, Austrian regions Carinthia and Styria, Italian provinces Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Veneto. http://www.foeurope.org/press/2003/GR_10_June_Transnational.htm</p>	<p><u>July 2003</u> : Although faced with problems, the government is keen to establish Slovenia as a GM free zone. Environment Minister Janez Kopac suggested "we cannot ban GMOs, but we can avoid using them". http://www.gene.ch/genet/2003/Jul/msg00107.html+</p>
Spain	<p><i>Brussels Declaration</i>: Basque Country <i>Florence Declaration</i>: Basque Country</p> <p><u>May 2004</u>: The region of Asturias declared itself GMO-free. <u>May 2005</u> The Asturias region signed the <i>Florence Declaration</i></p>	<p><u>June 2000</u>: The regional Parliament of Andalucia adopted a 5 year moratorium on GM-crop trials. The Basque country has issued a five year blanket moratorium on GMOs.</p>
Sweden		
Switzerland	<p>3 Cantons so far have effectively banned the commercial release of GMOS: In the Canton Ticino a law has been included into agricultural canton laws banning the cultivation of GMOs. In Canton de Vaud and Jura the canton parliaments have proposed similar laws. In Canton Appenzell cultivation of GMO is banned in woodland areas.</p>	<p>A nationwide referendum on whether to instigate a 5 yr moratorium on GMOs is scheduled for November 2005</p>
Ukraine		
United Kingdom	<p><i>Brussels Declaration</i>: Wales <i>Florence Declaration</i>: Wales, Scottish Highlands and Islands.</p> <p>So far, 60 areas in England have approved a GM-free resolution.</p> <p>35 councils in Wales have approved similar resolutions. Over 50 local authorities have now voted for GM free policies.</p> <p><u>December 2003</u>: Scotland – West Lothian council votes to become GM free</p> <p><u>June 2004</u>: Western Isles join Highland and Moray as declared GM-free zones.</p>	<p>The devolved nation of Wales has declared itself GMO-free. The Welsh Assembly has adopted a GM-free policy and has passed the first statutory separation distances in Europe on the GM maize T25, which automatically triggered Article 16 of EU Directive 90/220/EEC (known as the safeguard clause).</p>
Vatican City		
Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)		



NORTH AMERICA

Country	GM-Free Regions	Legislative information
Antigua and Barbuda		
Bahamas		
Barbados		
Belize		
Canada	<p>June 2004: Powell River, BC, is declared a GM free zone. Salt Spring Island, BC declared a GE-free crop area.</p>	
Costa Rica	<p>March 2005: act 254, Article 21. Declaration to prohibit cultivation of GE in the municipality of Paraiso de Cartago</p> <p>October 2005 The Municipal Council of Santa Cruz in the Province of Guanacaste declared GE free</p>	
Cuba		
Dominica		
Dominican Republic		
El Salvador		
Grenada		
Guatemala		
Haiti		
Honduras		
Jamaica		
Mexico		
Nicaragua		
Panama		
St. Kitts and Nevis		
St. Lucia		
St. Vincent and the Grenadines		
Trinidad and Tobago		
United States	<p>Vermont: <u>83</u> towns have passed resolutions against GMOs. See http://www.gefreevt.org/images/downloads/resolutiontownsMAP.pdf for map.</p> <p><u>April 2004:</u> Vermont Act 97 requires manufacturers of genetically modified seeds to label and register their products, effective Oct. 1, 2004. (http://www.leg.state.vt.us/)</p> <p><u>April 2005:</u> In Brooklin (Maine) voters passed the following warrant article: "Shall the town vote to voluntarily protect its agriculture and marine economies, environment and private property from irreversible Genetically Modified Organism (GMO)</p>	

	<p>contamination by declaring Brooklin a GMO-free zone?": This is declaration of the desire of the community to remain GM free, and does NOT make the cultivation of GM crops illegal. http://www.mofga.org/mofgj05g.html</p> <p>CALIFORNIA: <u>March 2004:</u> Mendocino County, CA ordinance: "It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to propagate, cultivate, raise, or grow genetically modified organisms in Mendocino County." <u>August 2004:</u> Trinity County, CA Board of Supervisor passes an ordinance banning GM crops and animals. (http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/) <u>November 2004:</u> Marin County, CA: "It is unlawful for any person or entity to cultivate, propagate, raise or grow genetically modified organisms in Marin County." (http://www.smartvoter.org/2004/11/02/ca/mrn/meas/B/) <u>December 2004:</u> Arcata, CA: Ordinance No. 1350, which outlaws the sales, distribution, propagation, cultivation, raising or growing of seeds or crops of genetically engineered organisms.</p>	
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OCEANIA

Country	GM-Free Regions	Legislative information
Australia	<p><u>2005</u>: Orange City Council, NSW declared as GM crop free area.</p> <p><u>September 2005</u>: NSW extends ban on GM crops until March 2008</p> <p><u>October 2004</u>: Tasmania passed the GMO Control Bill 2004, extending its moratorium on GM food crop until 2009 (non-food GM crops can still be grown for research under strict controls).</p> <p><u>March 2004</u>: Western Australia bans GM crops. Victoria extends moratorium for 4 years.</p> <p><u>2003</u>: The Australian government approved the planting of GM Canola, but the states of New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia, and the Australian Capital Territory have instituted moratoriums of various lengths, effectively blocking the planting of the first GM Canola in Australia. Queensland is the only state that hasn't instituted a moratorium, but canola is not produced there.</p>	
Fiji		
Kiribati		
Marshall Islands		
Micronesia		
Nauru		
New Zealand	<p><u>2001</u>: Cities of Nelson, Waitakere and Napier declared GE-free.</p>	
Palau		
Papua New Guinea		
Sama		
Solomon Islands		
Tonga		
Tuvalu		
Vanuatu		



SOUTH AMERICA

Country	GM-Free Regions	Legislative information
Argentina		
Bolivia		
Brazil	The province of Parana is trying to establish itself as a GM-free zone. The Southern state of Paraná maintains a ban prohibiting the import, planting, commercialization, processing and exporting, via its port, of Monsanto's GM soy.	
Chile		
Colombia	<u>October 2005</u> : Indigenous territories of Zenú in San Andrés de Sotavento, which belong to the Municipalities of Córdoba and Sucre declared GE free by 300 indigenous authorities, and 5 organizations of organic producers.	
Ecuador		
Guyana		
Paraguay		
Peru		
Suriname		
Uruguay		
Venezuela		

