

Leading GMO opponent speaks in Oxford conference

<http://geenit.fi/E/LeadingGMOOpponentSpeaksFrankly2013.pdf>

European National Science Academies, Report on GM Crops in 2013

Europe should rethink its stance on GM crops Nature 26 June 2013

<http://www.nature.com/doi/10.1038/498409a>

European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC) published its large report on second generation GM crops. *“The objective must be to regulate the product and not the technology that produces it.”*

Planting the future: opportunities and challenges for using crop genetic improvement technologies for sustainable agriculture. EASAC policy report 21, June 2013.

Short introduction: “Agriculture faces major challenges to deliver food security at a time of increasing pressures from climate change, social and economic inequity and instability, and the continuing need to avoid further loss in ecosystem biodiversity. The introduction of new EU legislation requiring farmers to reduce reliance on crop protection chemicals creates additional challenges for maintaining levels of crop productivity.

Previous European Union (EU) agricultural policy had focused on constraining food production but there is a new realisation that the EU should now increase its biomass production for food, livestock feed and other uses, including renewable materials to support the bioeconomy. The production of more food, more sustainably, requires the development of crops that can make better use of limited resources. Agricultural innovation can capitalise on the rapid pace of advance in functional genomics research and it is unwise to exclude any technology a priori for ideological reasons. Sustainable agricultural production and food security must harness the potential of biotechnology in all its facets.

In previous work, the European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC) has described the opportunities and challenges in using plant genetic resources in improved breeding approaches, for example by using marker-assisted selection of desired traits. In the present report, EASAC explores some of the issues associated with the genetic modification of crops, where the EU has fallen behind in its adoption of the technology, compared with many other regions of the world. Concerns have been expressed that a timeconsuming and expensive regulatory framework in the EU, compounded by politicisation of decision-making by Member States and coupled with other policy inconsistencies, has tended to act as an impediment to agricultural innovation. Controversies about the impact of genetically modified (GM) crops have too often been based on contested science or have confounded effects of the technology with the impact of agriculture *per se* or changes in agronomic practice. It is vital to address the policy disconnects because there is a wide range of opportunities in prospect for improving agricultural productivity and efficiency, environmental quality and human health, by using all available technologies where appropriate.”

[Full report](#) (78 p.)

[Short version](#) (2 p.)

[Lay \(non-technical\) version](#) (16 p.)

Nature special issue on GM crops 02 May 2013

Fields of Gold (Editorial) <http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/497005b>

Transgenics: A New Breed (News Feature) <http://geenit.fi/E/NextWaveGMcropsNature02May2013.pdf>

Biotechnology: Africa and Asia need a rational debate on GM crops (Comment)

<http://geenit.fi/E/RationalDebateAsiaAfricaNature02May2013.pdf>

Biotechnology: Thirty years of transgenic plants (Correspondence)

<http://geenit.fi/E/ThirtyYearsofTransgenicPlantsNature02May2013.pdf>

Using membrane transporters to improve crops for sustainable food production (Perspectives)

<http://geenit.fi/E/MembraneTransportersGMcropsNature02May2013.pdf>

GM crops: a story in numbers (News Feature) Nature 02 May 2013

Plant biotechnology: Tarnished promise (News Feature) <http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/497021a>

Case studies: A hard look at GM crops (News Feature) Nature 02 May 2013

GM crop statistics: ISAAA Brief 44-2012

Brief 44: Global Status of Commercialized Biotech/GM Crops: 2012.

<http://www.isaaa.org/resources/publications/briefs/44/>

- Copies of the full report can be ordered for free by colleagues in the developing countries
- Highlights, summaries, tables etc. are publicly available in the above internet pages

Scientific American 2013

Fight the GM Food Scare Scientific American, Sep. 2013

<http://geenit.fi/E/FightGMfoodScareSciAmSep2013.pdf>