

GM0-free regions in Germany

In Germany, GM0-free regions and initiatives are founded by conventional and organic farmers. By signing contracts – negotiated agreements – they are expressing their commitment among each other not to grow genetically modified plants on their farmland. The commitment can be expanded to include GM0-free feeding stuff.

In case the GM0-free farmland in the chosen reference area (e.g. a district) adds up to a surface coverage of two-thirds and above, the farmers established a so called GM0-free region (GfR). If this coverage is not yet met, the term GM0-free initiative (Gfi) applies.

The first GM0-free region in Germany was founded in 2003. By August 2014 more than 30.400 farmers on more than 1,1 million hectares farmland were organized in 212 GM0 free regions and initiatives. In other words: More than 10% of German farmland is declared GM0-free and approximately 9% of all German farmers confess their anti-GM0 attitude.

German fields are GM0-free in 2014. Monsanto's MON 810 maize has been banned since 2009 and BASF's Amflora potato was an economic disaster from the very beginning – authorized in 2010 for cultivation, it was grown by just one farmer on 15 hectares in 2010 and lastly 2 hectares in 2011. In December

2013 Amflora's authorization for cultivation was withdrawn EU-wide by the European General Court (EGC).

In addition, the number of field trials is continuously dropping: from 67,8 hectares in 2007 (peak) to 0,8 hectares in 2012 to zero in 2013/2014.

The movement of GMO-free regions is a strong signal to the biotech industry that German farmers are no potential clients.