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30 years of genetically engineered plants

20 years of commercial cultivation in the United States: a critical assessment

The first genetically engineered plants were created 30 years ago. Commercial growing in the USA began almost 20 years ago. Compared to the EU, developments in the USA were driven to a much greater extent by the business interests of companies such as Monsanto. Nevertheless, the EU has seen an opening up of its markets for the import of products derived from genetically engineered plants. In 2013, further decisions can be expected on new authorisations for cultivation in the EU.

In the light of this development, we have critically assessed past experience in the USA and made recommendations for the future handling of this technology in the EU. The principal findings are:

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