

European Food Sector Relies on GMO-free Seed

IFOAM EU Group launches study on economics of GMO-free seed on 26 April in the European Parliament

Brussels, 14/04/2010 – Barroso's initiative to "combine a Community authorisation system, with freedom for member states to decide whether or not they wish to cultivate GM crops on their territory" can be a success only if it guarantees the freedom of choice to grow and produce GMO-free food and feed for farmers and processors all over Europe. And this choice starts with seed.

The quality of seed is of high importance for the whole food sector. Moreover seed is traded across national borders, so a national ban to grow GMOs alone cannot be sufficient to protect the GMO-free food chain, not even in the member states that ban the cultivation of GMOs.

To contribute to the discussion and to highlight the economic consequences different labelling thresholds for seed (1) would have, the IFOAM EU Group (2) and Corinne Lepage, Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, invite you to the **launch of the study**:

"Economic impacts of labelling thresholds for the adventitious presence of genetically engineered organisms in conventional and organic seed"

**on 26 April 2010
at 14 h**

in Room PHS 7 C 050, European Parliament.

The authors, Christoph Then (3) and Matthias Stolze (4), will be present to introduce the study and discuss their findings with the auditorium.

In order to ensure access to the European Parliament, you are requested to register with name, address and date of birth at [registration seed event](#) (5) before 19 April.

More information:

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NOTES:

- (1) Within the EU, the option of establishing **labelling thresholds for the adventitious presence (AP) of GE organisms in conventional and organic seed** has been under discussion for several years. The level of the labelling threshold will have profound impacts on the future of farming with respect to the possibility of co-existence and consumer choice. Coexistence costs for farmers and the entire food chain will be influenced by the level of seed purity.
- (2) The **IFOAM EU Group** represents more than 300 member organisations of IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements) in the EU-27, the EU accession countries and EFTA. Member organisations include: consumer, farmer and processor associations; research, education and advisory organisations; certification bodies and commercial organic companies.
- (3) **Christoph Then** is the Director of Testbiotech e.V. **Testbiotech** was founded in 2008 by a group of experts and registered as a non-profit organisation to promote research and public debate on the impacts of biotechnology. www.testbiotech.org
- (4) **Matthias Stolze** (participation to be confirmed) is the Head of Group "Socioeconomy" in FiBL Switzerland. The Research Institute of Organic Agriculture **FiBL** Switzerland is a centre for research and consultancy on organic agriculture. It was founded in 1973. FiBL links different fields of research and provides a rapid transfer of knowledge from research to advisory work and agricultural practice. www.fibl.org
- (5) **Full link:**
<https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dDVtRDdmdmNvMk1wV084ME5vbGpQd1E6MQ>

The IFOAM EU Group acknowledges the financial support of the European Community, DG Environment. The sole responsibility lies with the IFOAM EU Group and the Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided by IFOAM EU Group.

