



PRESS RELEASE

Brussels

15 December 2010

Ref. : *ESA_10.1145*

ESA is the voice of the European seed industry, representing those active in research, breeding, production and marketing of seeds of agricultural and ornamental plant species. It represents 35 national seed associations (and with that more than 1000 seed businesses in the EU, most of them SMEs) and 43 direct company members.

ESA's mission is to work for fair and proportionate regulation of the European seed industry, freedom of choice for customers in supplying seeds as a result of innovative, diverse technologies and production methods and for effective protection of intellectual property rights relating to plants and seed.

Contact:

ESA

European Seed Association

Tel. 0032-2-7432860

secretariat@euroseeds.org

www.euroseeds.org

Commission publishes overview on EU-funded research on genetically modified crops

The European Commission just published a compendium entitled "A decade of EU-funded GMO research" which summarizes the results of some 50 research projects that addressed the safety of GMOs for the environment and for animal and human health. It follows up previous publications on EU-funded research on GMO safety. Over the last 25 years, more than 500 independent research groups have been involved in such research and the projects launched between 2001 and 2010 alone received funding of some €200 million from the EU.

According to the findings of the projects, GMOs potentially provide opportunities to reduce malnutrition, especially in lesser developed countries, as well as to increase yields and assist towards the adaptation of agriculture to climate change. Commenting on the publication, the Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science Máire Geoghegan-Quinn underlined that the aim of the book is to contribute to the transparent debate on GMOs, based on science and information.

Commenting on the publication, Garlich v. Essen, Secretary General of ESA stated: "While many of the research projects described were launched to specifically address public concern about the potential negative environmental impact of GMOs and about food safety, the projects' results prove once again that there is, as of today, no scientific evidence associating GMOs with risks for the environment or for food and feed safety."

If you want to read the full report, please click here: esa_10.1142