

# **La modificación genética de plantas ¿Dónde estamos a finales del 2011?**

Pere Puigdomènech

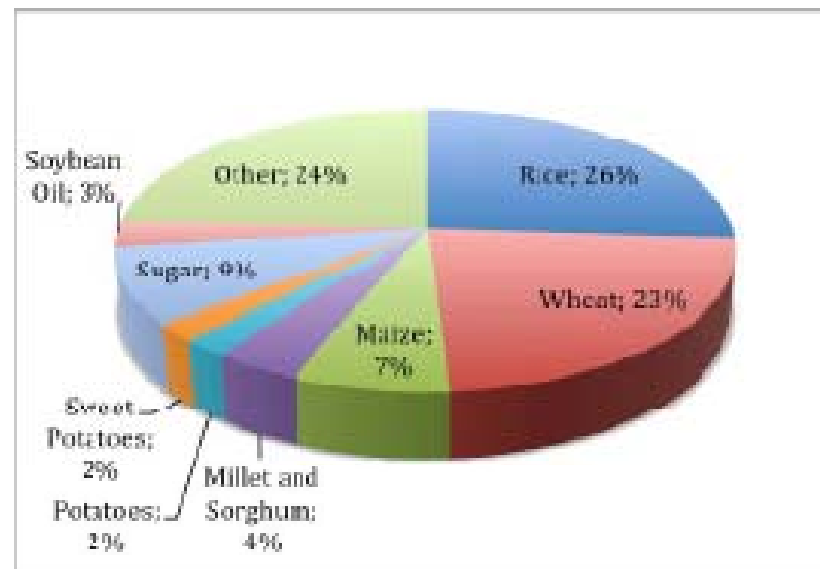
Centre de Recerca en Agrigenòmica. CSIC-IRTA-UAB-UB

Granada. Diciembre 2011

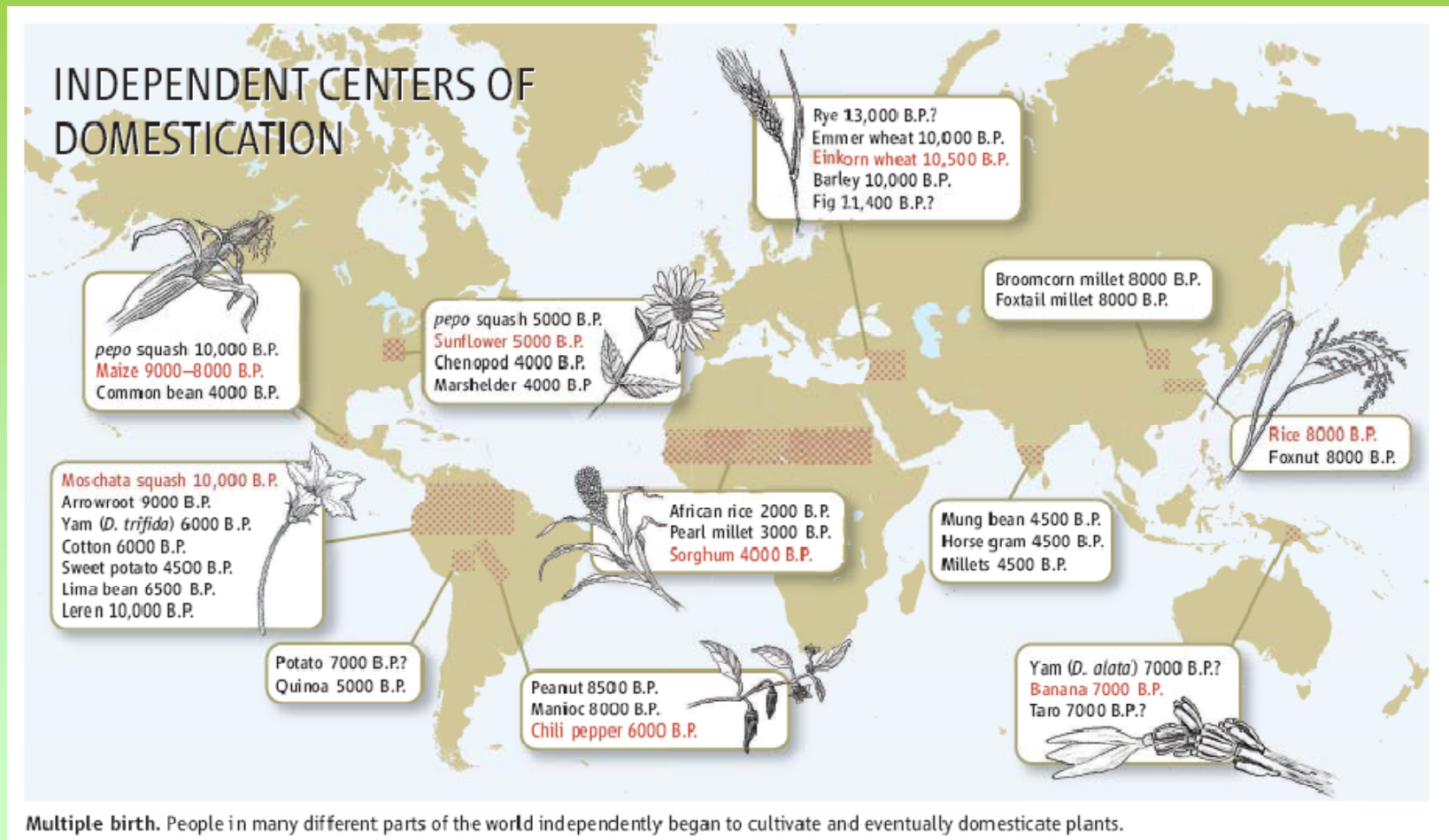
# ¿Qué comemos?

The FAO estimated that at the end of the last century there were between 300 000 and 500 000 species of higher plants (i.e. flowering and cone-bearing plants), of which about half have been identified or described. About 30 000 are edible and about 7 000 have been cultivated or collected by humans for food at one time or another. Of these, approximately 120 species are important on a national scale, and 30 species provide 90% of the world's calorie intake<sup>58</sup>. At the time of the FAO survey, wheat covered 23% of the world's calorie needs, rice 26% and maize 7%<sup>59</sup>. During 2004 and 2006 wheat and maize production in the

Percentage of calorific intake by food group<sup>58</sup>



# Centros de domesticación de plantas



# El maiz, regalo de los dioses



All in the family. Maize and its wild ancestor teosinte (*left*) are closely related despite their differences.

**Maíz**



**Teosinte**

# Domesticación del arroz



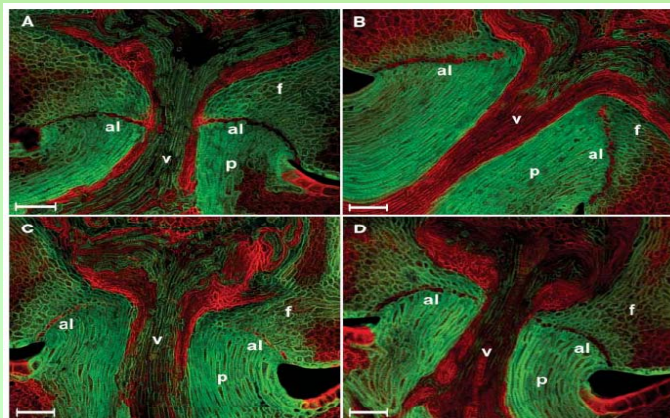
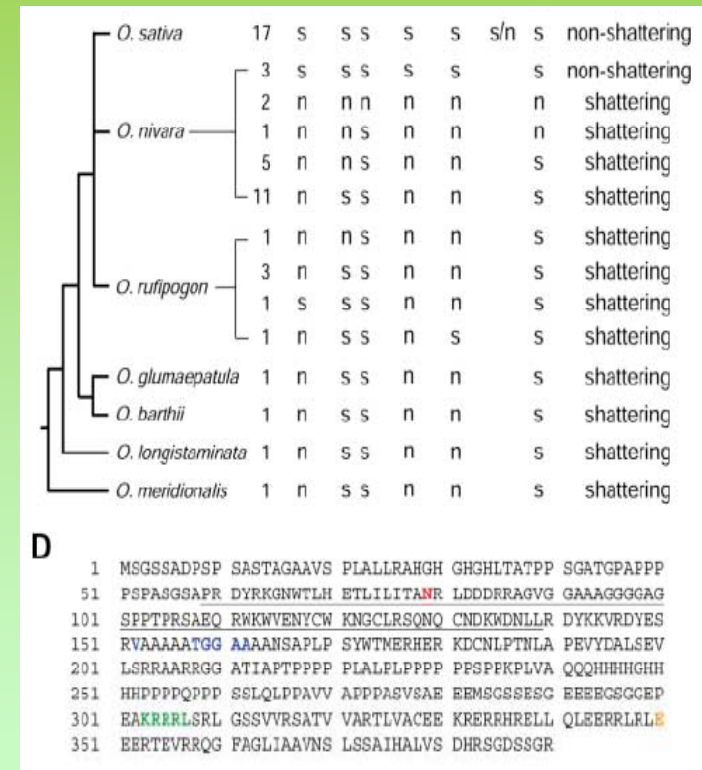
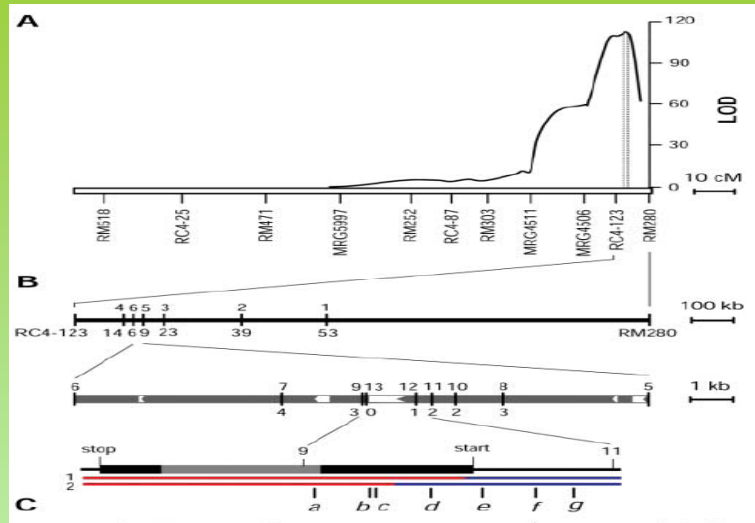
## Rice Domestication by Reducing Shattering

Changbao Li, Ailing Zhou, Tao Sang\*

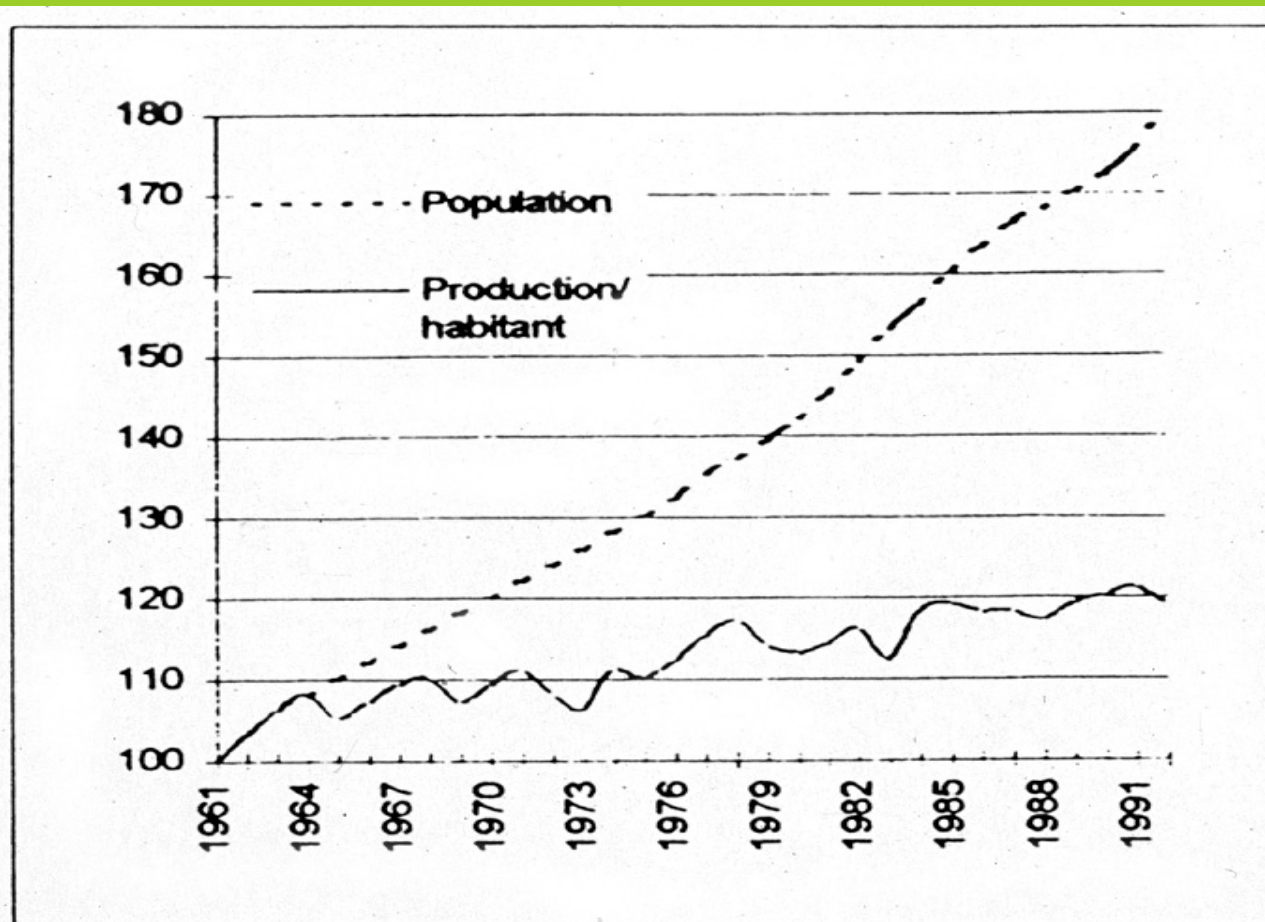
Crop domestication frequently began with the selection of plants that did not naturally shed ripe fruits or seeds. The reduction in grain shattering that led to cereal domestication involved genetic loci of large effect. The molecular basis of this key domestication transition, however, remains unknown. Here we show that human selection of an amino acid substitution in the predicted DNA binding domain encoded by a gene of previously unknown function was primarily responsible for the reduction of grain shattering in rice domestication. The substitution undermined the gene function necessary for the normal development of an abscission layer that controls the separation of a grain from the pedicel.



# Domesticación del arroz



**Fig. 4.** Fluorescence images of longitudinal section of flower and pedicel junction. (A) *O. nivara* mapping parent, with complete abscission layer (al). (B) *O. sativa* ssp. *indica* mapping parent, with incomplete abscission layer. (C) *O. sativa* ssp. *japonica* Taipei 309, with incomplete abscission layer. (D) Transformant of Taipei 309 expressing construct 1, with improved abscission layer. f, flower side; p, pedicel side; v, vascular bundle. Bar, 50  $\mu$ m.

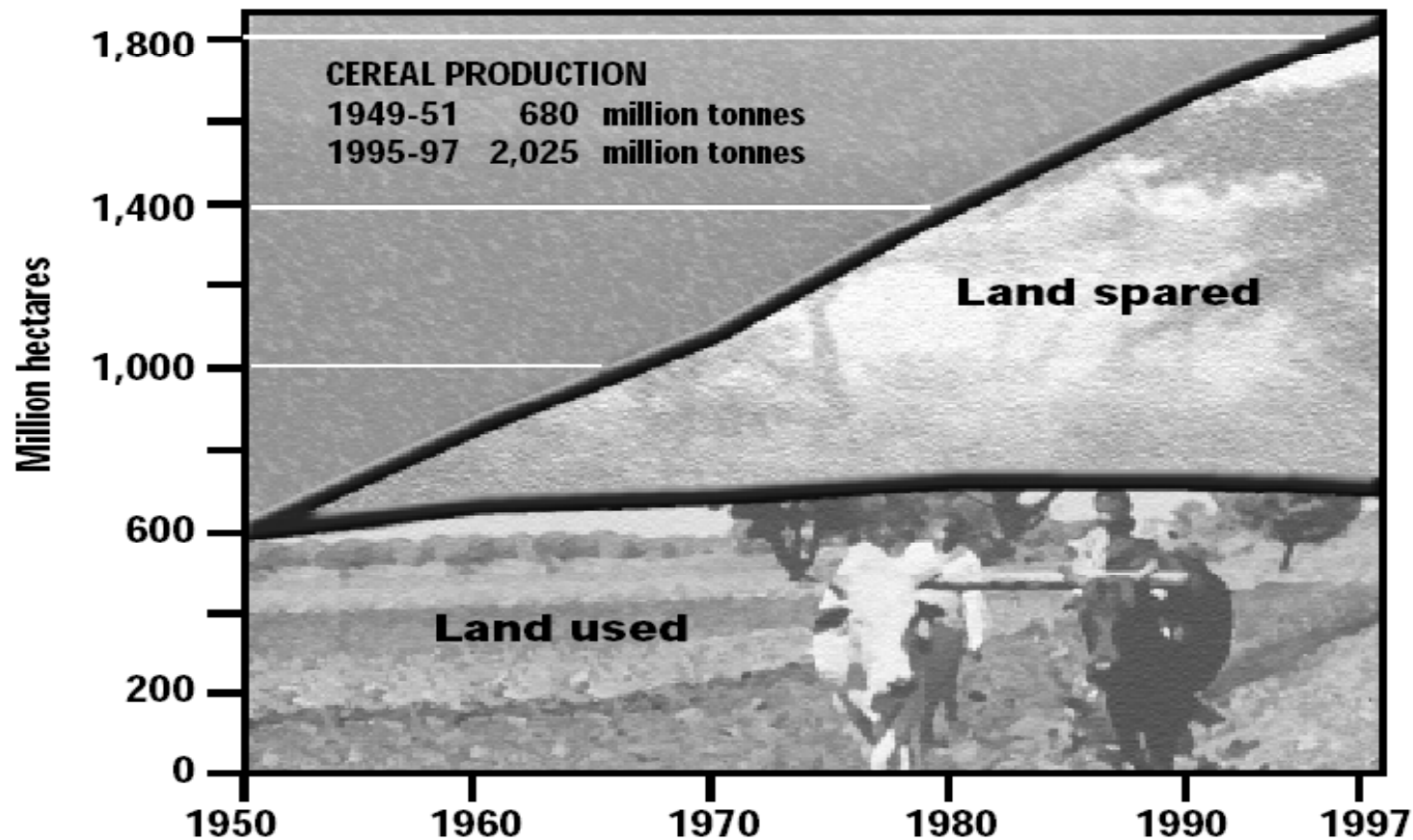


**Figure 4.** Évolution globale de la production agricole et de la population de 1961 à 1992 (indice 100 en 1961) [11].



# La revolución verde. Norman Bourlaug

**World Cereal Production—Area Saved Through Improved Technology, 1950-1998**



# Desarrollo de la mejora genética vegetal



# ¿Por qué queremos diseñar plantas?

- Para tener una agricultura más eficiente
- Para tener una agricultura más adaptada de cara al futuro
- Para tener una alimentación más acorde con nuestras necesidades
- Porque siempre lo hemos hecho

# Variabilidad genética

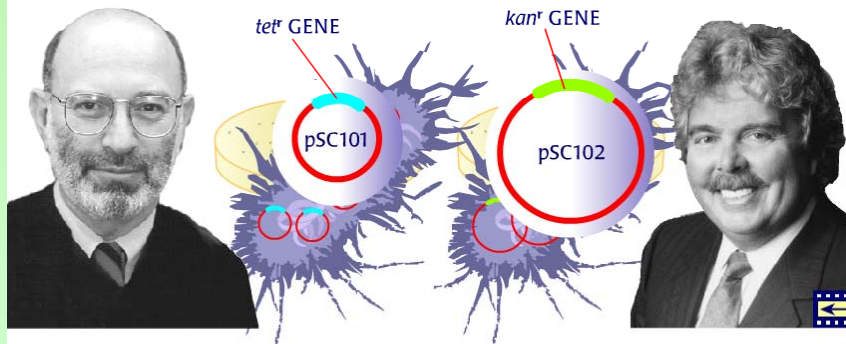
- Conservación
- Análisis y aprovechamiento de la variabilidad existente
- Creación de nueva variabilidad por mutagénesis
- Creación de nueva variabilidad por modificación genética

# DNA recombinante. 1972-73

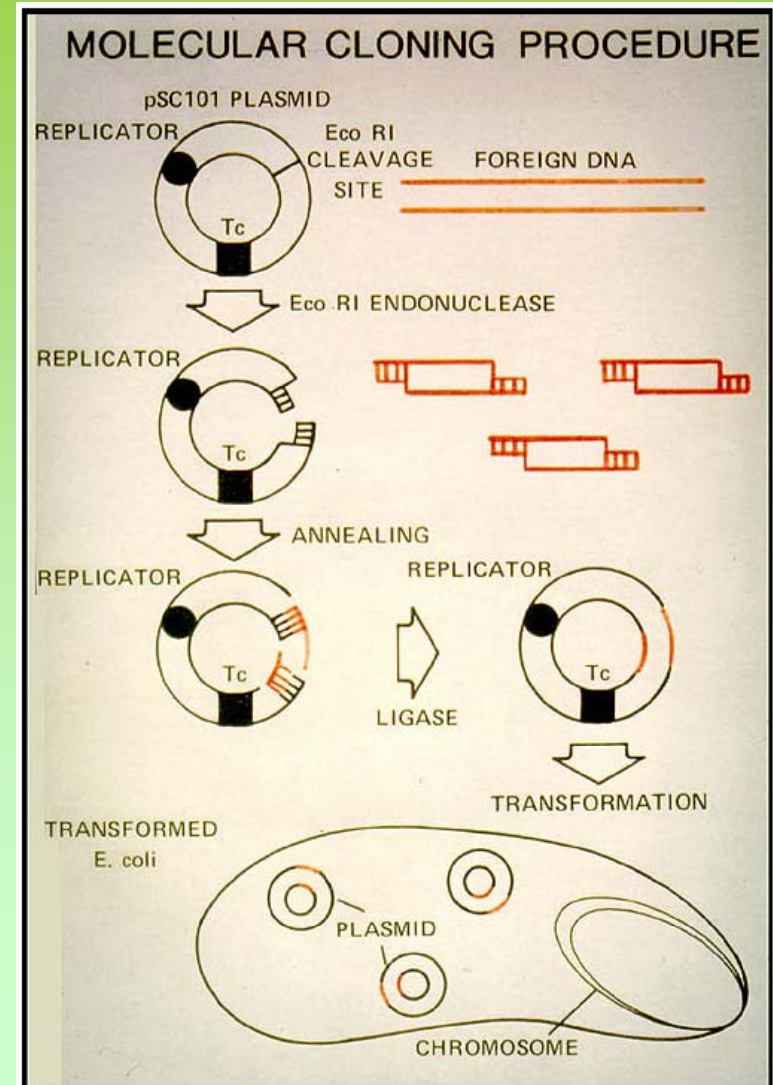


Paul Berg

I named these plasmids p for plasmid and SC for Stanley Cohen. The plasmid pSC101 carries a gene for tetracycline resistance, and pSC102 carries a gene for kanamycin resistance.



Stanley Cohen i Herbert Boyer





# DNA recombinante. Entra la empresa

## Animal Gene Shifted to Bacteria; Aid Seen to Medicine and Farm

By VICTOR K. MEHLHENY

Microbiologists working in California and nitrogen-fixing bacteria have developed a new method of transferring genes, the chemical units of plants, thus reducing requirements for cells as complements for fertilizers.

In addition, the ability to transfer genes—that is, particles known as bacteria.

The technique was worked out under the leadership of Dr. Stanley N. Cohen of the Stanford University Medical School and Dr. Herbert W. Boyer of the University of California Medical Center in San Francisco.

The new method, its discovery, gives promise of meeting some of the most fundamental needs of both medicine and agriculture, such as supplies of now scarce hor-Continued on Page 33, Column 1

THE NEW YORK TIMES, MONDAY, MAY 20, 1974

p. 1

United States Patent (19)	(11)	4,237,224
Cohen et al.	(15)	Dec. 2, 1980
[54] PROCESS FOR PRODUCING BIOLOGICALLY FUNCTIONAL MOLECULAR CHEMICALS		
[59] Invention: Stanley N. Cohen, Patricia Valley; Herbert W. Boyer, Mill Valley, both of Calif.		
[70] Assignor: Board of Trustees of the Leland Stanford Jr. University, Stanford, Calif.		
[21] Appl. No. 1,031		
[22] Filed: Jan. 4, 1979		
Related U.S. Application Data		
[63] Continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 959,248, Nov. 9, 1978, which is a continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 687,430, May 17, 1978, abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 520,695, Nov. 4, 1973.		
[51] Int. Cl.	C12P 21/00	
[52] U.S. Cl.	435/68; 435/172; 435/231; 435/183; 435/217; 435/949; 435/926; 435/91; 435/207; 160/112.5; 260/278; 435/212	
[58] Field of Search	165/1; 28; 29; 8; 112; 155/78; 79; 435/68; 172; 231; 183	
[56] References Cited		
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS		
3,813,316	5/1974	Casavary
OTHER PUBLICATIONS		
Morrow et al., Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA, vol. 69, pp. 3165-3169, Nov. 1972.		
Morrow et al., Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA, vol. 71, pp. 1743-1747, May 1974.		
Hershenfeld et al., Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA, vol. 71, pp. 2453 et seq. (1974).		
Jackson et al., Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA, vol. 69, pp. 2904-2909, Oct. 1972.		
Mette et al., Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA, vol. 66, pp. 3370-3374, Nov. 1972.		
Cohen et al., Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA, vol. 70, pp. 1293-1297, May 1973.		
Cohen et al., Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA, vol. 70, pp. 3240-3244, Nov. 1973.		
Chang et al., Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA, vol. 71, pp. 1003-1004, Apr. 1974.		
Ulrich et al., Science, vol. 176, pp. 1313-1319, Jan. 1977.		
Singer et al., Science, vol. 181, p. 1114 (1974).		
Isikawa et al., Science, vol. 198, pp. 1056-1063, Dec. 1977.		
Konradi et al., Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA, vol. 75, pp. 2727-2731, Aug. 1978.		
Chemical and Engineering News, p. 4, May 30, 1977.		
Chemical and Engineering News, p. 8, Sep. 11, 1978.		
Primary Examiner—Alvin E. Tashenoltz		
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Bertram I. Rowland		
[57] ABSTRACT		
Method and compositions are provided for replication and expression of exogenous genes in microorganisms. Plasmids or virus DNA are cleaved to provide linear DNA having ligatable termini, to which is inserted a gene having complementary termini, to provide a biologically functional replicon with a desired phenotypic property. The replicon is inserted into a microorganism cell by transformation. Isolation of the transformant provides cells for replication and expression of the DNA molecules present in the modified plasmid. The method provides a convenient and efficient way to introduce genetic capability into microorganisms for the production of nucleic acids and proteins, such as medically or commercially useful enzymes, which may have direct applications, or may find expression in the production of drugs, such as hormones, antibiotics, or the like; fixation of nitrogen; fermentation; solubilization of specific feedstocks, or the like.		

Best Personal Royalties  
Herb Boyer  
Stan Cohen

### BIOTECH IS A GOLD MINE FOR TWO LEADING UNIVERSITIES

#### University of California

In fiscal 1992, the University of California received \$28.8 million in royalties and fees from inventions made at its nine campuses. Here are the top five royalty-producing discoveries:

Invention (campus, year)	Licensee	1992 royalties (millions)
Genetic engineering (S.F., 1974)	Non-exclusive	\$5.3
Nicotins patch (L.A., 1984)	Ciba-Geigy Corp.	\$4.7
Hepatitis B vaccine (S.F., 1981)	Merck & Co.	\$4.6
Human growth hormones (S.F., 1977)	Genentech Inc.	\$2.7
Lung surfactant (S.F., 1980)	Burroughs-Wellcome Inc.	\$2.6

#### Stanford University

In fiscal 1992, Stanford University received \$25.5 million in royalties and fees from its inventions. Here are the top five:

Invention (year)	Licensee	1992 royalties (millions)
Genetic engineering (1974)	Non-exclusive	\$6.2
FM Sounds music chip (1971)	Yamaha	\$2.7
X-Ray scanner (1974)	General Electric Co.	\$1.1
Molecular tags (1981)	Non-exclusive	\$0.9
Enzyme used in biotech manufacturing (1982)	Non-exclusive	\$0.3

Sources: University of California, Stanford University

## UC Wants More Research Profits

System might set up a firm to increase its revenue from new products

CHRONICLE GRAPHIC

# DNA recombinante. El debate

## The controversy



Dear Dr. Cohen:

A meeting on Recombinant DNA Molecules will be held in Pacific Grove, California (at the Asilomar Conference Center) during February 24-27, 1975. The Conference is being sponsored by the United States National Academy of Sciences with funds provided by the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation. The purpose of the meeting is to review the progress, opportunities, potential dangers and possible remedies associated with the construction, and introduction of new recombinant DNA molecules into living cells [see *Science* 185: 303 (1974)].

Sincerely yours,

Handwritten signature of Paul Berg in cursive script.

Paul Berg  
for the Committee on Recombinant  
DNA Molecules

# La modificación genética

## article

*Nature* **303**, 209 - 213 (19 May 1983); doi:10.1038/303209a0

## Expression of chimaeric genes transferred into plant cells using a Ti-plasmid-derived vector

LUIS HERRERA-ESTRELLA<sup>\*</sup>, ANN DEPICKEK<sup>\*</sup>, MARC VAN MONTAGU<sup>\*</sup> & JEFF SCHELL<sup>\*†</sup>

<sup>\*</sup>Laboratorium voor Genetica, Rijksuniversiteit Gent, B-9000 Gent, Belgium

<sup>†</sup>Max-Planck-Institut für Züchtungsforschung, D-5000 Köln 30, FRG

**Foreign genes introduced into plant cells with Ti-plasmid vectors are not expressed. We have constructed an expression vector derived from the promoter sequence of nopaline synthase, and have inserted the coding sequences of the octopine synthase gene and a chloramphenicol acetyltransferase gene into this vector. These chimaeric genes are functionally expressed in plant cells after their transfer via a Ti-plasmid of *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*.**

Cell. 1983 Apr;32(4):1033-43.

[Related Articles, Links](#)

## Regeneration of intact tobacco plants containing full length copies of genetically engineered T-DNA, and transmission of T-DNA to R1 progeny.

Barton KA, Binns AN, Matzke AJ, Chilton MD.

Cloned DNA sequences encoding yeast alcohol dehydrogenase and a bacterial neomycin phosphotransferase have been inserted into the T-DNA of *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* plasmid pTiT37 at the "rooty" locus. Transformation of tobacco stem segments with the engineered bacterial strains produced attenuated crown gall tumors that were capable of regeneration into intact, normal tobacco plants. The yeast gene and entire transferred DNA (T-DNA) were present in the regenerated plants in multiple copies, and nopaline was found in all tissues. The plants were fertile, and seedlings resulting from self-pollination also contained intact and multiple copies of the engineered T-DNA. Expression of nopaline in the germinated seedlings derived from one regenerated plant was variable and did not correlate with the levels of T-DNA present in the seedlings. Preliminary evidence indicates that nopaline in progeny of other similarly engineered plants is more uniform. The disarming of pTiT37 by insertions at the "rooty" locus thus appears to produce a useful gene vector for higher plants.



# Genetic Engineering of Plants

*Agricultural Research Opportunities and Policy Concerns*

Board on Agriculture  
National Research Council

"Only a handful of serious safety questions remain for RAC to consider," Thornton said. Among those is the release of genetically engineered organisms into the environment. "We're not talking about working with new organisms in the laboratory. We're talking about what recombinant life forms can be put in an oil well."

Other issues may emerge as the genetic engineering of plants nears application. In deciding what, if any, regulatory approach to take, the RAC or any other oversight body will need to draw on the knowledge of agricultural scientists, ecologists, and others. "One of the things that may have gone wrong six or seven years ago, that may have contributed to the public outcry over recombinant DNA research, is that the molecular biologists who were involved did not have the benefit of input from immunologists, epidemiologists, and others who could have helped them to assess the dangers. Because of this lack of knowledge, the restrictions initially applied were perhaps too severe. We have an opportunity to learn from that mistake. By drawing on the expertise of a number of disciplines, we can develop an approach that both satisfies the concerns for safety, yet does not unduly restrict the application of new research methods."

NATIONAL ACADEMY PRESS  
Washington, D. C. 1984

OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

AGENCY: Executive Office of the President, Office of Science and Technology Policy.

51 FR 23302

June 26, 1986

## **Coordinated Framework for Regulation of Biotechnology**

ACTION: Announcement of policy; notice for public comment.

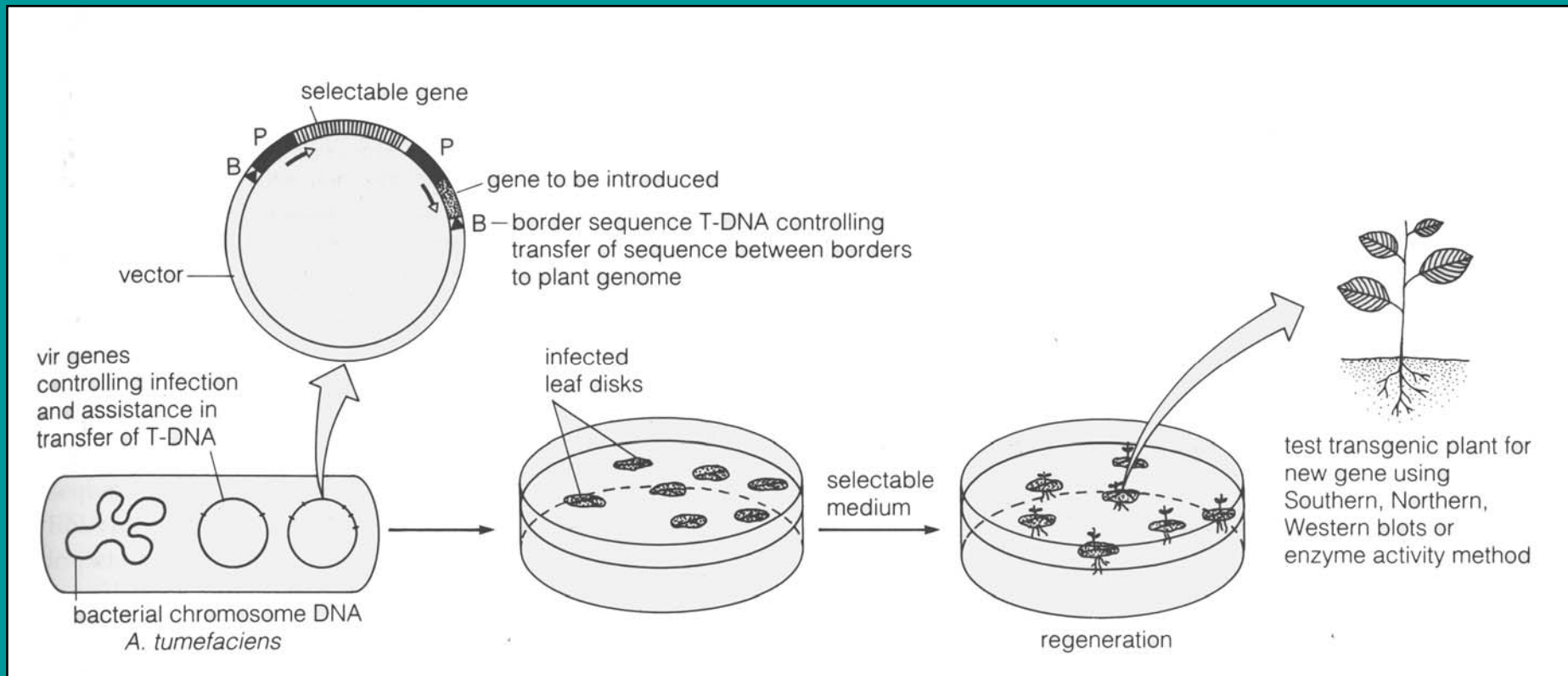
SUMMARY: This Federal Register notice announces the policy of the federal agencies involved with the review of **biotechnology** research and products. As certain concepts are new to this policy, and will be the subject of rulemaking, the public is invited to comment on these aspects which are specifically identified herein.

DATE: Comments must be received on or before August 25, 1986.

Public Participation: The Domestic Policy Council Working Group on **Biotechnology** through the Office of Science and Technology Policy, is seeking advice on certain refinements published herein to the previously published proposed coordinated framework for regulation of **biotechnology**. These new aspects include the **Biotechnology** Science Coordinating Committee's (BSCC's) definitions for an "integeneric organism (new organism)" and for "pathogen." These definitions are critical to the coordinated framework for the regulation of **biotechnology** because they establish the types of the organisms subject to certain kinds of review.

It is the intention of the Domestic Policy Council Working Group on **Biotechnology**, the **Biotechnology** Science Coordinating Committee (BSCC), the Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) that the policies contained herein be effective immediately. In consideration of comments, modifications, if any, may be published either in a separate notice or as part of proposed rulemaking by the involved agencies.

## Transformación de discos de hoja mediante infección con *A. tumefaciens*





# Directiva Europea 90/220

## **Council Directive 90/220/EEC of 23 April 1990 on the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms**

*(JO No L 117 du 8. 5. 1990, p. 15)*

*(This Directive was modified by Commission Directive 94/15/EC of 15 April 1994 introducing an adaptation of Annex II for releases of genetically modified higher plants (OJ No L 103, 22. 4. 1994, p. 20)*

Whereas living organisms, whether released into the environment in large or small amounts for experimental purposes or as commercial products, may reproduce in the environment and cross national frontiers thereby affecting other Member States; whereas the effects of such releases on the environment may be irreversible;

Whereas the protection of human health and the environment requires that due attention be given to controlling risks from the deliberate release of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) into the environment;

Whereas disparity between the rules which are in effect or in preparation in the Member States concerning the deliberate release into the environment of GMOs may create unequal conditions of competition or barriers to trade in products containing such organisms, thus affecting the functioning of the common market; whereas it is therefore necessary to approximate the laws of the Member States in this respect;

Whereas measures for the approximation of the provisions of the Member States which have as their object the establishment and functioning of the internal market should, inasmuch as they concern health, safety, environmental and consumer protection, be based on a high level of protection throughout the Community;

Whereas it is necessary to establish harmonized procedures and criteria for the case-by-case evaluation of the potential risks arising from the deliberate release of GMOs into the environment;

Whereas a case-by-case environmental risk assessment should always be carried out prior to a release;

# Una larga historia

Year	Title	Contents
1990	<b>Directive 90/219</b>	<b>The contained use of GM micro-organisms.</b>
1990	<b>Directive 90/220</b>	<b>The deliberate release into the environment of GMOs (repealed)</b>
1991	Decision 91/274	Legislation referred to in Art. 10 of Directive 90/220
1991	Decision 91/448	Concerning guidelines for classification referred to in Directive 90/219 (amended by Decision 96/134)
1991	Decision 91/596	The Summary Notification Information Format referred to in 90/220, art 9 on the deliberate release into the environment of GMOs.
1992	Decision 92/146	Summary notification information format referred to in Art.12 of Directive 90/220.
1993	Decision 93/572	The placing on the market of a product containing GMOs pursuant to Article 13 Directive 90/220.
1993	Decision 93/584	Establishing the criteria for simplified procedures concerning the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified plants pursuant to Article 6(5) Directive 90/220.
1994	Directive 94/51	Adapting to technical progress for the first time 90/220 on the deliberate release into the environment of GMOs.
1994	Decision 94/211	Amending Decision 91/596 concerning the summary notification information format referred to in Art.9 of Directive 90/220
1994	Decision 94/385	The placing on the market of a product consisting of a GMO, seeds of herbicide-resistant tobacco variety ITB 1000 OX, pursuant to 90/220, Art 13.
1994	Decision 94/730	Establishing simplified procedures concerning the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified plants pursuant to 90/220, art 6(5).
1996	Decision 96/134	Amending Decision 91/448 on Directive 90/219 guidelines for classification.

1996	Decision 96/158	The placing on the market of a product consisting of a genetically modified organism, hybrid herbicide-tolerant swede-rape seeds ( <i>Brassica napus</i> L. <i>oleifera</i> Metzq. MS1BN x RF1Bn) pursuant to 90/220.
1996	Decision 96/281	The placing on the market of GM soya beans ( <i>Glycine max</i> L.) with increased tolerance to the herbicide glyphosate, pursuant to Directive 90/220. This is the marketing consent for Monsanto Round-up Soya.
1996	Decision 96/424	The placing on the market of GM male sterile chicory ( <i>Cichorium intybus</i> L.) with partial tolerance to the herbicide glufosinate ammonium pursuant to Directive 90/220.
1997	<b>Regulation 258/97</b>	<b>Novel Foods and Novel Foods Ingredients.</b>
1997	Decision 97/98	The placing on the market of GM maize ( <i>Zea mays</i> L.) with the combined modification for insecticidal properties conferred by the Bt-endotoxin gene and increased tolerance to the herbicide glufosinate ammonium pursuant to Directive 90/220. This is the marketing consent for Novartis Bt Maize.
1997	Decision 97/392	The placing on the market of GM swede-rape ( <i>Brassica napus</i> L. <i>oleifera</i> Metzq. MS1, RF1) pursuant to Directive 90/220.
1997	Decision 97/393	The placing on the market of GM swede-rape ( <i>Brassica napus</i> L. <i>oleifera</i> Metzq. MS1, RF2), pursuant to Directive 90/220.
1997	<b>Regulation 1813/97</b>	<b>The compulsory indication on the labelling of certain foodstuffs produced from GMOs in addition to the particulars required in food labelling laws (repealed in 1998).</b>
1997	<b>Directive 97/35</b>	<b>Compulsory labelling of all new agriculture producing or containing GMOs notified under Directive 90/220.</b>
1997	Decision 97/549	The placing on the market of T102-test ( <i>Streptococcus thermophilus</i> T102) pursuant to Directive 90/220
1998	<b>Directive 98/81</b>	<b>Amending Directive 90/219/EEC on the contained use of genetically modified micro-organisms OJ 1998 L330/13</b>
1998	Decision 98/291	The placing on the market of GM spring swede rape ( <i>Brassica napus</i> L. <i>ssp Oleifera</i> ) pursuant to

		Directive 90/220.
1998	Decision 98/292	The placing on the market of GM maize ( <i>Zea mays</i> L. line Bt-11) pursuant to Directive 90/220.
1998	Decision 98/293	The placing on the market of GM maize ( <i>Zea mays</i> L. line T25), pursuant to 90/220.
1998	Decision 98/294	The placing on the market of GM maize ( <i>Zea mays</i> L. line MON 810) pursuant to Directive 90/220.
1998	Decision 98/613	Concerning a draft Decree of Austria on the identification of genetically modified additives and flavourings used as food ingredients.
1998	<b>Regulation 1139/98</b>	<b>The compulsory indication of the labelling of GM Soya/Maize foodstuffs, repealing Regulation 1813/97.</b>
2000	Decision 2000/608	Concerning the guidance notes for risk assessment outlined in Annex III of Directive 90/219
2000	<b>Regulation 49/2000</b>	<b>The <i>de minimis</i> level for food accidentally contaminated with GM soya or maize. The labelling requirements under Regulation 1139/89 not applying if the proportion is no higher than 1% of the food ingredient being considered.</b>
2000	<b>Regulation 50/2000</b>	<b>The labelling of foodstuffs and food ingredients containing additives and flavourings that have been genetically modified or have been produced from GMOs.</b>
2000	Decision 2000/608	The guidance notes for risk assessment outlined in Directive 90/219, Annex III on the contained use of GM micro-organisms.
2001	Decision 2001/204	Supplementing Directive 90/219 as regards the criteria for establishing the safety for human health and the environment, of types of GMOs.
2001	<b>Directive 2001/18</b>	<b>The deliberate release into the environment of GMOs and repealing Directive 90/220.</b>
2002	Decision 2002/623	Establishing guidance notes supplementing Annex II to 2001/18
2002	Decision 2002/811	Establishing guidance notes supplementing Annex VII to 2001/18 on the deliberate release into the

		environment of GMOs and repealing Directive 90/220.
2002	Decision 2002/812	Establishing pursuant to Directive 2001/18 summary information format relating to the placing on the market of GMOs as or in products.
2002	Decision 2002/813	Establishing, the summary notification information format for notifications concerning the deliberate release into the environment of GMOs for purposes other than for placing on the market.
2003	<b>Regulation 1829/03</b>	<b>New Regulation on GM Food and Feed.</b>
2003	<b>Regulation 1830/03</b>	<b>New Regulation on GM Traceability and Labelling.</b>
2003	<b>Regulation 1946/03</b>	<b>New Regulation on Transboundary Movement.</b>

# Aplicación de la directiva 2001/18

## Safeguard clause

1. Where a Member State, as a result of new or additional information made available since the date of the consent and affecting the environmental risk assessment or reassessment of existing information on the basis of new or additional scientific knowledge, has detailed grounds for considering that a GMO as or in a product which has been properly notified and has received written consent under this Directive constitutes a risk to human health or the environment, that Member State may provisionally restrict or prohibit the use and/or sale of that GMO as or in a product on its territory.

The Member State shall ensure that in the event of a severe risk, emergency measures, such as suspension or termination of the placing on the market, shall be applied, including information to the public.

The Member State shall immediately inform the Commission and the other Member States of actions taken under this Article and give reasons for its decision, supplying its review of the environmental risk assessment, indicating whether and how the conditions of the consent should be amended or the consent should be terminated, and, where appropriate, the new or additional information on which its decision is based.

## Article 28

### Consultation of Scientific Committee(s)

1. In cases where an objection as regards the risks of GMOs to human health or to the environment is raised by a competent authority or the Commission and maintained in accordance with Article 15(1), 17(4), 20(3) or 23, or where the assessment report referred to in Article 14 indicates that the GMO should not be placed on the market, the relevant Scientific Committee(s) shall be consulted by the Commission, on its own initiative or at the request of a Member State, on the objection.
2. The relevant Scientific Committee(s) may also be consulted by the Commission, on its own initiative or at the request of a Member State, on any matter under this Directive that may have an adverse effect on human health and the environment.

## Article 29

### Consultation of Committee(s) on Ethics

1. Without prejudice to the competence of Member States as regards ethical issues, the Commission shall, on its own initiative or at the request of the European Parliament or the Council, consult any committee it has created with a view to obtaining its advice on the ethical implications of biotechnology, such as the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies, on ethical issues of a general nature.

This consultation may also take place at the request of a Member State.

2. This consultation is conducted under clear rules of openness, transparency and public accessibility. Its outcome shall be accessible to the public.

3. The administrative procedures provided for in this Directive shall not be affected by paragraph 1.

## Scientific Committee and Panels

A Scientific Committee and several Scientific Panels will be responsible for the scientific opinions of the Authority.

A Scientific Committee will be responsible for the general co-ordination necessary to ensure the consistency in the scientific opinions of the different panels. This Committee will be composed of the chairpersons of the Scientific Panels and six independent experts who do not belong to any panel.

The Scientific Panels will be composed of independent scientific experts selected following an open call for expressions of interest and appointed by the Management Board. They will be selected on the basis of criteria of competence, knowledge, independence and experience.

Members of the Scientific Committee and Panels will not be employees of the EFSA.

The following 8 panels will be established:

- Panel on food additives, flavourings, processing aids and materials in contact with food;
- Panel on additives and products or substances used in animal feed;
- Panel on plant health, plant protection products and their residues;
- Panel on genetically modified organisms;
- Panel on dietetic products, nutrition and allergies;
- Panel on biological hazards (including TSE/BSE issues);
- Panel on contaminants in the food chain;
- Panel on animal health and welfare.

In accordance with the Regulation, until these Committee and Panels are established scientific advice on matters falling within the competence of the Authority will continue to be provided by the **existing scientific committees** established by Commission Decisions and supported by the Commission's civil servants.

# Guía de EFSA para el análisis del riesgo asociado a las plantas transgénicas y productos derivados para consumo animal o humano



GUIDANCE DOCUMENT  
OF THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL  
ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED  
ORGANISMS FOR THE RISK  
ASSESSMENT OF GENETICALLY  
MODIFIED PLANTS AND  
DERIVED FOOD AND FEED

Adopted on 24 September 2004  
First, edited version of 12 November 2004

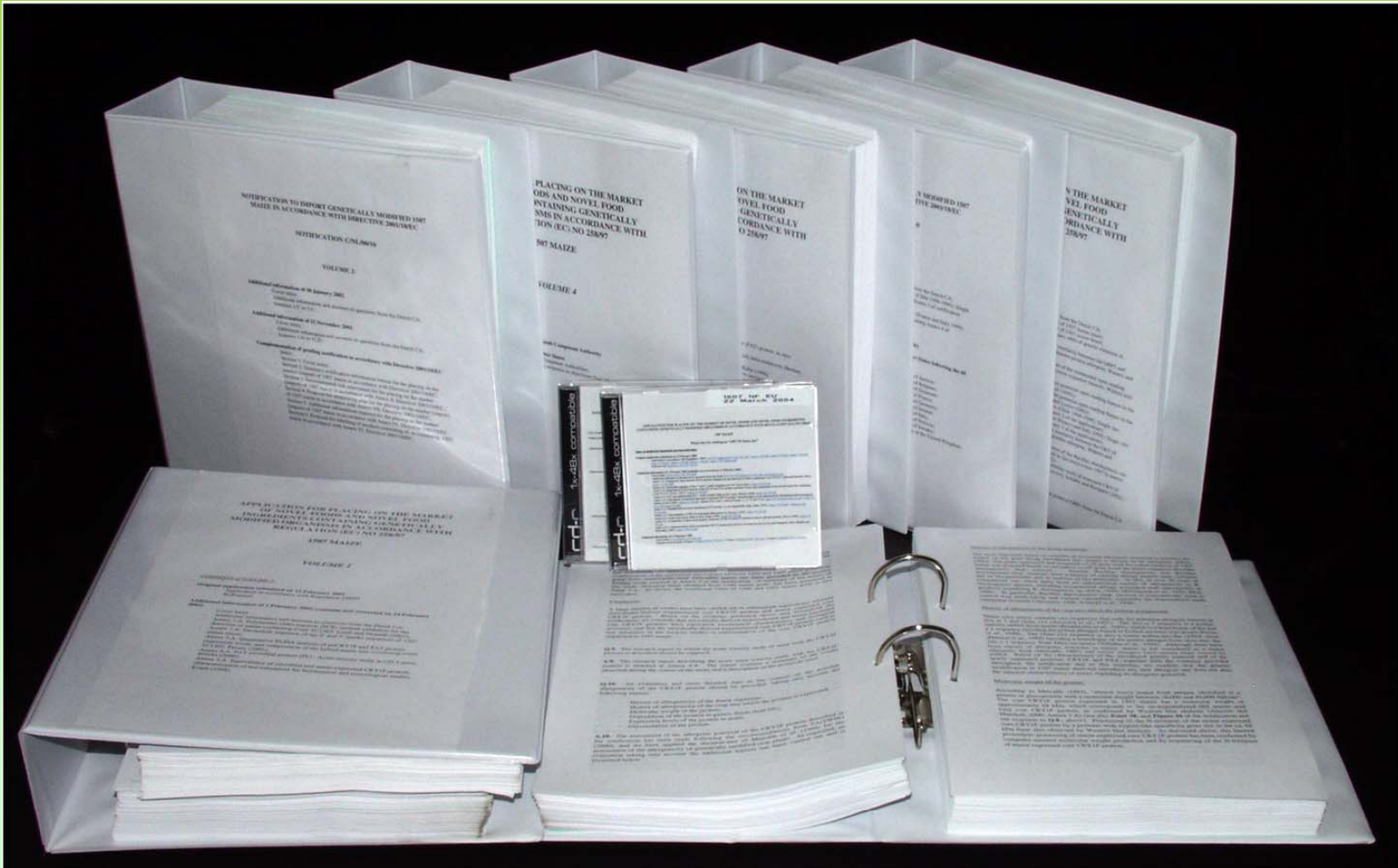
March 2005



European Food Safety Authority

- Adoptada el 24 de septiembre de 2004,
- Revisada el diciembre 2005 (PMEM)
- Nueva revisión en curso (2008)
- Completada
  - Diciembre 2006 (Renovaciones)
  - Marzo 2007 (Eventos combinados)





NOTIFICATIONS TO EXPORT GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS  
MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH DIRECTIVE 2002/97/EC  
NOTIFICATION C/2004/1616

VOLUME 2

Additional information of 10 January 2002  
Additional information of 11 November 2002  
Compendium of public consultation in accordance with Directive 2002/97/EC

PLACING ON THE MARKET  
OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
DIRECTIVE 2002/97/EC

VOLUME 4

Additional information of 10 January 2002  
Additional information of 11 November 2002

ON THE MARKET  
OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
DIRECTIVE 2002/97/EC

ON THE MARKET  
OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
DIRECTIVE 2002/97/EC

ON THE MARKET  
OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
DIRECTIVE 2002/97/EC

NOTIFICATIONS TO EXPORT GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS  
MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH DIRECTIVE 2002/97/EC  
NOTIFICATION C/2004/1616

VOLUME 2

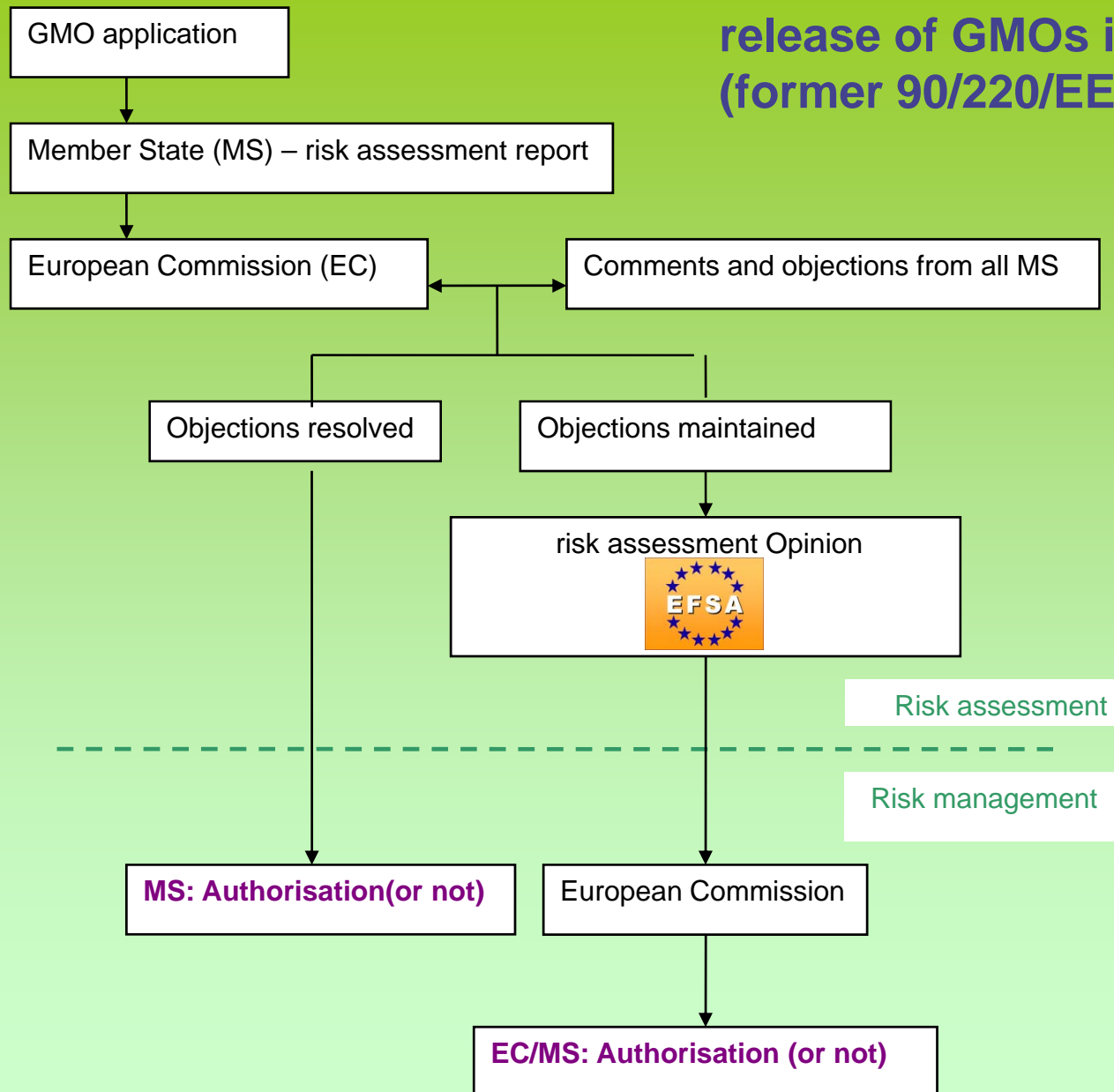
Additional information of 10 January 2002  
Additional information of 11 November 2002  
Compendium of public consultation in accordance with Directive 2002/97/EC



Additional information of 10 January 2002  
Additional information of 11 November 2002  
Compendium of public consultation in accordance with Directive 2002/97/EC

Additional information of 10 January 2002  
Additional information of 11 November 2002  
Compendium of public consultation in accordance with Directive 2002/97/EC

# Directive 2001/18/EC – deliberate release of GMOs into environment (former 90/220/EEC)



Brazilian Academy of Sciences  
Chinese Academy of Sciences  
Indian National Science  
Academy  
Mexican Academy of Sciences  
National Academy of Sciences  
of the USA  
The Royal Society (UK)  
The Third World Academy of  
Sciences

# Transgenic plants and world agriculture



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London SW1Y 5AG  
tel +44 020 7451 2500  
fax +44 020 7451 2692  
www.royalsoc.ac.uk  
document 08/00  
July 2000  
Registered Charity No 207043

## 2 Summary

- 2.1 It is essential that we improve food production and distribution in order to feed and free from hunger a growing world population, while reducing environmental impacts and providing productive employment in low-income areas. This will require a proper and responsible utilisation of scientific discoveries and new technologies. The developers and overseers of GM technology applied to plants and micro-organisms should make sure that their efforts address such needs.
- 2.2 Foods can be produced through the use of GM technology that are more nutritious, stable in storage and in principle, health promoting - bringing benefits to consumers in both industrialised and developing nations.
- 2.3 New public sector efforts are required for creating transgenic crops that benefit poor farmers in developing nations and improve their access to food through employment-intensive production of staples such as maize, rice, wheat, cassava, yams, sorghum, plantains and sweet potatoes. Cooperative efforts between the private and public sectors are needed to develop new transgenic crops that benefit consumers, especially in the developing world.
- 2.4 Concerted, organised efforts must be undertaken to investigate the potential environmental effects, both positive and negative, of GM technologies in their specific applications. These must be assessed against the background of effects from conventional agricultural technologies that are currently in use.
- 2.5 Public health regulatory systems need to be put in place in every country to identify and monitor any potential adverse human health effects of transgenic plants, as for any other new variety.
- 2.6 Private corporations and research institutions should make arrangements to share GM technology, now held under strict patents and licensing agreements, with responsible scientists for use for hunger alleviation and to enhance food security in developing countries. In addition, special exemptions should be given to the world's poor farmers to protect them from inappropriate restrictions in propagating their crops.

# **Aspectos relativos a la inocuidad de los alimentos de origen vegetal genéticamente modificados**

**Informe de una Consulta Mixta FAO/OMS de Expertos sobre Alimentos Obtenidos por Medios Biotecnológicos**

Sede de la Organización Mundial de la Salud  
Ginebra, Suiza  
29 de mayo a 2 de junio de 2000

## **7. Conclusiones**

1. La Consulta acordó que la evaluación de la inocuidad de los alimentos genéticamente modificados exige un método integrado y gradual, caso por caso, que puede ser apoyado por una serie estructurada de preguntas. El criterio comparativo centrado en la determinación de similitudes y diferencias entre el alimento genéticamente modificado y su homólogo convencional contribuye a definir cuestiones potenciales en materia nutricional y de inocuidad y se considera la estrategia más apropiada para la evaluación nutricional y de la inocuidad de los alimentos genéticamente modificados.

# Legislación sobre etiquetado

- Se necesitan métodos para la detección de plantas modificadas genéticamente





# Productos en los que se ha detectado DNA del inserto

## Maiz

Grano de maíz  
Harina de maíz  
Harinas mezcladas (con trigo y arroz)  
Maíz dulce en grano  
Sémola  
Polenta  
Papilla infantil  
Carne picada  
Crema de champiñones  
Cacao en polvo  
Cereales extrudados  
Maíz frito  
Fritos  
Palomitas  
Barquillo  
Aceite crudo

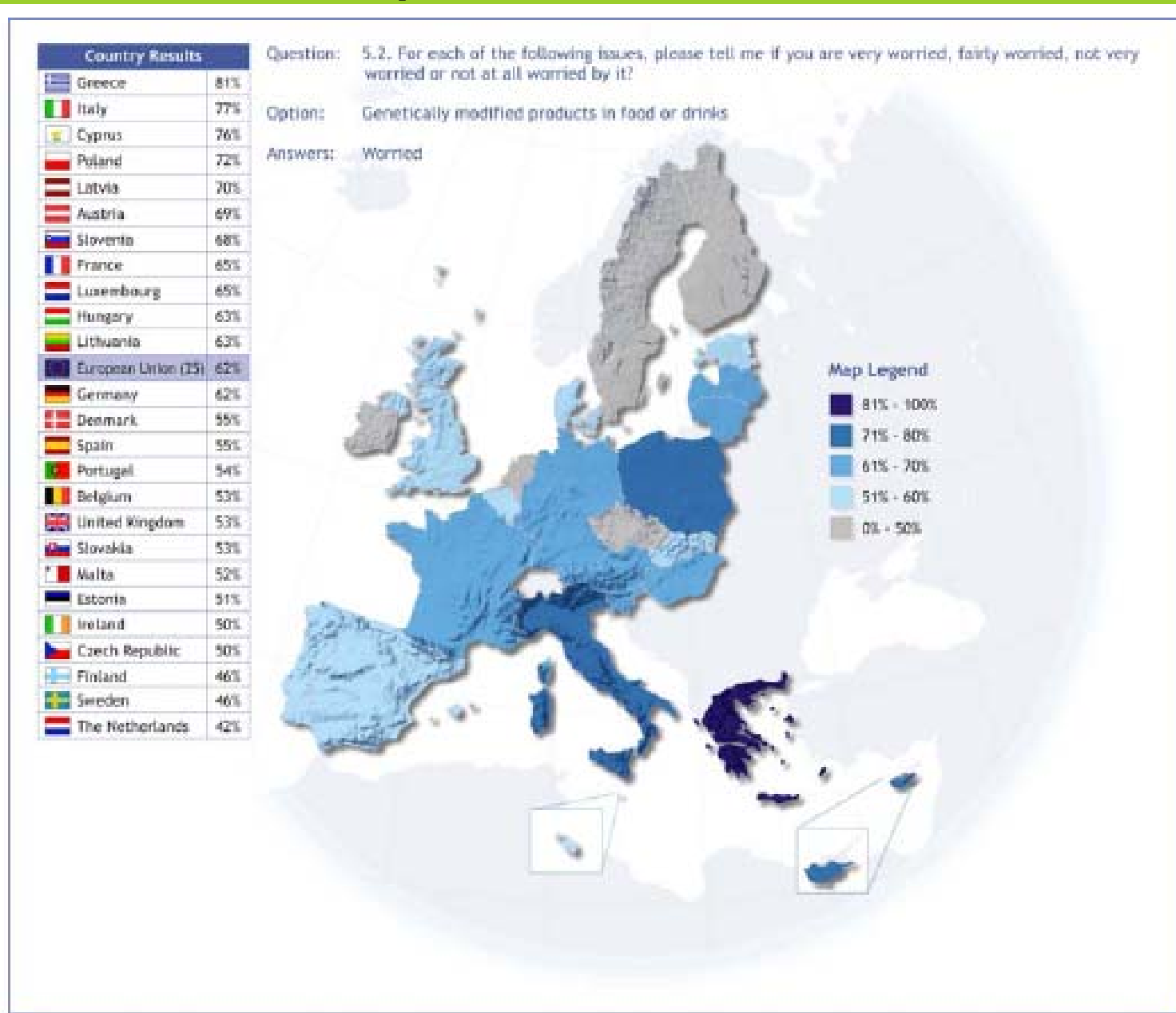
Galletas  
Pan rallado  
Magdalenas  
Cobertura  
Crema de licor  
Almidones  
Fécula de maíz  
Sorbitol  
Gluten  
Glucosa atomizada  
Dextrosa  
Extracto de malta  
Fructosa  
Colorante (especia con harina de maíz)  
Cervezas  
Tomate tipo “ketchup”

## Soja

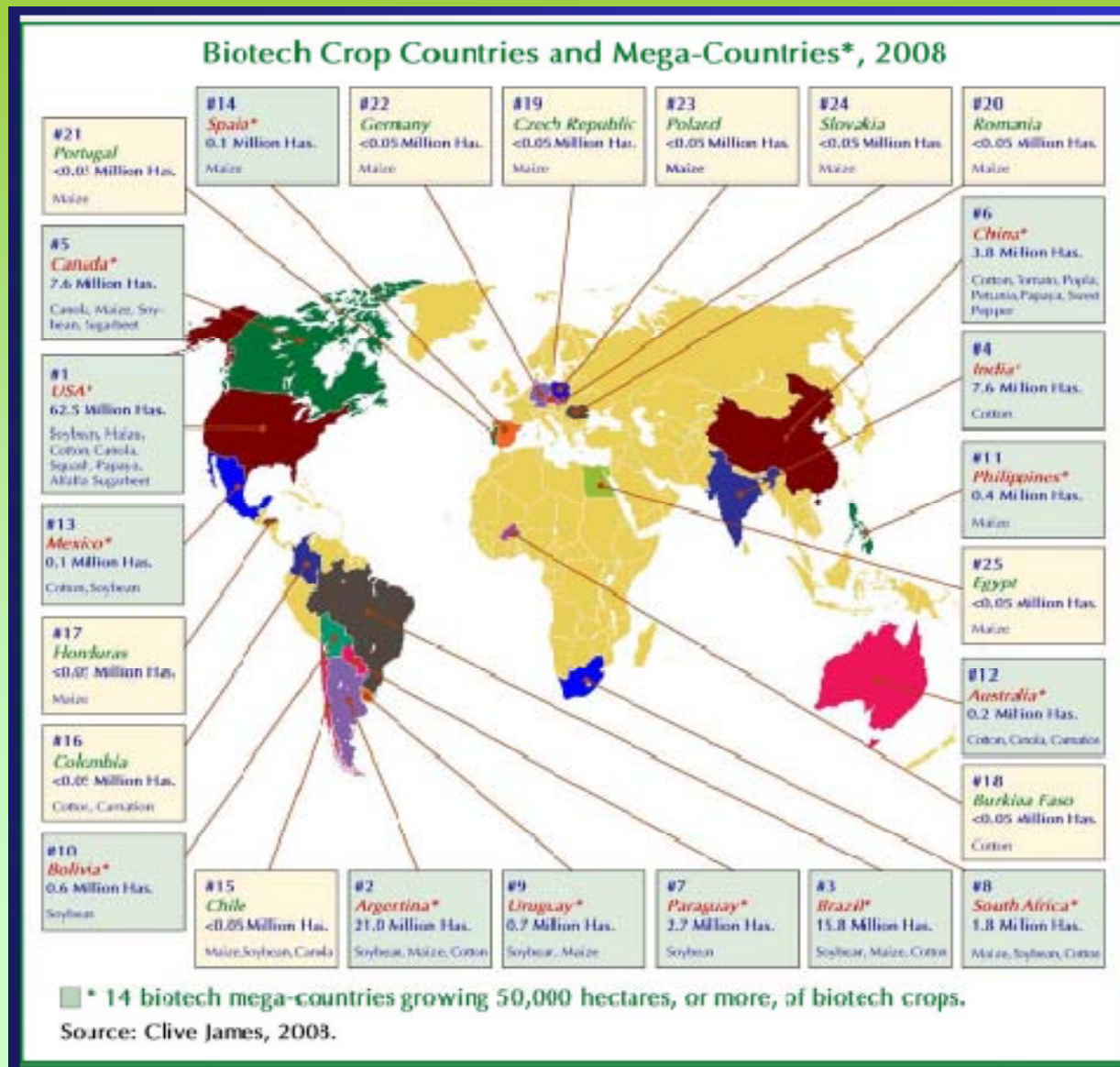
Habas de soja  
Aislado de soja  
Lecitina  
Concentrados proteicos  
Proteína texturizada  
Complementos dietéticos  
Papilla infantil

Embutidos  
Carne picada  
Galletas  
Paté  
Extractos enriquecidos en  
vitaminas o esteroides  
Aceite crudo

# A pesar de ello...



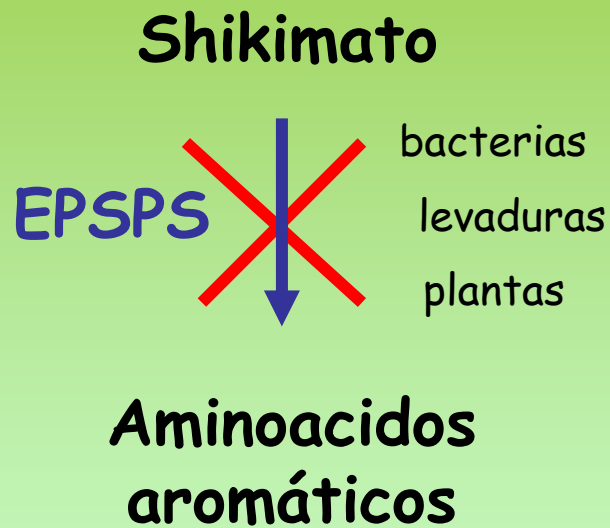
# Situación en 2008



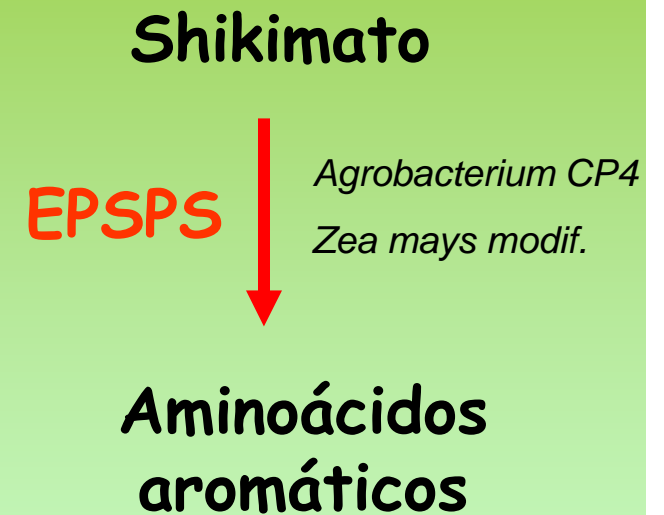


# Plantas resistentes a herbicidas

maiz (GA21), soja (GTS40-3-2), colza (GT73), algodón (MON14451698)



Source: Monsanto



**Glifosato (Roundup®)**

EPSPS: 5-enolpyruvylshikimate-3-phosphate synthase

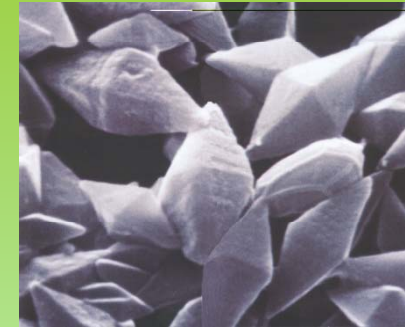
Reunión de usuarios de PCR a tiempo real, 21 mayo 2002, Madrid.

# Resistentes a insectos

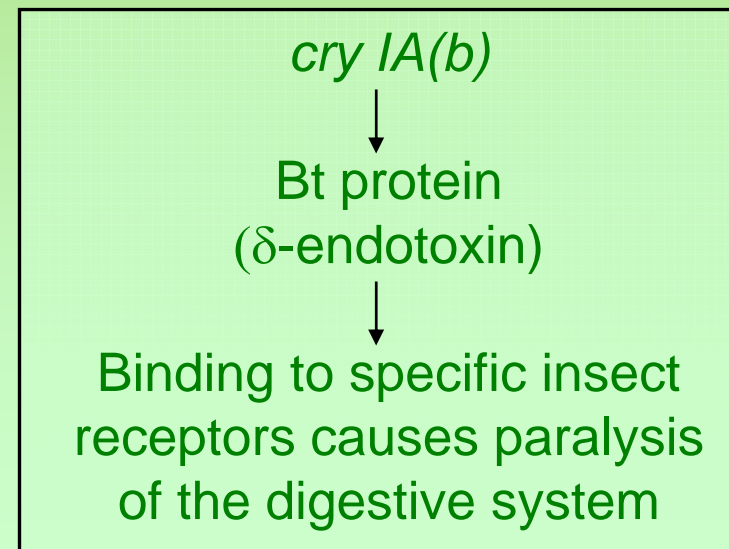
maize Bt176, Bt11, YieldGard<sup>®</sup> and cotton Bollgard<sup>®</sup>



Caterpillar-like insect larvae  
*Ostrinia nubilalis* y *Sesamia nonagrioides*



Bt protein crystals  
*Bacillus thuringiensis*

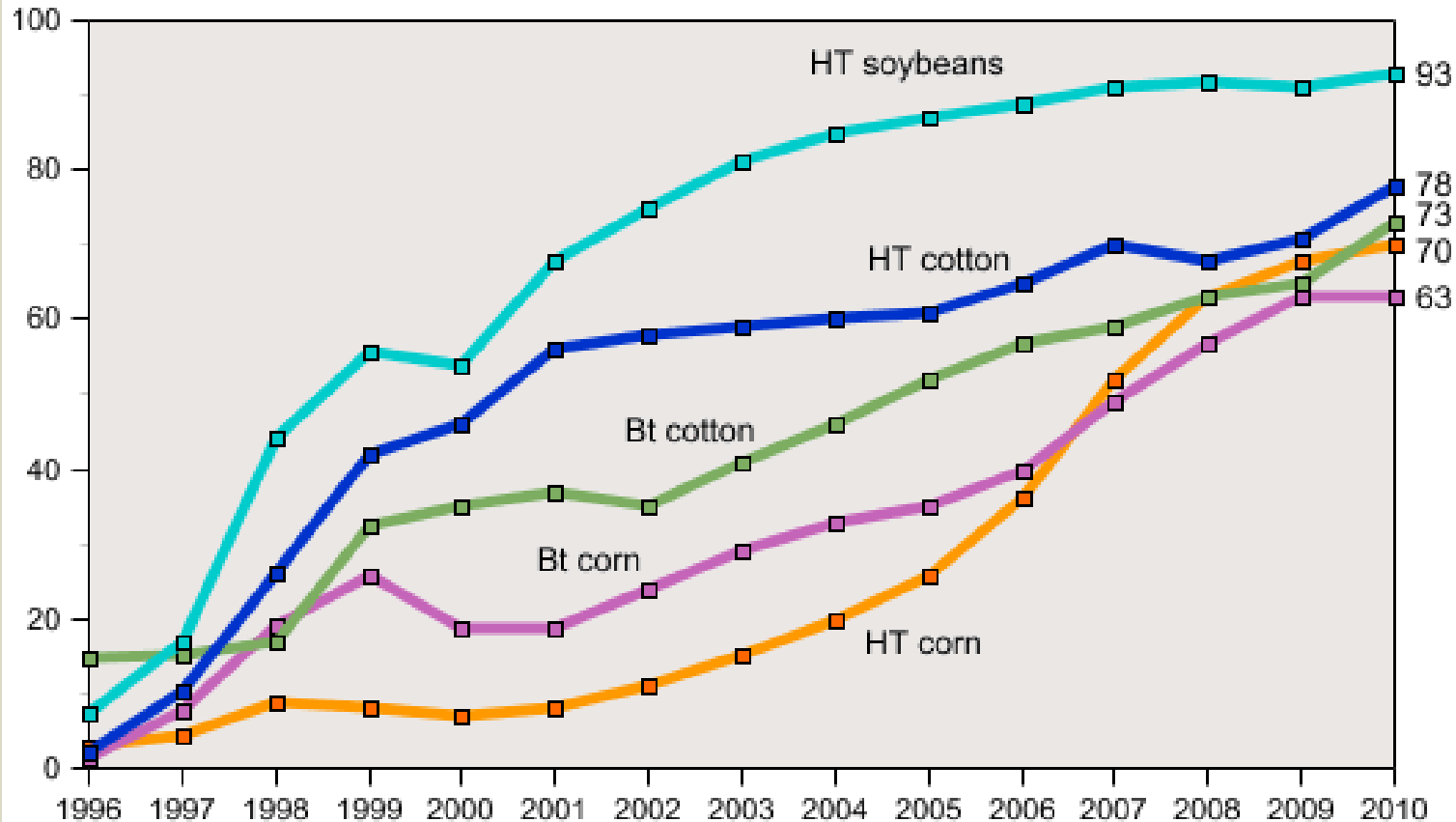




# Datos para 2010. USA

## Rapid growth in adoption of genetically engineered crops continues in the U.S.

Percent of acres



Data for each crop category include varieties with both HT and Bt (stacked) traits.

Sources: 1996-1999 data are from Fernandez-Cornejo and McBride (2002). Data for 2000-10 are available in the ERS data product, Adoption of Genetically Engineered Crops in the U.S., tables 1-3.

# Modificaciones de los aceites



**Product Pipeline: Vistive Soybeans**

 **Vistive**  
*a better soybean oil, naturally*

Vistive™ soybeans represent the first of several food quality traits being developed by Monsanto to directly benefit consumers. Our robust pipeline of these in-demand products can help meet the needs of food companies and provide consumers with *healthier choices for years to come*.

Monsanto's advanced soybean breeding efforts enable development of foods that can deliver such benefits as improved nutrition, taste and choice. And all of these *quality improvements* are placed into seed with performance traits that help reduce the cost of production and make them more affordable for food manufacturing.

**NOW AVAILABLE**

*Vistive Low-Linolenic Soybeans*  
Low-linolenic oil reduces the need for hydrogenation, lowering or eliminating trans fats from foods.

**MID-TERM AVAILABILITY**

*Vistive High-Stearate*  
High-Stearate oil offers a healthier solution for food products that require solid fat for functionality such as margarines and shortenings.

*Vistive Low-Linolenic Mid-Oleic*  
Low-linolenic mid-oleic oil increases oxidative stability, improves shelf life and flavor.

**LONG-TERM AVAILABILITY**

*Vistive Low-Linolenic Mid-Oleic Low Saturates*  
Soybean oil provides a heart-healthy combination of lower saturated fats and increased monounsaturated fat designed to further lower cardiovascular health risk, eliminate trans fats and improve stability.

*Vistive Omega-3*  
Enhanced oils represent an environmentally sustainable, economical source of Omega-3s, providing consumers with new options for omega-rich foods.



# Concentración de compañías de semillas



*The miracles of science™*

The logo for Seminis, featuring the word "Seminis" in a dark blue, sans-serif font.



# La discusión sobre las patentes

## Biotechnology in European patents - threat or promise?

### Split views and a growing market

Opinions on patents in this field are divided, with unfettered scientific progress at one end of the spectrum and the basic values accepted by society at the other. While many see an important contribution to social progress, others are mainly concerned by potential risks and ethical questions.

Despite all the disagreement, biotechnology is a growing discipline with a remarkably strong market. In 2006, global turnover was estimated at \$60 billion, up 15 per cent from 2005.

This growth is also reflected in the number of biotechnology patents. For several years now, biotechnological inventions have consistently ranked among the ten largest technical fields in terms of patent applications filed with the European Patent Office (EPO).



### History in patents

#### The EPO's position

The essence of Directive 98/44/EC was incorporated into the Implementing Regulations to the European Patent Convention (EPC) as Rules 23b-e. This part of European patent law now provides the ground rules for considering the patentability of biotechnology applications – alongside the principal criteria valid for all patents.

The EPO holds no political views of its own on biotechnology patents. As the executive organ of the European Patent Organisation, it examines patent applications on the basis of the relevant law, in other words the EPC.

Articles 52 and 53(b) EPC say what can and what cannot be patented. Biotechnical inventions are basically patentable, but with the following exceptions:

- **methods for treatment** of the **human or animal body** by surgery or therapy, and diagnostic methods practised on the human or animal body
- **plant and animal varieties**
- **essentially biological** processes for the production of plants and animals.

Article 53(a) also prohibits the patenting of any invention whose commercial exploitation would be contrary to public order or morality.

# Inversiones en China!

## Big funding for GM research

26 March 2008

Hepeng Jia/**Beijing, China**

China is to launch a huge research programme on genetically modified (GM) crops by the end of the year, according to top agricultural biotechnology advisors.

Huang Dafang, former director of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences' (CAAS) Institute of Biotechnologies, says the programme could receive as much as 10 billion yuan (US\$1.4 billion) over the next five years - five times more than the country spent on GM research in the preceding five years.

A member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), China's upper house, and a key government advisor on biotechnology policies, Huang revealed the news at a briefing on the annual report of the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications (ISAAA), a non-profit organisation promoting agricultural biotechnology.

The ISAAA report indicates in 2007 a total of 114.3 million hectares of GM crops were cultivated worldwide - an increase of 18.3 per cent from 2006.

The most widely adopted GM crop is Bt cotton, engineered to produce a toxin from *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) to fight bollworm. China has developed GM petunias, tomatoes, sweet peppers, poplar and papaya, and several varieties of rice but to date policymakers have only allowed GM cotton to be marketed.

Huang says that yield, quality, nutritional value and drought resistance will be major targets of the new research programme. As well as rice and cotton - which have been the focus of GM technology research in the past - corn and wheat will also now be priority crops for research.

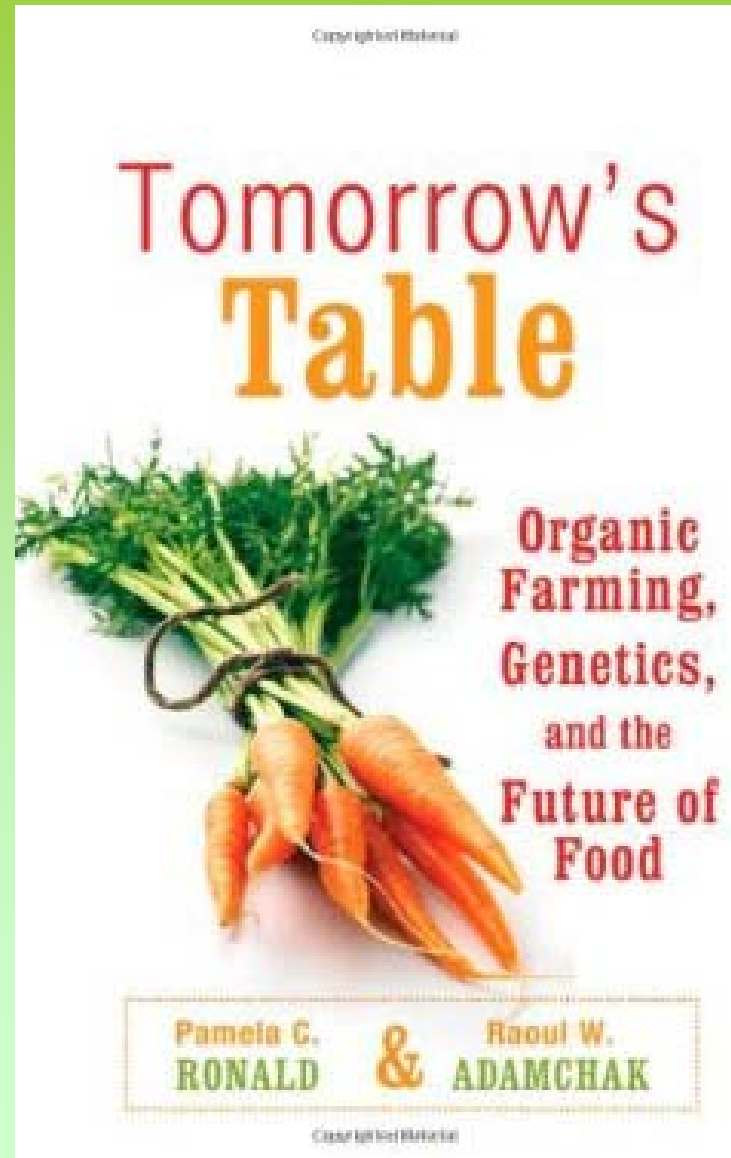
**Receptive farmers**

# Coexistencia

- Recomendación de la Comisión
- de 23 de julio de 2003
- sobre las Directrices para la elaboración de estrategias y mejores prácticas nacionales con el fin de garantizar la coexistencia de los cultivos modificados genéticamente con la agricultura convencional y ecológica
- [notificada con el número C(2003) 2624]
- (2003/556/CE)
- 1. INTRODUCCIÓN
- 1.1. Concepto de coexistencia
- El cultivo de organismos modificados genéticamente (OMG) en la Unión Europea es probable que tenga consecuencias en la organización de la producción agrícola. Por un lado, la posibilidad de la presencia accidental (no intencionada) de cultivos modificados genéticamente (MG) en cultivos que no hayan sufrido esta modificación, y viceversa, plantea la cuestión de cómo se puede asegurar la elección del productor respecto a los diferentes tipos de producción. En principio, los agricultores deberían poder cultivar los tipos de cultivos agrícolas que escojan, ya se trate de cultivos modificados genéticamente, convencionales o ecológicos. Ninguno de estos tipos de agricultura debería excluirse en la Unión Europea.
- Por otro lado, este asunto está relacionado también con la elección de los consumidores. Para que los consumidores europeos puedan disfrutar de una auténtica capacidad de elección entre alimentos modificados genéticamente y alimentos que no hayan sufrido esta modificación, no sólo debería existir un sistema de trazabilidad y etiquetado que funcione correctamente, sino también un sector agrario que pueda suministrar los diferentes tipos de bienes. La capacidad del sector alimentario para ofrecer a los consumidores un elevado grado de elección es paralela a la capacidad del sector agrario de mantener diferentes sistemas de producción.
- **La coexistencia se refiere a la capacidad de los agricultores de poder escoger en la práctica entre la producción de cultivos convencionales, ecológicos y modificados genéticamente, en cumplimiento de las obligaciones legales sobre etiquetado y las normas de pureza.**



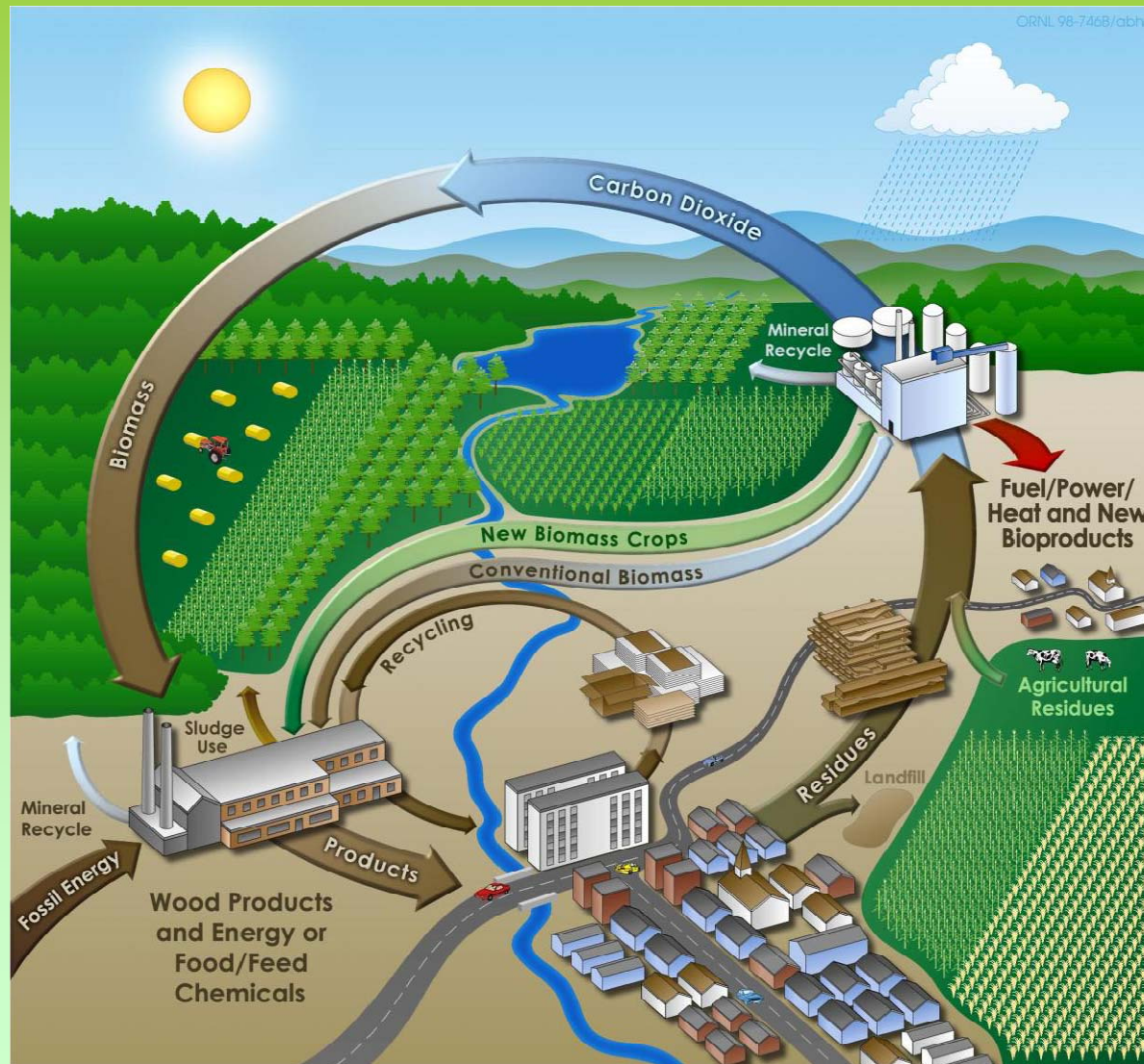
# Ecológico + transgénico



# Discusiones actuales en Europa

- Decisiones de la Comisión y de los Estados miembros
- Condiciones distintas en casos especiales (cisgénesis, mutagénesis, etc.)

# Nuevos usos. Biocombustibles



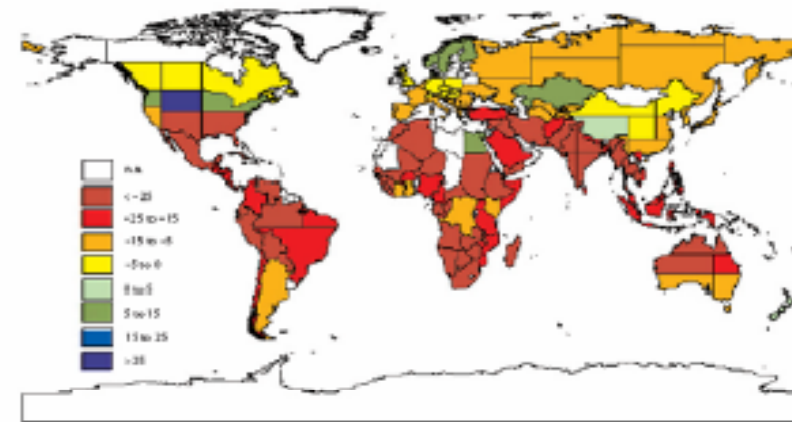
# Una ecuación compleja

## WORLD POPULATION GROWTH



Climate change will reduce production growth in many of the poorest countries and regions.  
This will have further price-increasing effects.

Percentage change in agricultural production due to climate change, 2050.



1990/2005 ratios of per capita consumption (FAO)	India	China	Brazil	Nigeria
Cereals	1.0	2.8	1.2	1.0
Meat	1.2	2.4	1.7	1.0
Milk	1.2	3.0	1.2	1.3
Fish	1.2	2.3	0.9	0.8
Fruit	1.3	3.5	0.8	1.1
Vegetables	1.3	2.9	1.3	1.3

Noviembre de 2009



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная  
организация  
Объединенных  
Наций

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

## Cumbre Mundial sobre la Seguridad Alimentaria

Roma, 16–18 de noviembre de 2009

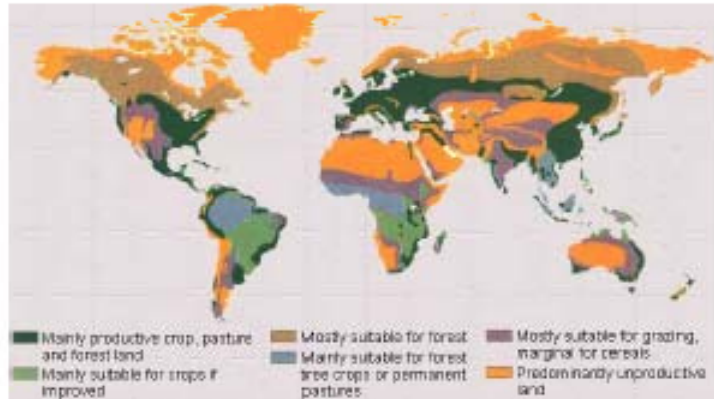
### DECLARACIÓN DE LA CUMBRE MUNDIAL SOBRE LA SEGURIDAD ALIMENTARIA

4. Se calcula que la producción agrícola tendrá que aumentar en un 70 % de aquí al 2050 para alimentar a una población mundial que se prevé que superará los 9 000 millones de personas para entonces. Simultáneamente, será preciso adoptar medidas para garantizar a todas las personas acceso —físico, social y económico— a alimentos suficientes, inocuos y nutritivos, con especial atención a dar pleno acceso a las mujeres y los niños. Los alimentos no deberían emplearse como instrumento de presión política y económica. Reafirmamos la importancia de la cooperación y la solidaridad internacionales, así como la necesidad de abstenerse de adoptar medidas unilaterales que no sean acordes con el Derecho internacional y la Carta de las Naciones Unidas y que pongan en peligro la seguridad alimentaria. Abogamos a favor de mercados abiertos, pues son un elemento esencial de la respuesta a la cuestión de la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

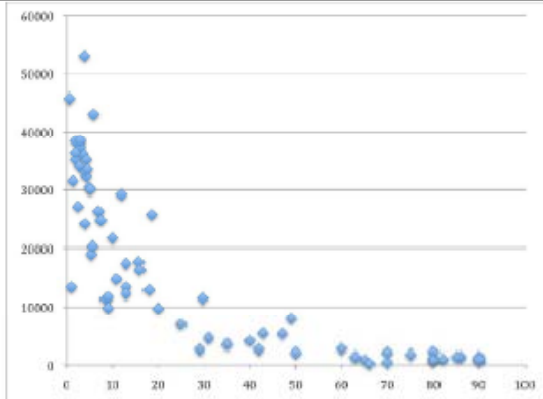
5. El cambio climático supone graves riesgos adicionales para la seguridad alimentaria y el sector agrícola. Se prevé que sus efectos revestirán especial peligro para los pequeños agricultores de los países en desarrollo, especialmente los países menos adelantados, y para las poblaciones que ya son vulnerables. Las soluciones para hacer frente a los desafíos planteados por el cambio climático deben comprender opciones de mitigación y un firme compromiso a la adaptación de la agricultura, incluso mediante la conservación y el uso sostenible de los recursos genéticos para la alimentación y la agricultura.

# Una ecuación compleja

World potential land use capabilities



A critical challenge - Water  
Proportion of water withdrawal for agriculture 2001  
(from WASTD 2001)



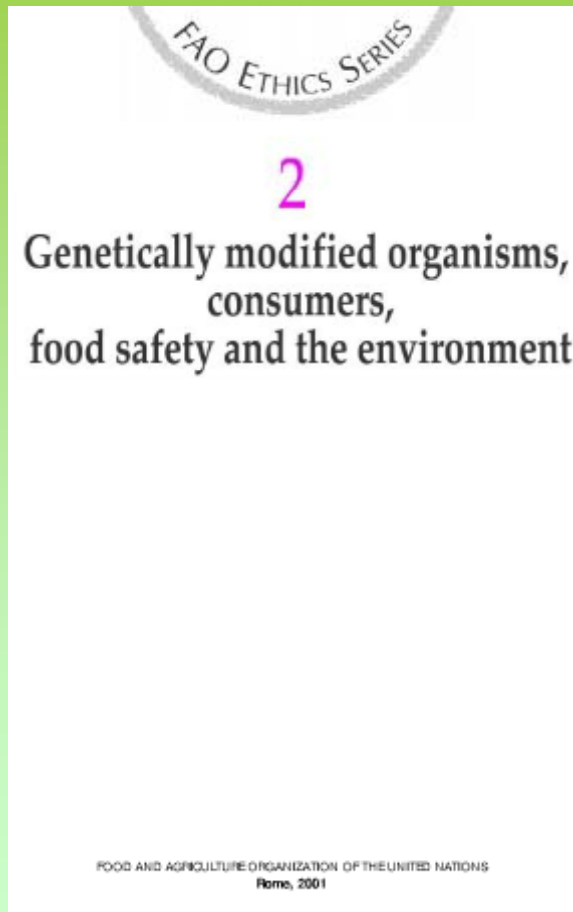
Plot of GDP per capita against proportion of the population involved in agriculture. The graph demonstrates that the proportion of people involved in agriculture is much greater in poorer countries than in the richer countries. Data derived from the CIA World Factbook (July 2008), ISSN 1533-8133.

## *Urbanization and industrialization in emerging world economies.*

The balance of global population is shifting to urban areas, with rapid growth of major cities in developing nations, in particular. By 2015, experts project that there will be at least 550 cities around the world with populations of at least one million. By 2050, there could be more than 400 "megacities" with populations of more than 10 million, up from 18 today. Cities have absorbed nearly two thirds of the global population explosion since 1950 and are currently growing by a million inhabitants each week.<sup>3</sup>



# Discusiones éticas



## Genetically modified crops: the ethical and social issues

NUFFIELD  
COUNCIL ON  
BIOETHICS

## The use of genetically modified crops in developing countries

a follow-up Discussion Paper

NUFFIELD  
COUNCIL ON  
BIOETHICS

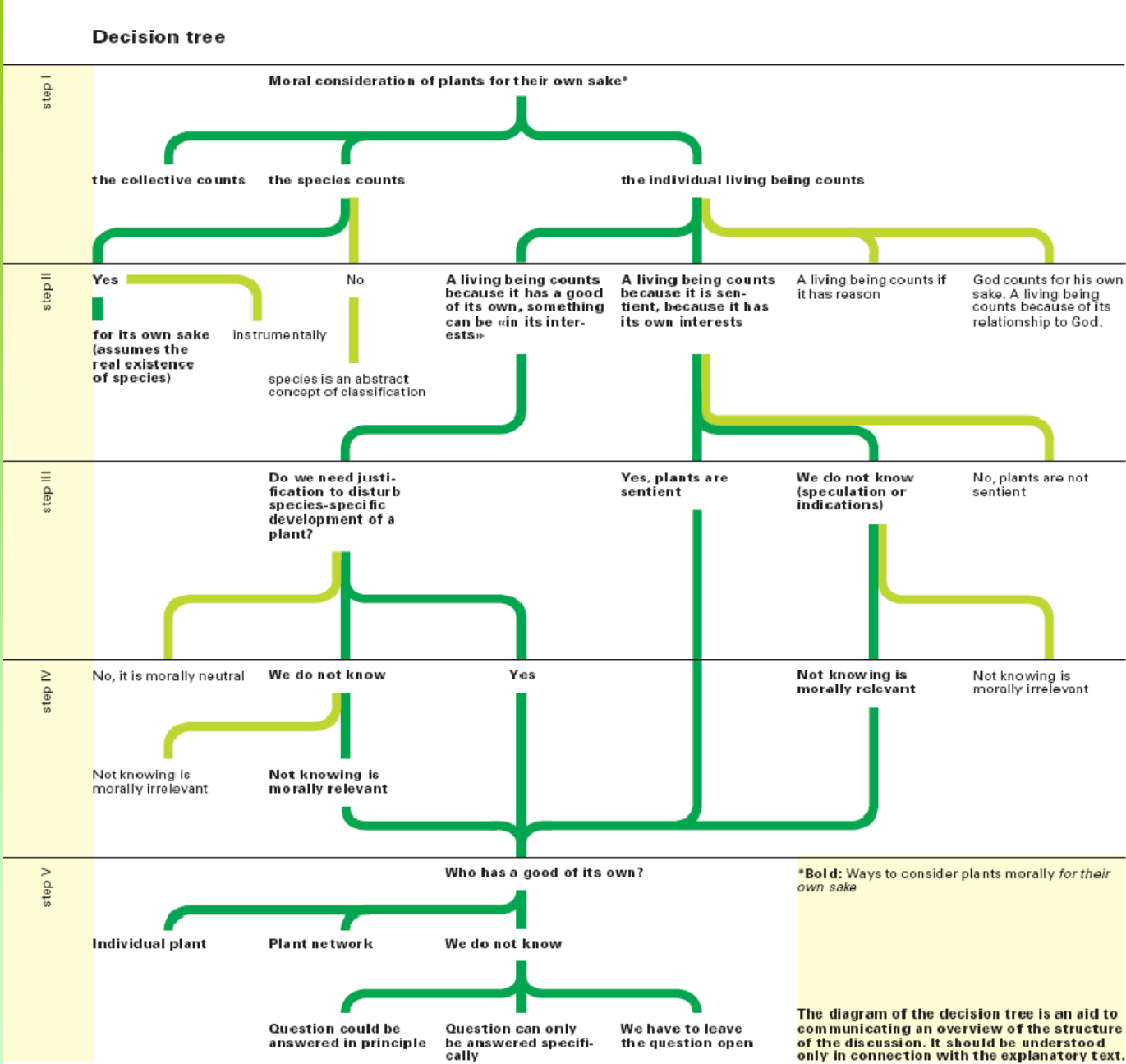
# La dignidad de las plantas

**The dignity  
of living beings  
with regard  
to plants**

Federal Ethics  
Committee on Non-Human  
Biotechnology (ECNH)

Moral consideration  
of plants for their own sake







**The European Group on Ethics in Science and New  
Technologies to the European Commission**

**Ethics of modern developments in agriculture technologies**

**- Opinion No 24 -**

---

**- 17 December 2008 -**

The Group is aware of the need to promote innovation in agriculture but it is equally aware that technologies alone cannot provide final solutions to the challenges modern agriculture is facing in the EU and worldwide. However, the Group supports all technologies in agriculture, insofar as they are conducive to the goals and priorities indicated in this Opinion. The Group also emphasises the need for an integrated view and an integrated approach on agricultural technologies, so that the production, storage and distribution processes are considered together when the ethical implications of any new technology are assessed.

#### **10.2 The EGE's ethical approach to agriculture**

The Group considers the goals of (1) food security, (2) food safety and (3) sustainability as first priorities and guiding principles to which any technology in agriculture must adhere. Therefore the Group recommends an integrated approach to agriculture, based on a system where its constituent units are balanced, not just at technical level (where there is continuous assessment of the balance between the input required, e.g. resources, energy, etc., and the outcomes expected to achieve its goals) but also at ethical level (where members of society act and interact on the basis of commonly held values).

The EGE calls for explicit embedding of ethical principles in agricultural policy (whether traditional or innovative) and argues that respect for human dignity and justice, two fundamental ethical principles, have to apply to production and distribution of food products too (see section 8.1). In addition, the EGE calls for impact assessment of agricultural technologies, as described in section 10.2.4 of this Opinion.

# Resumen de la opinión

## 10.2.1 The right to food

The starting point of any ethical agricultural policy must be the obligation of States and of the international community to secure all human beings' right to food. Agricultural policies at national, EU and international levels must therefore aim, first and foremost, to secure access to food at regional, national and international levels, so that everyone has sufficient access to safe and healthy food corresponding to their particular cultural background and available scientific data.

## 10.2.3 Food safety

The Group considers food safety a prerequisite for production and marketing of food products from arable agriculture, including imports of agricultural commodities and products from third countries, and calls on the competent authorities to monitor enforcement of food safety provisions. The Group supports the work done by the EU, Member States and relevant bodies (EFSA in particular) on enforcement of food safety standards and considers it necessary that:

- EU food safety standards have to be based on scientific data only;
- If EU food safety standards for food products from arable agriculture differ from international standards, they must be scientifically justified.

- Importancia de crear tradiciones adecuadas con una comida segura y sana

## 10.5.3 Food waste

The concept of food waste concerns different levels (production, storage, transport, distribution and consumption) and has strong ethical implications for social and distributive justice. As indicated in section 4.8 of this Opinion, it seems probable that the phenomenon of food waste has taken on very high proportions. The Group is aware that waste is a key issue in the context of food security, safety and sustainability. Appropriate technologies should be developed and applied in modern agriculture to reduce and/or recycle food waste. The EGE

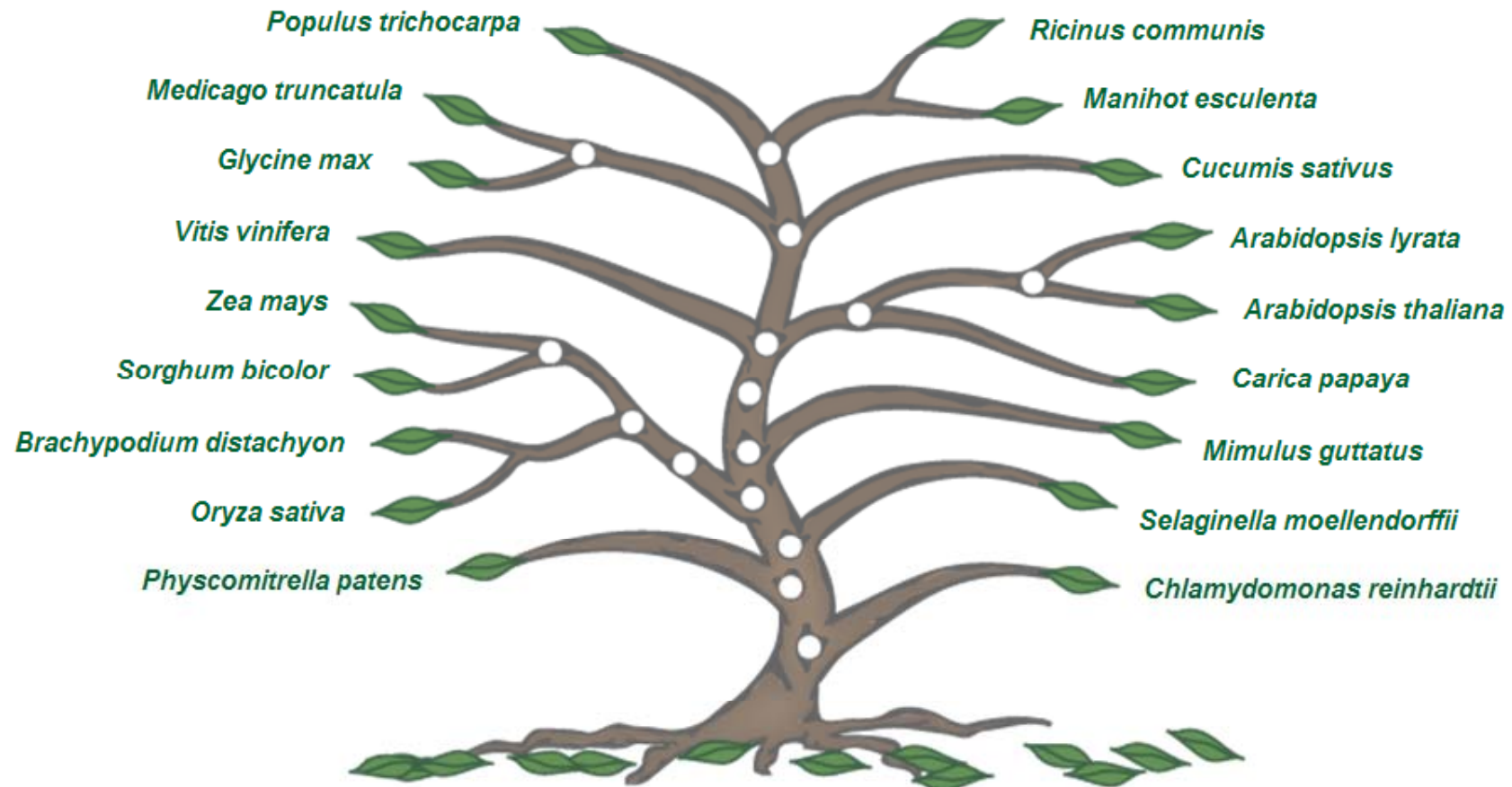
also proposes quantitative and qualitative analysis of waste dynamics at national and supranational levels, along with research into optimisation of waste recycling.

- Importancia de promover comportamientos responsables ante la comida



# Los genomas de plantas. 2010

## Phytozome: a tool for green plant comparative genomics





*Chenopodium album*



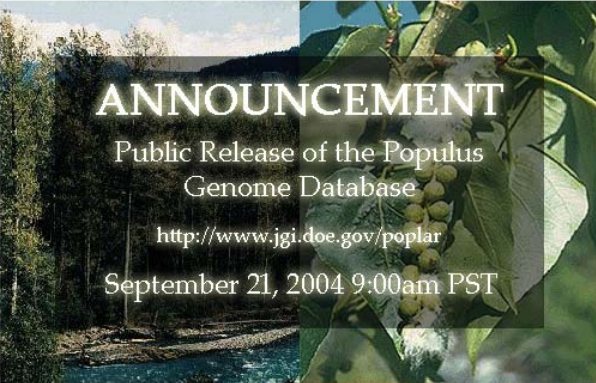
*Arabidopsis thaliana*

Chromosomes	5
DNA molecules length	115 Mb
Genes	25.498
Genes with EST	60 %
Gene density	4,5 Kb/g
Gene length	2 Kb



# Populus genome

International Populus Genome Consortium  
 Creating a genetic resource  
 for the plant science community



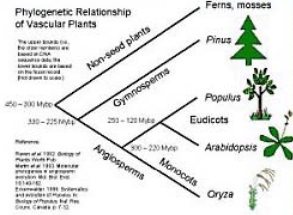
ANNOUNCEMENT

Public Release of the Populus  
Genome Database

http://www.jgi.doe.gov/poplar

September 21, 2004 9:00am PST

- About the Consortium
- Sequencing the Genome
- Steering Committee
- Consortium Membership
- Conferences & Workshops
- Sequencing News
- Publications
- SSR Resource
- Science Plan Draft
- Links
- Contact Us





**Phylogenetic Relationship of Vascular Plants**

The data shown in this diagram are based on DNA sequence data from the chloroplast genome of the green alga *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* and the nuclear DNA of the following groups of plants:

- 450 - 500 Mb: Non-seed plants
- 330 - 225 Mb: Gymnosperms (Pinus, Populus)
- 290 - 120 Mb: Eudicots (Arabidopsis)
- 190 - 220 Mb: Angiosperms (Monocots, Craya)

References:  
 Raven et al. (2002) *Origin of Plants*  
 Raven et al. (2002) *Origin of Plants*  
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OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY



*Populus trichocarpa* v1.0

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With a genome of just over 500 million letters of genetic code, *Populus trichocarpa* was sequenced eight times over to attain the highest quality standards. Poplar was chosen as the first tree DNA sequence decoded because of its relatively compact genetic complement, some 50 times smaller than the genome of pine, making the poplar an ideal model system for trees.

The poplar genome, divided into 19 chromosomes, is four times larger than the genome of the first plant sequenced four years ago, *Arabidopsis thaliana*.

Thus far, researchers have revealed poplar's genome to be about one-third heterochromatin, that is, regions of chromosomes thought to be genetically inactive, which should provide shortcuts to important regulatory features.

### Genome Project Notes

The *Populus* genome assembly 1.0 is a preliminary release as part of the ongoing *Populus* genome project. A final draft sequence will be released in early 2005. The current assembly includes approximately 7.5X in small insert end-sequence coverage. Additional mapping and sequencing is ongoing.

Our goal is to make the genome sequence of Poplar widely and rapidly available to the scientific community. We endorse the principles for the distribution and use of large scale sequencing data adopted by the larger genome sequencing community and urge users of this data to follow them. It is our intention to publish the work of this project in a timely fashion and we welcome collaborative interaction on the project and analyses as appropriate.

# Genoma de la soja

nature

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ARTICLES

## Genome sequence of the palaeopolyploid soybean

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Soybean (*Glycine max*) is one of the most important crop plants for seed protein and oil content, and for its capacity to fix atmospheric nitrogen through symbioses with soil-borne microorganisms. We sequenced the 1.1-gigabase genome by a whole-genome shotgun approach and integrated it with physical and high-density genetic maps to create a chromosome-scale draft sequence assembly. We predict 46,430 protein-coding genes, 70% more than *Arabidopsis* and similar to the poplar genome which, like soybean, is an ancient polyploid (palaeopolyploid). About 78% of the predicted genes occur in chromosome ends, which comprise less than one-half of the genome but account for nearly all of the genetic recombination. Genome duplications occurred at approximately 59 and 13 million years ago, resulting in a highly duplicated genome with nearly 75% of the genes present in multiple copies. The two duplication events were followed by gene diversification and loss, and numerous chromosome rearrangements. An accurate soybean genome sequence will facilitate the identification of the genetic basis of many soybean traits, and accelerate the creation of improved soybean varieties.

# The grapevine genome sequence suggests ancestral hexaploidization in major angiosperm phyla

The French-Italian Public Consortium for Grapevine Genome Characterization\*

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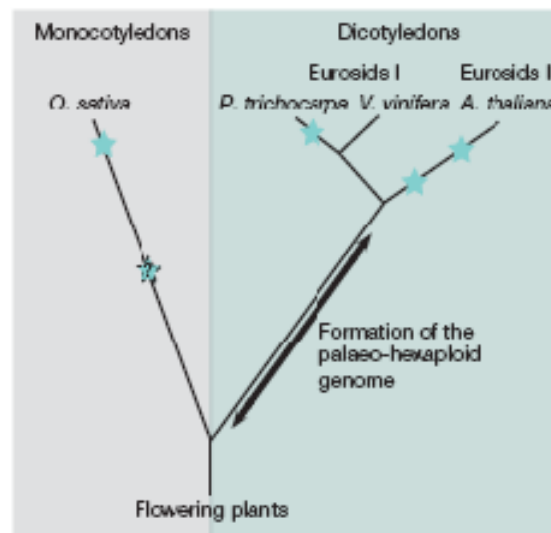
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# El genoma de la viña

These findings are summarized in Fig. 3: the triplicated arrangement is apparent after the separation of the monocotyledons and dicotyledons and before the spread of the Eurosids clade. Future genome sequencing projects for other clades of dicotyledons, such as Solanaceae or basal eudicots, will help in situating the triplication event more precisely, and eventually in establishing its precise nature (hexaploidization or genome duplications at distant times).

Public access to the grapevine genome sequence will help in the identification of genes underlying the agricultural characteristics of



**Figure 3 | Positions of the polyploidization events in the evolution of plants with a sequenced genome.** Each star indicates a WGD (tetraploidization) event on that branch. The question mark indicates that ancient events are visible in the rice genome that would require other monocotyledon genome sequences to be resolved. The formation of the palaeo-hexaploid ancestral genome occurred after divergence from monocotyledons and before the radiation of the Eurosids.

this species, including domestication traits. A selective amplification of genes belonging to the metabolic pathways of terpenes and tannins has occurred in the grapevine genome, in contrast with other plant genomes. This suggests that it may become possible to trace the diversity of wine flavours down to the genome level. Grapevine is also a crop that is highly susceptible to a large diversity of pathogens including powdery mildew, oidium and Pierce disease. Other *Vitis* species such as *V. riparia* or *V. cinerea*, which are known to be resistant to several of these pathogens, are interfertile with *V. vinifera* and can be used for the introduction of resistance traits by advanced backcrosses<sup>27</sup> or by gene transfer. Access to the *Vitis* sequence and the exploitation of synteny will speed up this process of introgression of pathogen resistance traits. As a consequence of this, it is hoped that it will also prompt a strong decrease in pesticide use.

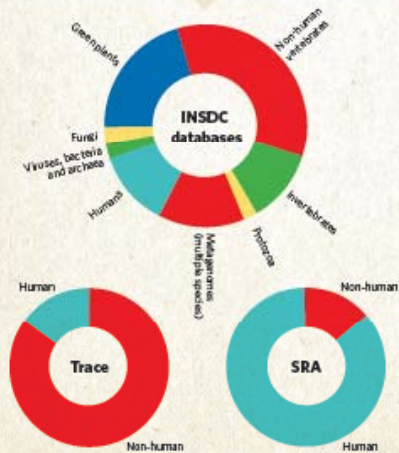


# THE SEQUENCE EXPLOSION

At the time of the announcement of the first drafts of the human genome in 2000, there were 8 billion base pairs of sequence in the three main databases for 'finished' sequence: GenBank, run by the US National Center for Biotechnology Information; the DNA Databank of Japan; and the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) Nucleotide Sequence Database. The databases share their data regularly as part of the International Nucleotide Sequence Database Collaboration (INSDC). In the subsequent first post-genome decade, they have added another 270 billion bases to the collection of finished sequence, doubling the size of the database roughly every 18 months. But this number is dwarfed by the amount of raw sequence that has been created and stored by researchers around the world in the Trace archive and Sequence Read Archive (SRA). See Editorial, page 649, and human genome special at [www.nature.com/humangenome](http://www.nature.com/humangenome)

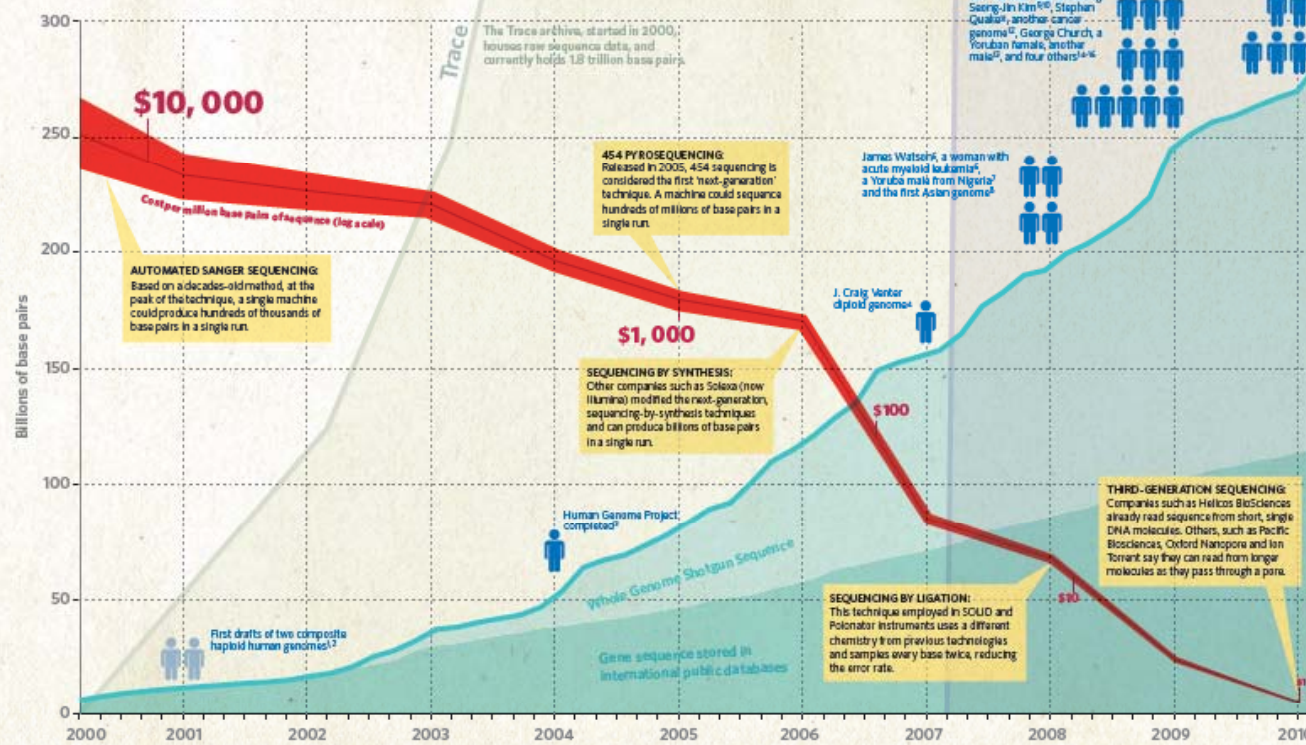
## DNA SEQUENCES BY TAXONOMY

International Nucleotide Sequence Database Collaboration: The main repositories of 'finished' sequences span a wide range of organisms, representing the many priorities of scientists worldwide.



**Trace Archive:** Developed to house the raw output of high-throughput sequencers built in the late 1990s, the trace archive spans a wide range of taxa.

**Sequence Read Archive:** Houses raw data from next-generation sequencers. Dominated by human sequence, including multiple coverage for more than 170 people.

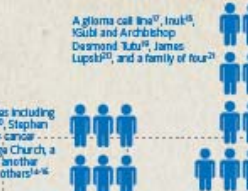


## HOW MANY HUMAN GENOMES?

The graphic shows all published, fully sequenced human genomes since 2000, including nine from the first quarter of 2010. Some are resequencing efforts on the same person and the list does not include unpublished completed genomes.

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The Sequence Read Archive (SRA) houses raw data from next-generation sequencing and has grown to 25 billion base pairs. If this chart were to accommodate it, it would stretch to more than 12 metres — twice the height of an average giraffe.



A giraffe cell line<sup>15</sup>, Inuit<sup>16</sup>, Ysolt and Archibek Desmond Yabu<sup>17</sup>, James Lupski<sup>20</sup>, and a family of four<sup>21</sup>

Two Korean males including Seung-Jin Kim<sup>10</sup>, Stephan Quake<sup>11</sup>, another cancer genome<sup>12</sup>, George Church, a Yoruban female, another male<sup>13</sup>, and four others<sup>14</sup>

James Watson<sup>1</sup>, a woman with acute myeloid leukaemia<sup>2</sup>, a Yoruba male from Nigeria<sup>3</sup> and the first Aspin genome<sup>4</sup>

J. Craig Venter diploid genome<sup>5</sup>

SOURCE: GENOMESCOPE; SPENCER LAW, ILLUSTRATIONS

# Reaping the benefits

Science and the sustainable intensification  
of global agriculture

October 2009



THE ROYAL SOCIETY

## 1 Introduction

### Summary

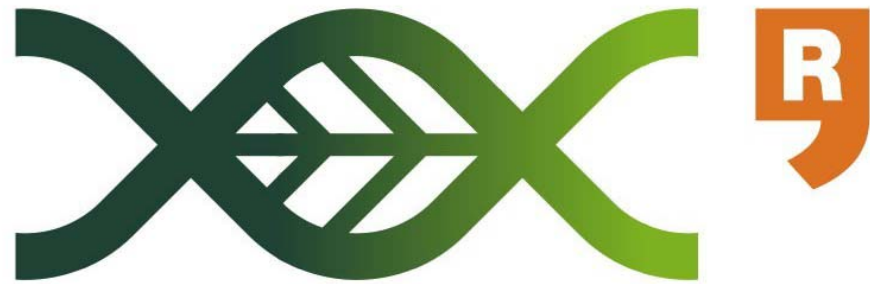
Food security is an urgent challenge. It is a global problem that is set to worsen with current trends of population, consumption, climate change and resource scarcity. The last 50 years have seen remarkable growth in global agricultural production, but the impact on the environment has been unsustainable. The benefits of this green revolution have also been distributed unevenly; growth in Asia and America has not been matched in Africa. Science can potentially continue to provide dramatic improvements to crop production, but it must do so sustainably. Science and technology must therefore be understood in their broader social, economic and environmental contexts. The sustainable intensification of crop production requires a clear definition of agricultural sustainability. Improvements to food crop production should aim to reduce rather than exacerbate global inequalities if they are to contribute to economic development. This report follows other recent analyses, all arguing that major improvements are needed to the way that scientific research is funded and used.



# La Biotecnología vegetal

- Es la más antigua de las biotecnologías
- Las técnicas del DNA recombinante abren nuevas posibilidades y nuevos debates
- Han tenido un gran éxito y han afectado las industrias de semillas
- La modificación genética es una de las biotecnologías vegetales
- Son tecnologías que afectan la vida en diferentes aspectos
  
- No son tecnologías indiferentes para la sociedad en que vivimos

Gracias



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IN AGRICULTURAL GENOMICS

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