



GMOs in Russia

Russia does not officially grow GM-crops.

Together with CIS owns around 80% of Pan-European biodiversity. But all this is rather difficult to conserve in situation when we have bureaucrats who are among most corrupted in the world and TNCs lobbying their interests intensively. In case of absence of publicly controlled ban on GMOs, there is a risk that you will never know where and how GMOs are grown and used. Several recent GMO information suits against responsible ministries that were won by NGOs but never had practical results demonstrated it.

Following crops are approved for human consumption and can be imported:

№	Crop variety	Company	Date of approval
1	Roundup Ready Soy 40-3-2	Monsanto	18.12.2007
2	Bt-potato (Russet Burbank Newleaf), insect resistant (Leptinotarsa decemlineata)	Monsanto	2003 for 5 years
3	Bt-potato (Superior Newleaf), insect resistant (Leptinotarsa decemlineata)	Monsanto	2003 for 5 years
4	Roundup Ready Maize GA 21,	Monsanto	2000 for 3 years reregistered in February 2007
5	Maize T-25, resistant to glufosinate ammonium	Bayer CropScience	2001 for 5 years reregistered in February 2007
6	Roundup Ready Maize NK -603,	Monsanto	15.02.2008
7	Soy A 2704-12, resistant to glufosinate ammonium	Bayer CropScience	15.02.2008
8	Soy A 5547-127, resistant to glufosinate ammonium	Bayer CropScience	15.02.2008

9	Maize MON 863, insect resistant (<i>Diabrotica spp.</i>)	Monsanto	2003 for 5 years
10	Rice Liberty Link LL 62	Bayer CropScience	2003 for 5 years
11	Potato Elisabeth 2904/1 kgs", insect resistant (<i>Leptinotarsa decemlineata</i>)	Center of Bioengineering of the Russian Academy of Science in cooperation with Monsanto	14.12.2005
12	Potato Lugovskoy, insect resistant (<i>Leptinotarsa decemlineata</i>)	Center of Bioengineering of the Russian Academy of Science in cooperation with Monsanto	7.07.2006
13	Maize MON 88017, Roundup Ready and insect resistant (<i>Diabrotica spp.</i>)	Monsanto	8.05.2007
14	Maize R604, insect resistant (<i>Diabrotica spp.</i>)	Syngenta	20.07.2007
15	Roundup Ready Sugar beat H7-1	Monsanto	31.05.2006
16	Maize Bt 11, Insect resistant (<i>Rhizopertha dominica</i>)	Syngenta	In 2005 for 3 years

According to different surveys more than 80% of them would not agree to eat and grow GMOs. A potential for declaring GMO free regions in Russia is increased now as several municipal and regional authorities already expressed their willingness to do this and some of them have already accepted regional laws aimed to limit GM products distribution.

In general there are initiatives in **15 regions** to claim GMO-free zones at the regional level.

There is a time for grassroots and other stakeholders to interfere decision-making process and to help GMO free regions (e.g. through referendums, parliament resolutions, etc.) idea to become a reality. Because we are sure that people should have an opportunity to be free of GMOs, to have a choice.

Although labelling of GM food products is mandatory in Russia, right now according to various sources more than 30% of products with soy in Moscow have GMO ingredients and practically none of them is labelled. But food manufacturers prefer to pay a small penalty than to implement the law.

In December 2005 **Moscow** Government in cooperation with NGOs first time came up with the initiative to declare Moscow GMO free zone and remain GMO free even if commercial growing of GMOs is authorised by Federal Environmental Assessment Commission. But unfortunately this initiative did not yet come into life. In April 2006 CIS Biosafety Alliance addressed an open letter to Moscow Governor and asked him to declare the city a GMO free zone.

On the 15th of May 2006, Yuriy Luzhkov, a Governor of Moscow has signed an order to elaborate a law prohibiting usage of GMOs in meals for schools and kindergartens. In the document it is also

said that food labelling regulation must be strictly implemented and that Moscow government stands for its tightening. In July 2006 such law was adopted. And in this law there is also a prohibition to spend any budget money for purchasing GM-products.

According to another Moscow Decree a municipal volunteer GMO free labelling is introduced since July 2007. 16 laboratories were created in Moscow to control the market and to test products of manufactures who asked for such a labelling.

By Declaration of a GMO free zone in Russian regions NGOs mean the following (as a minimum):

- to introduce a moratorium for growing of GMOs;
- to provide implementation of labelling regulations;
- to ban the use of regional budget money for purchasing GM-products for schools, hospitals, etc.

Independent Russian ecologists and most of our colleagues in CIS ask UN to recommend or even call for introduction of the moratorium on GMO use in agriculture, because it is one of the most unsustainable and not environmental friendly technology.

In 2007 NGOs from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova clearly expressed and explained their position in an open letter to one of the UN bodies – Commission on Sustainable Development (please, see the attached document).

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