

The Mexican government plans to ban genetically modified crops.

Natalia Vitela, Reforma / 19 February 2019



Mr. Victor Suarez Carrera, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Food Self-Sufficiency, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Mexico, announced his strong position and commitment to prohibit the cultivation of genetically modified crops, including the use of toxic substances and pesticides that are highly dangerous, after

the law on Biosecurity of Genetically Modified Organisms was abandoned by the previous government.

Although Mexico has enacted the law on Biosecurity of Genetically Modified Organisms since 2005 with the objectives to control various activities related to genetically modified organisms such as usage, experiment, trade, import or export, etc. in order to prevent, avoid and reduce the risks of such activities that may be harmful to human health, environment, biodiversity and sanitary of animals, plants and aquatic animals, the Deputy Secretary has commented that the previous government has violated such laws and supported the use of genetically modified products instead of promoting biosecurity.

For this reason, the current government wants to ensure that the law is enforced to allow people to live in a quality environment and preserve the right of food producers to use their own seeds without any contamination of genetically modified seeds. The intention has been initiated with the implementation of preventive measures by suspending license issuances, prohibiting the cultivation of genetically modified corn, and suspending genetically modified soybeans in the Yucatan Peninsula where there is illegal cultivation of such crop in the State of Campeche. In addition, the government will perform inspections to search for illegal cultivation and genetically modified seed suppliers that do not comply with legal procedures.

Currently, in Mexico there is widespread consumption of genetically modified corn imported from the United States. According to the Association of Agricultural Marketing Consultants (GCMA), the informal statistics shows that more than 15 million yellow corns imported from the United States, or 70 to 80 percent, derived from seeds that have been genetically modified.

Sources: <https://www.inforural.com.mx/busca-gobierno-prohibir-cultivos-transgenicos> and

<https://www.gob.mx/profepa/documentos/ley-de-biosecuridad-de-organismos-geneticamente-modificados>

Thailand Office of Agricultural Affairs, Los Angeles

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