

# Les noves tecnologies i l'agricultura. Una perspectiva europea

Pere Puigdomènech

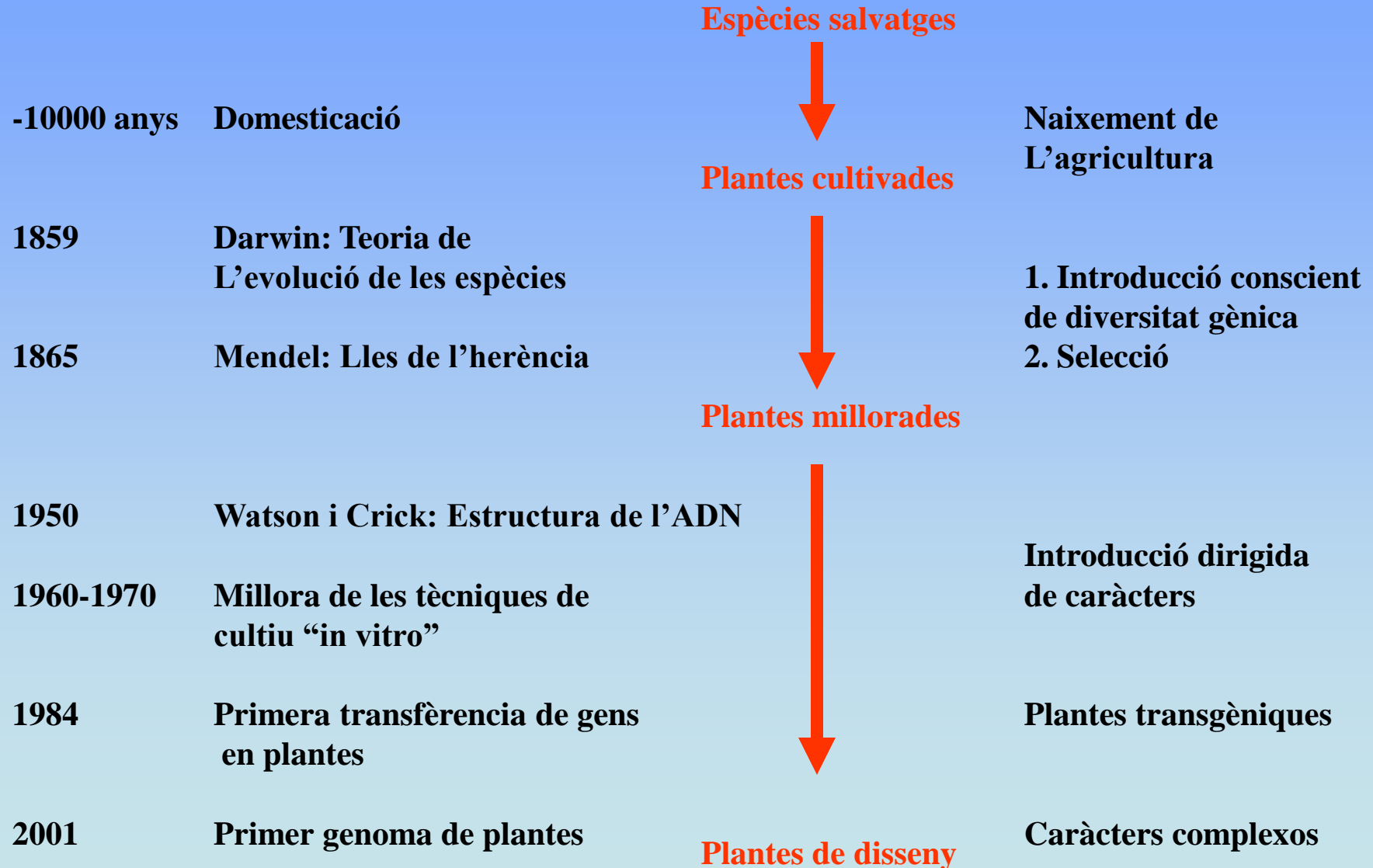
Centre de Recerca en Agrigenòmica. CSIC-IRTA-UAB-UB

Agrofòrum. Abril 2014

# L'Agricultura és una activitat profundament innovadora

- Ho va ser en els seus orígens
- Ho ha estat en els darrers 150 anys
- Ho està sent actualment
  
- 50% de la innovació està en la llavor, 50% en les tècniques agronòmiques

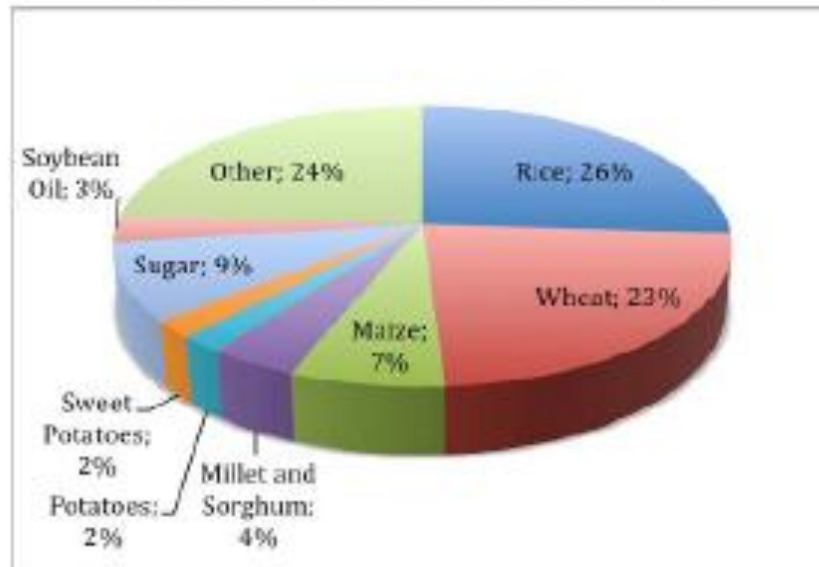
# Història de la millora genètica vegetal



# Plantes que mengem

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>





ELSEVIER

Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](http://www.sciencedirect.com)

## Quaternary International

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/quaint](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/quaint)

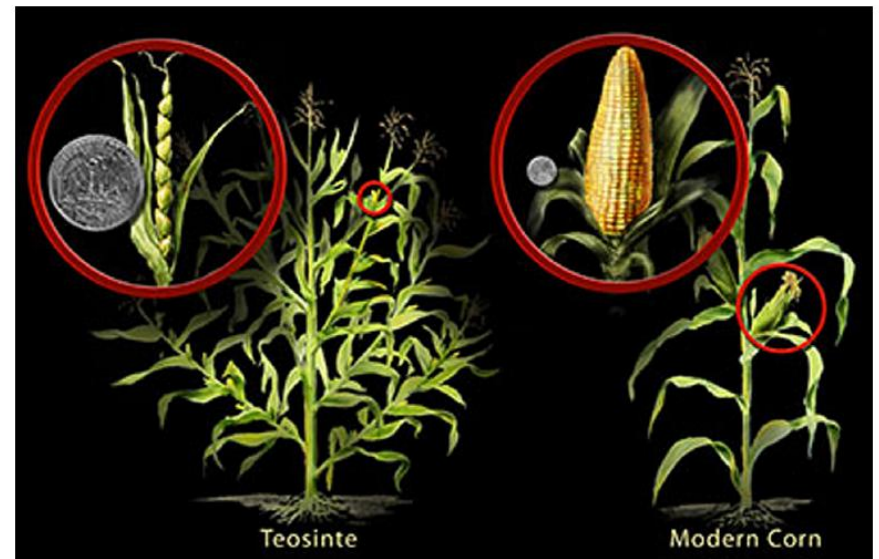
### Teosinte before domestication: Experimental study of growth and phenotypic variability in Late Pleistocene and early Holocene environments

Dolores R. Piperno<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Irene Holst<sup>b</sup>, Klaus Winter<sup>b</sup>, Owen McMillan<sup>b</sup>

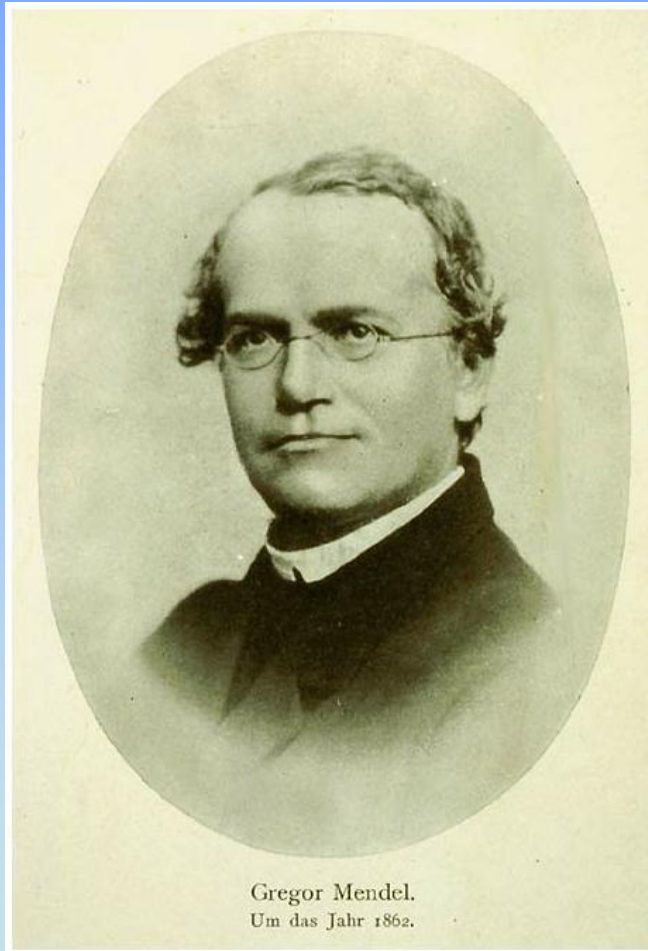
<sup>a</sup>Department of Anthropology, Program in Human Ecology and Archaeobiology, Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC, USA

<sup>b</sup>Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama

D.R. Piperno et al. / Quaternary International xxx (2014) 1–13



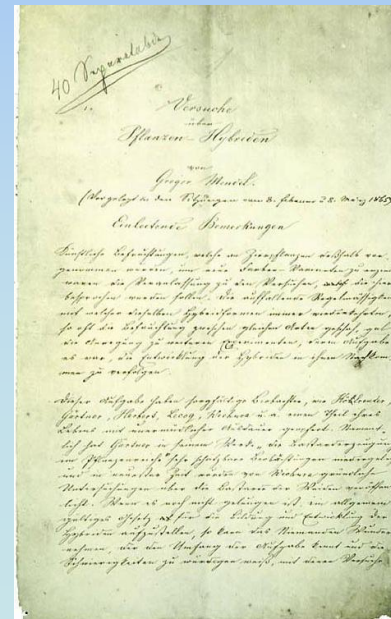
# Mendel: Les lleis de l'herència



Gregor Mendel.  
Um das Jahr 1862.



1865



# La Genètica aplicada a l'agricultura

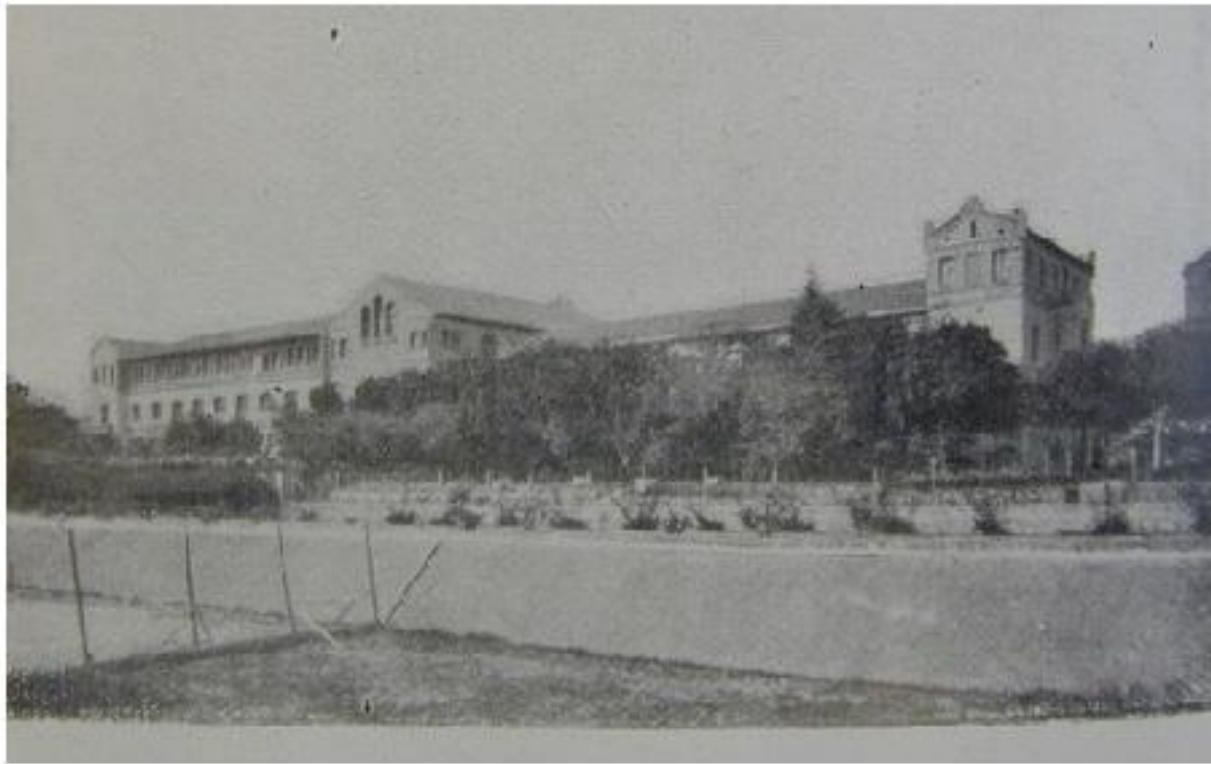
I

- 1716 **Mather** (U.S.A.) - Observed natural crossing in maize. Noted xenia, where ears of yellow maize planted next to red and blue maize had red and blue kernels in them the first year
- 1719 **Fairchild** - Created first artificial hybrid of Carnation x Sweet William, commonly known as Fairchild's mule
- 1727 **Vilmorin Company** (France) - Pedigree method of breeding sugar beets established. Contributed extensively to the development of plant breeding knowledge and improved cultivars for over 260 years
- 1753 **Linnaeus** Linnaeus - Published "Species Plantarum". Binomial nomenclature of plant taxonomy officially begins with his general list of plant species

II

- 1901 **Spillman** (U. S.) - Began hybridization program with wheat; noted recovery of parental types in F<sub>2</sub>; sometimes credited as one of rediscoverers of Mendel's laws
- 1901-02 **Bateson and Punnett** - Called public attention to the importance of Mendel's work; first report of linkage (using garden pea)
- 1902 **DeVries** (Holland) - Proposed the mutation theory of evolution from evidence in *Oenothera*
- **Biffen** (England) - First inheritance studies on disease resistance;
  - found that stripe rust resistance was due to a single gene
- 1903 \***Johannsen** - Developed the pure line theory of selection
- 1904 **Hannig** - Contributed to the idea of embryo culture
- 1904-05 \***East and Shull** - Began inbreeding experiments with maize
- 1905 **Shamel** - Reported yields of maize lines inbred for 3 generations and their hybrids; first report of hybrid made by crossing inbred lines
- 1905-07 **Williams** (Ohio) - Developed the remnant seed breeding plan for maize
- 1906 **Bateson** - introduced the term "genetics"

# Introducció de la Genètica a Espanya



Escola Superior d'Agricultura de Barcelona, 1911



# La revolució verda. Norman Bourlaug

## Producció de cereals

1949-51          680 milions de tones

1995-97          2.025 milions de tones

# Variabilitat genètica

- Conservació
- Anàlisi i aprofitament de la variabilitat existent
- Creació de nova variabilitat per mutagènesi
- Creació de nova variabilitat per modificació genètica

# Modificació genètica de plantes.

## Primeres publicacions

### 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.

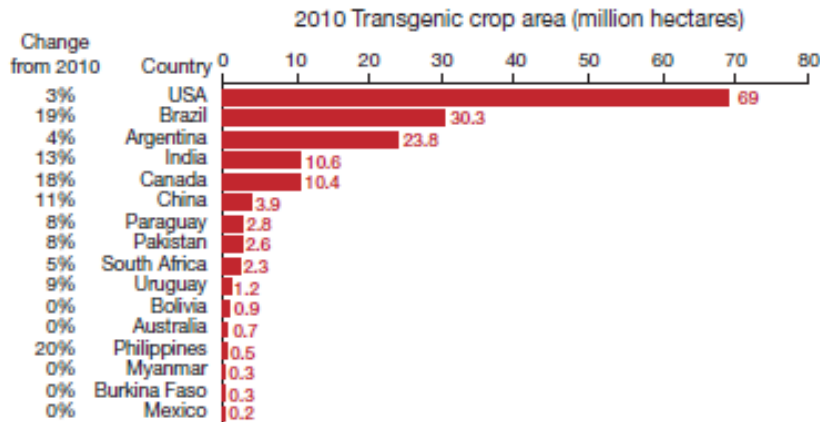
Barton KA, Binns AN, Matzke AJ, Chilton MD.

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.

# Dades 2010-2011

## Global area of transgenic crops by country

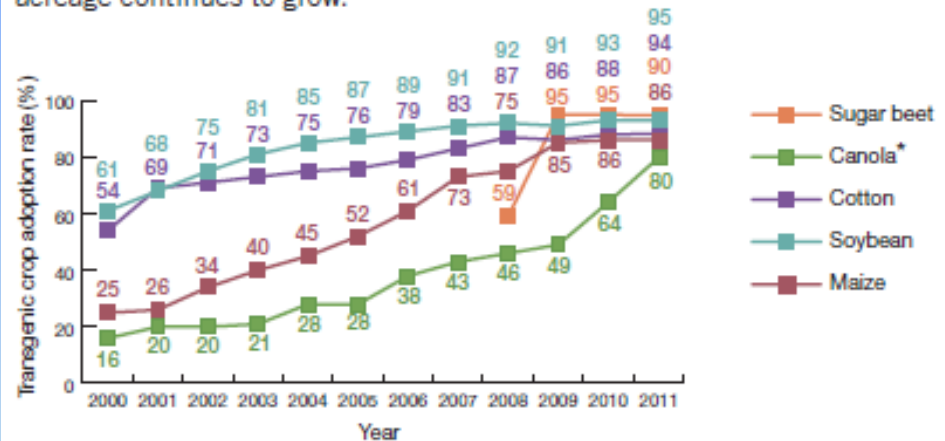
Transgenic acreage expanded rapidly in Brazil, India and Canada, with China close behind and Mexico now outstripping Spain. Turkey imported transgenic crops for the first time.



Source: International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications.

## Transgenic crop adoption rate in the US



























Transgenic maize, soybean, cotton and sugar beet consolidated; canola acreage continues to grow.



\*Canola adoption rates are based on global data rather than US data.

Source: International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications; National Agricultural Statistics Service.

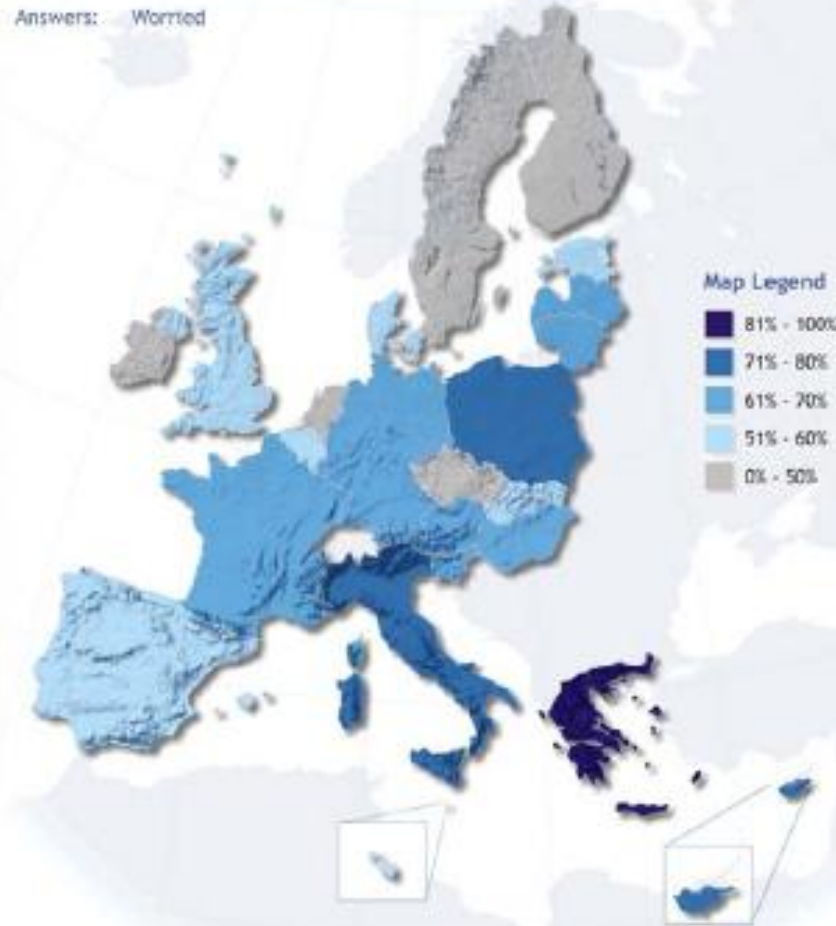
# Eurobaròmetre 2006

Country Results		
	Greece	81%
	Italy	77%
	Cyprus	76%
	Poland	72%
	Latvia	70%
	Austria	69%
	Slovenia	68%
	France	65%
	Luxembourg	65%
	Hungary	63%
	Lithuania	63%
	European Union (25)	62%
	Germany	62%
	Denmark	55%
	Spain	55%
	Portugal	54%
	Belgium	53%
	United Kingdom	53%
	Slovakia	53%
	Malta	52%
	Estonia	51%
	Ireland	50%
	Czech Republic	50%
	Finland	46%
	Sweden	46%
	The Netherlands	42%

Question: 5.2. For each of the following issues, please tell me if you are very worried, fairly worried, not very worried or not at all worried by it?

Option: Genetically modified products in food or drinks

Answers: Worried



# Guia d'EFSA per a l'anàlisi del risc associat a les plantes transgèniques i productes derivats per a consum animal o humà



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  
Final, edited version of 9 November 2004

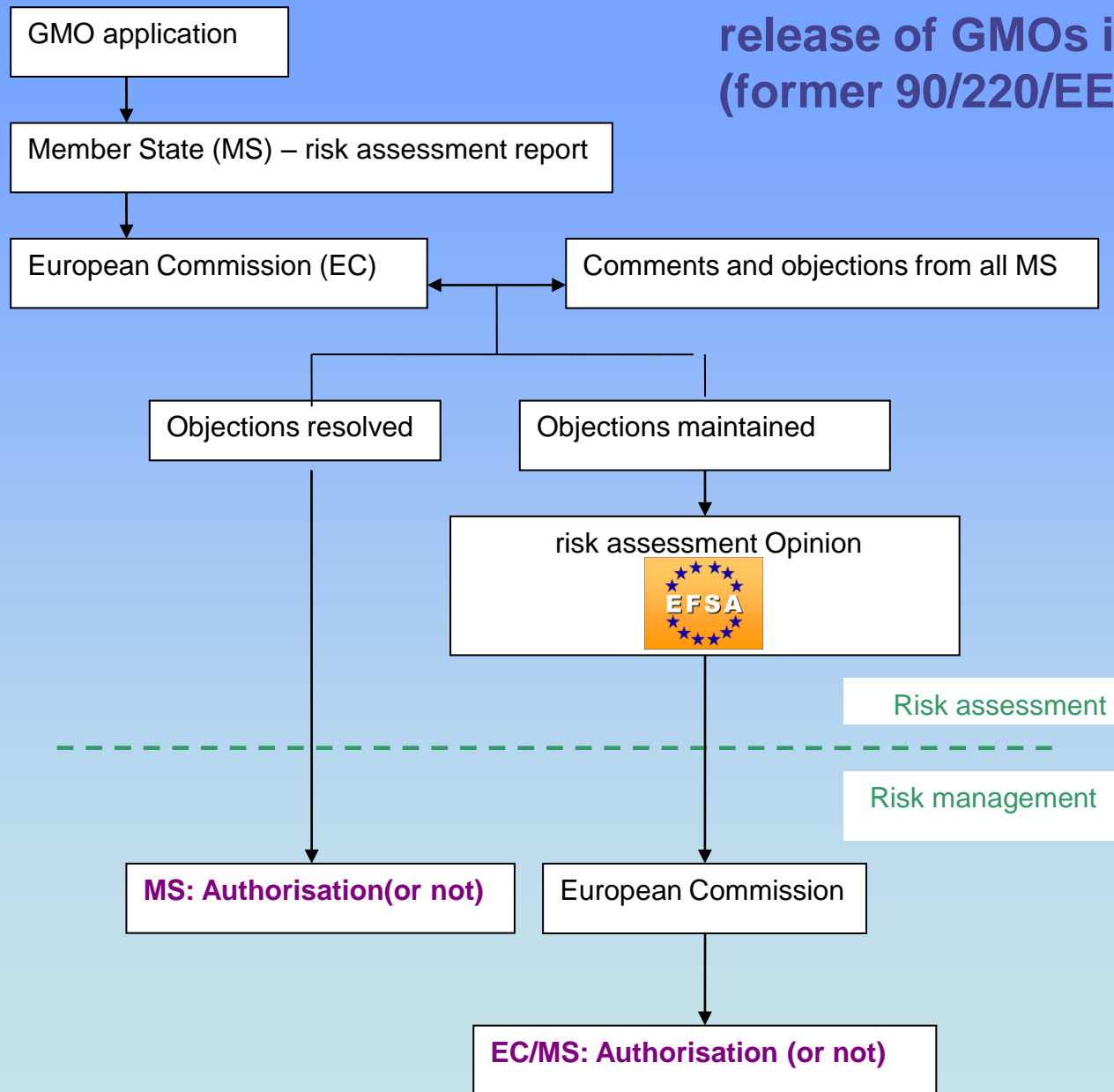
March 2005



European Food Safety Authority

- Adoptada el 24 de setembre de 2004
- Revisada el decembre 2005 (PMEM)
- Nova revisió en curs (2008)  
Completada el
  - Desembre 2006 (Renovacions)
  - Març 2007 (Events combinats)

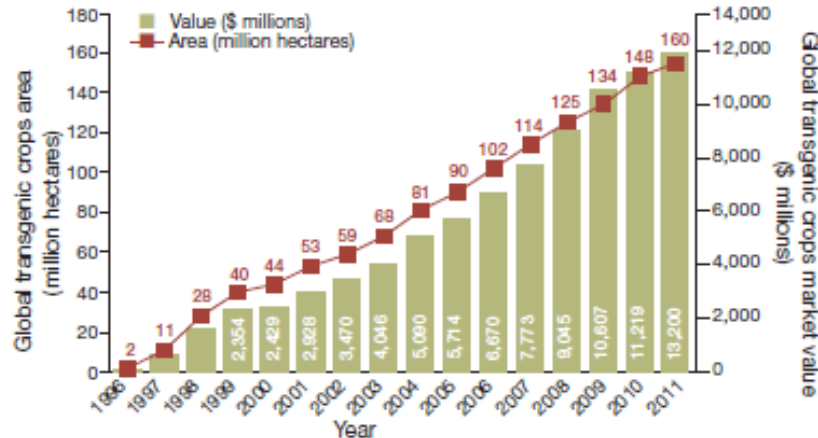
# Directive 2001/18/EC – deliberate release of GMOs into environment (former 90/220/EEC)



# Dades per 2011. Economia.

## Historical global area and value of transgenic crops

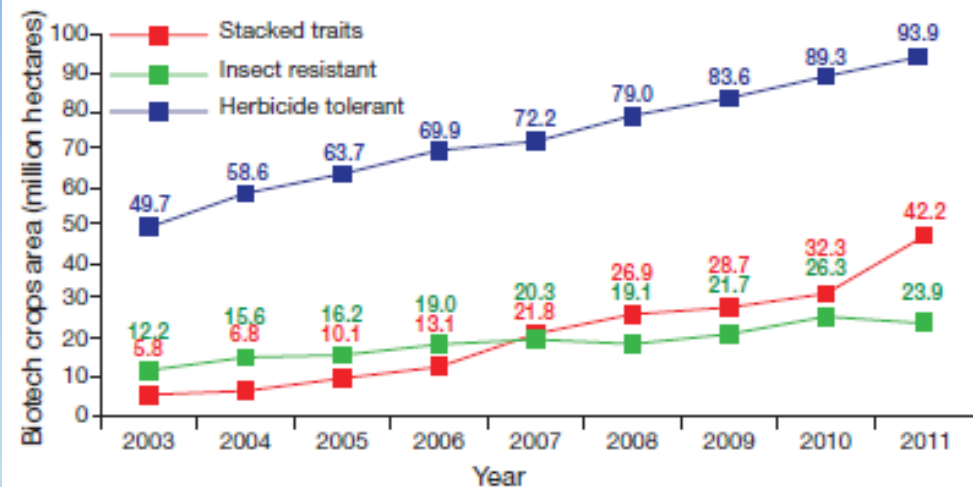
Transgenic acreage grew 8% in 2011, now representing 36% of the global seed market.



Source: International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications. Value data are explicitly from seeds and licensing revenue rather than from 'crops' themselves.

## Global area by transgenic trait

Substantial growth in plantings of crops with two or more stacked traits.



Source: International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications.



# Concentració de companyies de llavors



*The miracles of science™*

Seminis.



# La discussió sobre les patents

## 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.

# Modificacions dels olis

## Product Pipeline: *Vistive Soybeans*



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*

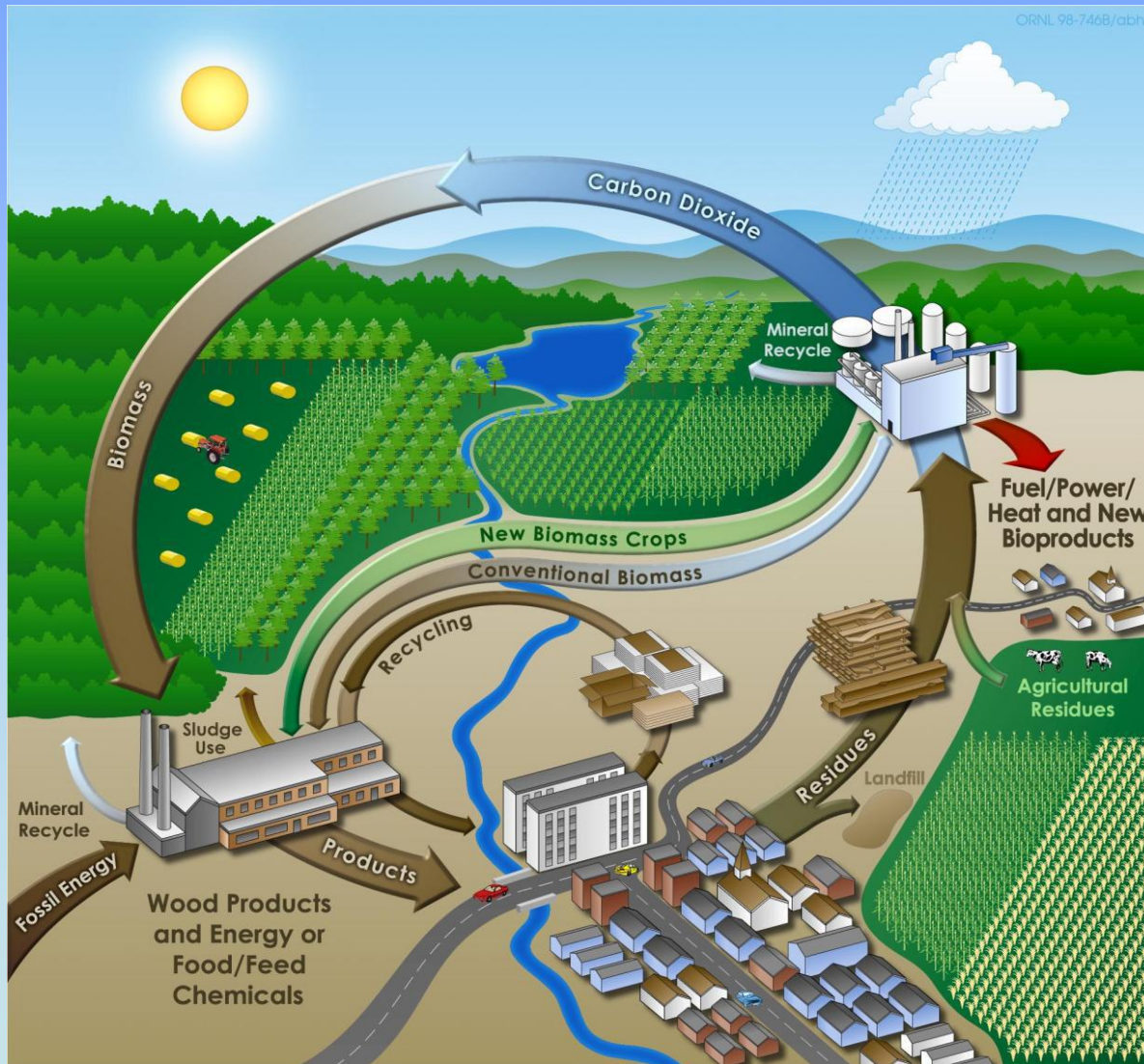
Soybean oil provides a heart-healthy combination of lower saturated fats and increased monounsaturated fat designed to further lower cardiovascular health risk, eliminate trans fats and improve stability.

#### *Vistive Omega-3*

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



# Nous usos. Biocombustibles



# Diferents tipus d'agricultura. Etiquetes europees



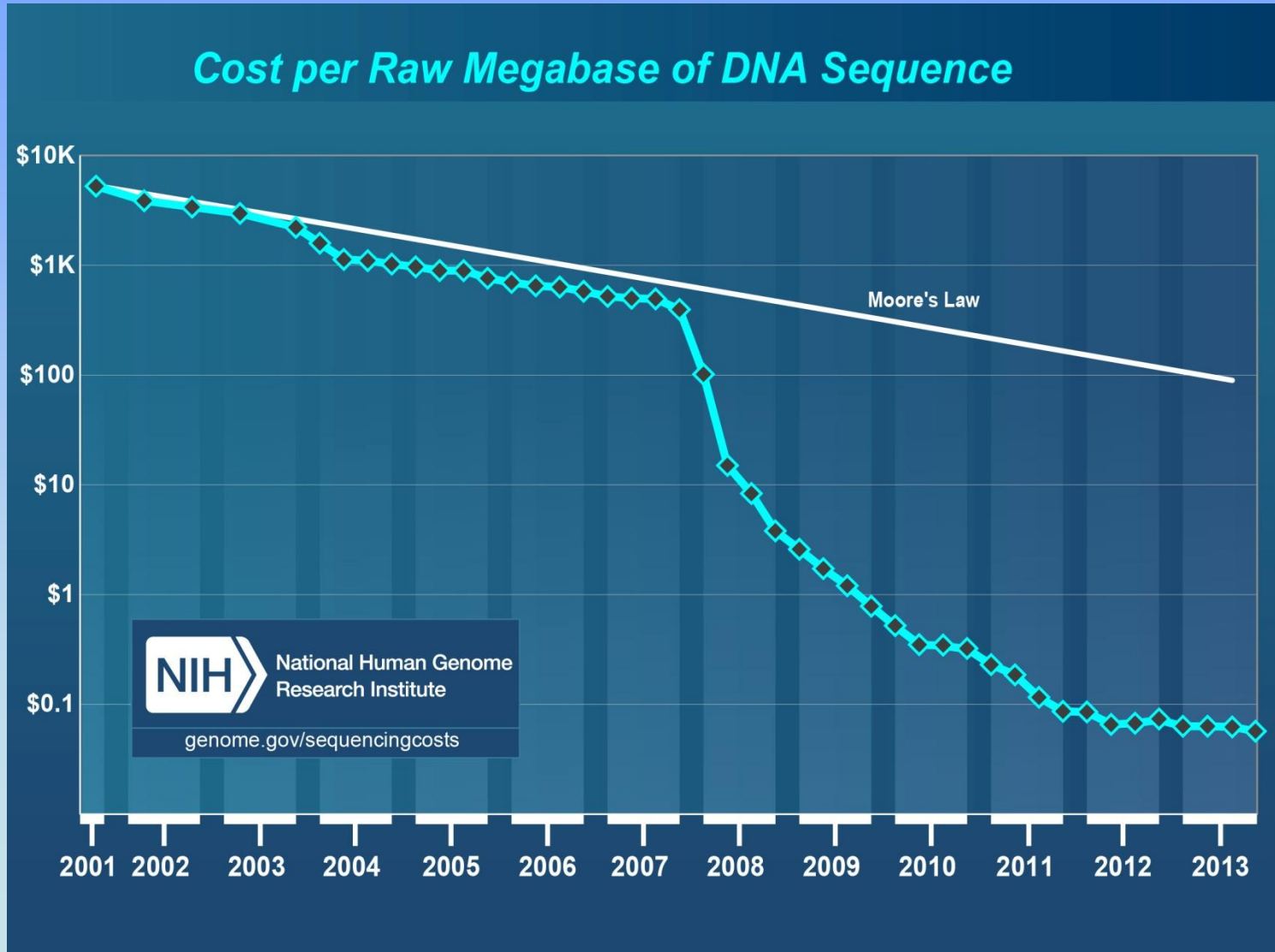
# Coexistència

- 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.**

# L'era dels genomes

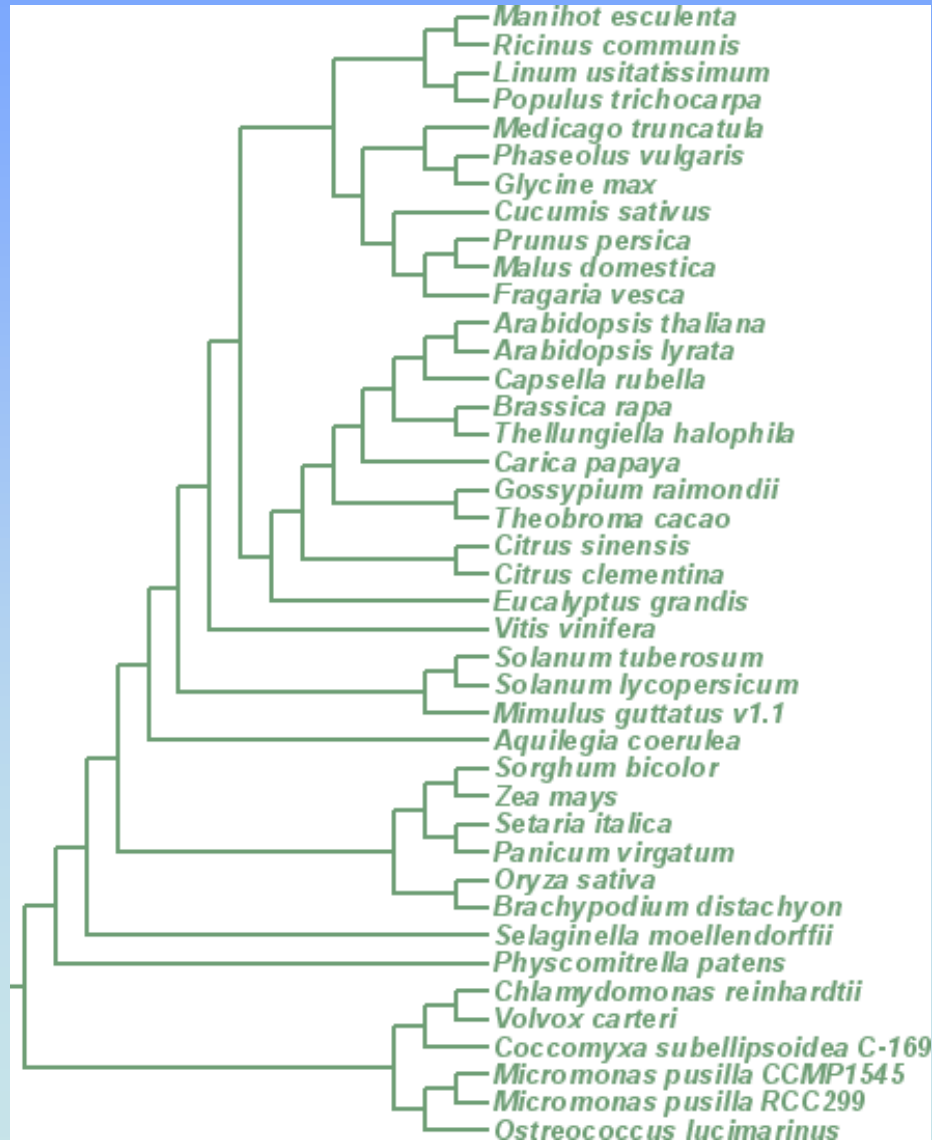
- Coneixement de genomes sencers
- Estudi de caràcters complexes
- Noves espècies

# Cost de la seqüenciació de DNA





# Phytozome 2013



# Variation in plant genome size

- ~8510 studied species
- ~ 2000X difference

63 Mbp



*Genlisea margaretae*

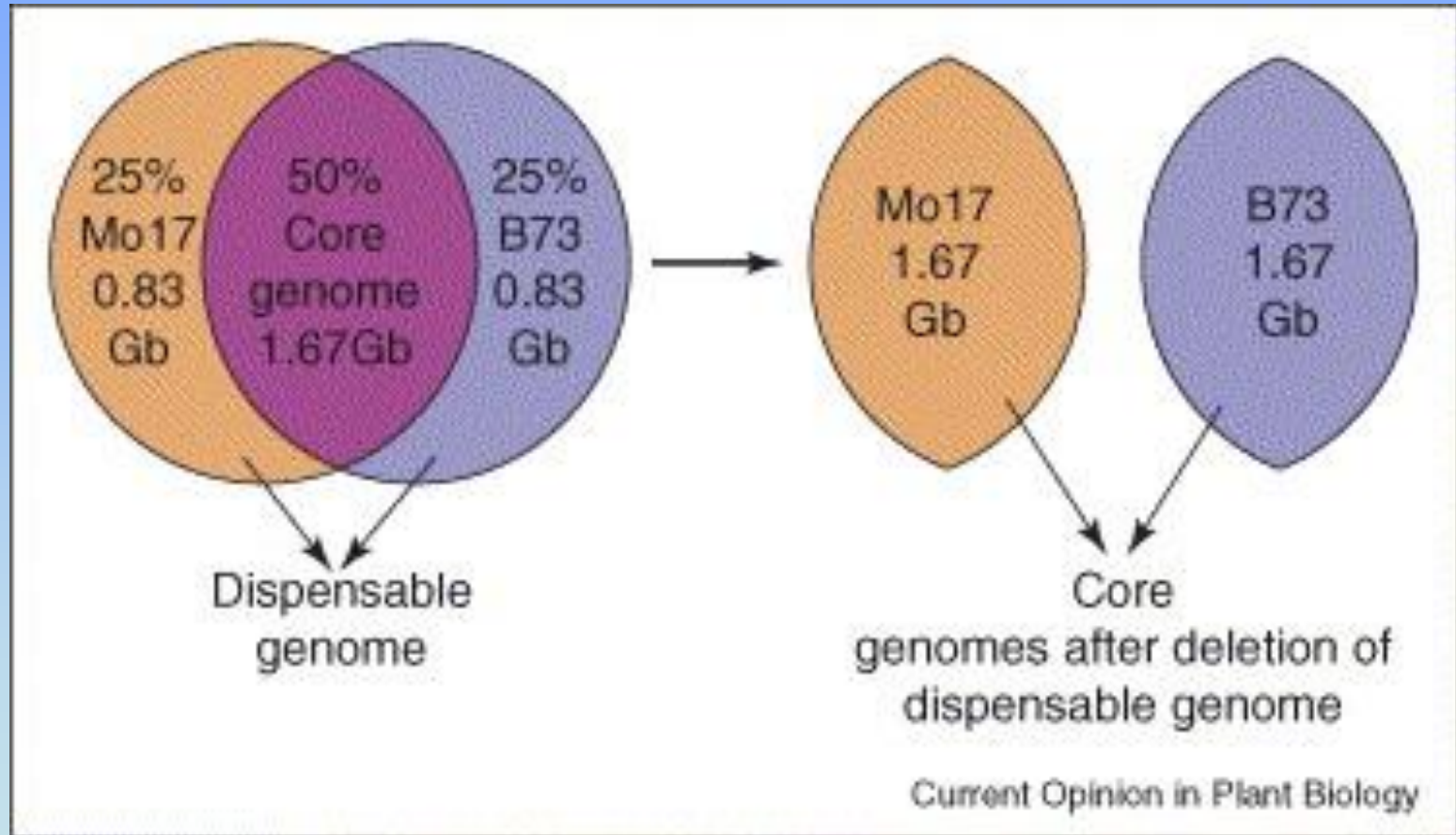
124000 Mbp



*Fritillaria assyriaca*

<http://www.rbgekew.org.uk/cval/database1.html>

# Comparison between maize genomes. The nuclear genome.



# *El genoma del meló*

- Segon cultiu hortícola a Espanya

- 5è productor mundial

- Genoma petit

$$2x=2n=24$$



- Espècie amb molt polimorfisme

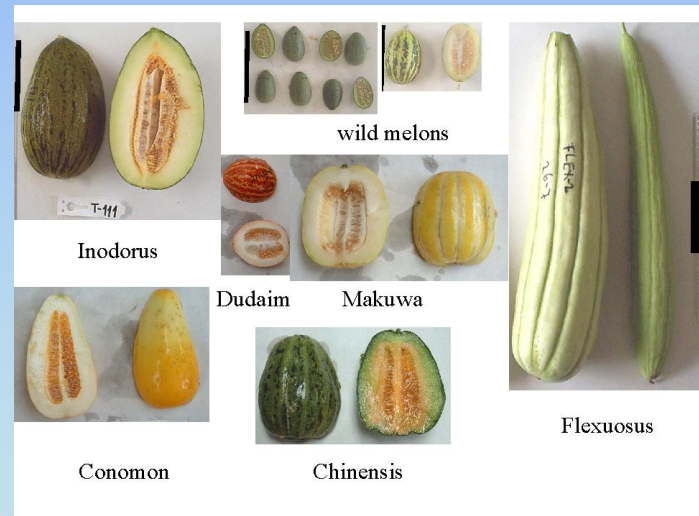
- Transformació factible

- Família cucurbitàcees



- Espècie amb molta història genètica però poca informació molecular

- Interès internacional creixent



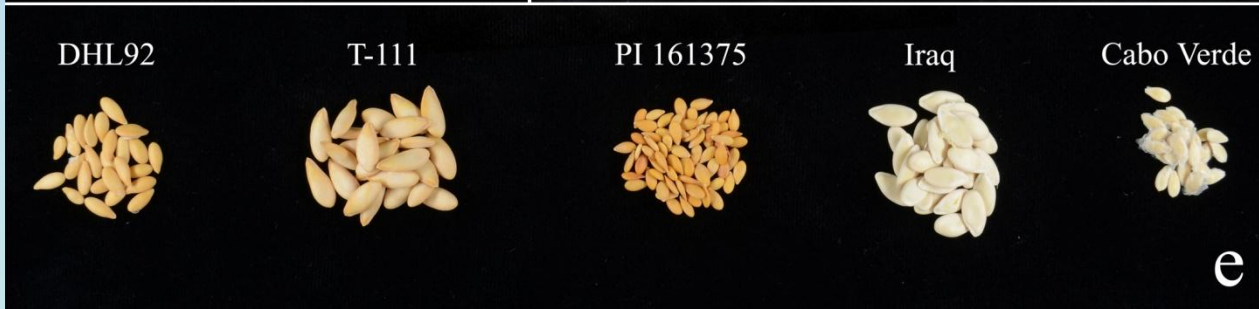
- Interès industrial

- Model de fruit no climactèric

# The genome of melon (*Cucumis melo* L.)

Jordi Garcia-Mas<sup>a,1</sup>, Andrej Benjak<sup>a</sup>, Walter Sanseverino<sup>a</sup>, Michael Bourgeois<sup>a</sup>, Gisela Mir<sup>a</sup>, Víctor M. González<sup>b</sup>, Elizabeth Hénaff<sup>b</sup>, Francisco Câmara<sup>c</sup>, Luca Cozzuto<sup>c</sup>, Ernesto Lowy<sup>c</sup>, Tyler Alioto<sup>d</sup>, Salvador Capella-Gutiérrez<sup>c</sup>, Jose Blanca<sup>e</sup>, Joaquín Cañizares<sup>e</sup>, Pello Ziarsolo<sup>e</sup>, Daniel Gonzalez-Ibeas<sup>f</sup>, Luis Rodríguez-Moreno<sup>f</sup>, Marcus Droege<sup>g</sup>, Lei Du<sup>h</sup>, Miguel Alvarez-Tejado<sup>i</sup>, Belen Lorente-Galdos<sup>j</sup>, Marta Melé<sup>cj</sup>, Luming Yang<sup>k</sup>, Yiqun Weng<sup>k,1</sup>, Arcadi Navarro<sup>j,m</sup>, Tomas Marques-Bonet<sup>j,m</sup>, Miguel A. Aranda<sup>f</sup>, Fernando Nuez<sup>e</sup>, Belén Picó<sup>e</sup>, Toni Gabaldón<sup>c</sup>, Guglielmo Roma<sup>c</sup>, Roderic Guigó<sup>c</sup>, Josep M. Casacuberta<sup>b</sup>, Pere Arús<sup>a</sup>, and Pere Puigdomènech<sup>b,1</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Institut de Recerca i Tecnologia Agroalimentàries, Centre for Research in Agricultural Genomics Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas-Institut de Recerca i Tecnologia Agroalimentàries-Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona-Universitat de Barcelona, 08193 Barcelona, Spain; <sup>b</sup>Centre for Research in Agricultural Genomics Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas-Institut de Recerca i Tecnologia Agroalimentàries-Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona-Universitat de Barcelona, 08193 Barcelona, Spain; <sup>c</sup>Centre for Genomic Regulation, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, 08003 Barcelona, Spain; <sup>d</sup>Centre Nacional d'Anàlisi Genòmica, 08028 Barcelona, Spain; <sup>e</sup>Institute for the Conservation and Breeding of Agricultural Biodiversity, Universitat Politècnica de València, 46022 Valencia, Spain; <sup>f</sup>Departamento de Biología del Estrés y Patología Vegetal, Centro de Edafología y Biología Aplicada del Segura, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, 30100 Murcia, Spain; <sup>g</sup>Roche Diagnostics Deutschland GmbH, 11668305 Mannheim, Germany; <sup>h</sup>Roche Diagnostics Asia Pacific Pte. Ltd., Singapore 168730; <sup>i</sup>Roche Applied Science, 08174 Barcelona, Spain; <sup>j</sup>Institut de Biologia Evolutiva, Universitat Pompeu Fabra-Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, 08003 Barcelona, Spain; <sup>k</sup>Horticulture Department, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706; <sup>l</sup>US Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service, Horticulture Department, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706; and <sup>m</sup>Institució Catalana de Recerca i Estudis Avançats, 08010 Barcelona, Spain



# 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.

# Informe francès Febrer 2014



## Controverse documentée à propos de quelques idées reçues sur l'agriculture, l'alimentation et la forêt



épisode n°1

« Nous ne pourrons pas nourrir  
9,5 milliards de personnes en 2050 »

Février 2014

Mission n° 13083

## Nous ne pourrons pas nourrir 9,5 milliards de personnes en 2050

### Sommaire

<b>Nourrir plus de neuf milliards de personnes en 2050 : mission impossible ? Inexact.</b> .....	7
9,5 milliards de personnes à nourrir dans moins de quarante ans.....	8
Le potentiel de production agricole est suffisant pour satisfaire tous les besoins alimentaires.....	8
Le réchauffement climatique impactera les pays les plus pauvres.....	9
Réduire la pauvreté pour réduire la faim dans le monde.....	9
Commerce international et migrations : deux importantes variables d'ajustement.....	10
<b>Nous allons manquer de terres : Inexact.</b> .....	11
Le potentiel de terres agricoles disponibles demeure important.....	11
Les terres nécessaires sont disponibles.....	12
<b>Nous allons manquer d'eau : Globalement inexact.</b> .....	13
Il n'y a pas de production agricole sans eau.....	13
L'eau est une ressource abondante mal répartie.....	13
Mieux gérer la ressource en eau, c'est possible.....	14
Maintenir les droits et l'accès à l'eau des populations rurales.....	14
L'intérêt des pratiques agro-écologiques.....	15
<b>Nous n'avons pas besoin des OGM pour nourrir le monde : Qui sait ?</b> .....	17
Les biotechnologies, nouvel outil pour le sélectionneur.....	17
Les OGM, un fort sujet de controverse pour les européens.....	17
Aucune étude sérieuse n'a conclu à la nocivité des OGM pour la santé.....	18
Interpréter avec précaution les données environnementales.....	18
L'« essaimage pollinique » est un risque gérable.....	19
On maîtrise le risque de résistance aux herbicides.....	19
La brevetabilité du vivant en question.....	19
Les biotechnologies peuvent être utiles pour lutter contre la faim dans le monde.....	20
<b>Les biocarburants affament le monde : Inexact.</b> .....	21
Des débats vifs sur des études souvent incomplètes.....	21
Le développement des biocarburants ne concurrencerait pas l'alimentation humaine.....	22
La contribution des biocarburants à la réduction des Gaz à effet de serre (GES) est encore mal évaluée.....	23
Les effets incertains du développement des biocarburants sur les prix des denrées.....	23
Une nécessaire clarification des débats.....	24

« En politique, ce qui est cru est plus important que ce qui est vrai » disait Talleyrand. Et le Cardinal de Retz, considérant qu'« on ne sort de l'ambiguïté qu'à son déclinement »...



# Informe de les Acadèmies Europees

European Academies

**ea**sac

Science Advisory Council

Planting the future: opportunities and challenges for using crop genetic improvement technologies for sustainable agriculture



EASAC policy report 21

June 2013

ISBN: 978-3-8047-3181-3

This report can be found at  
[www.easac.eu](http://www.easac.eu)

building science into EU policy

# GM Science Update

## A report to the Council for Science and Technology

March, 2014

Professor Sir David Baulcombe, University of Cambridge  
Professor Jim Dunwell, University of Reading  
Professor Jonathan Jones, Sainsbury Laboratory  
Professor John Pickett, Rothamsted Research  
Professor Pere Puigdomenech, University of Cambridge/ Barcelona

# Informe al Govern del Regne Unit. Març 2014

## 4: Conclusions and recommendations

### Summary

- **GM crops have the potential to contribute substantially to advances in agriculture** that are necessary to achieve sustainable and sufficient global food production in the face of challenges from population, climate change, and environmental degeneration. Conventional plant breeding is not likely to meet this challenge and cannot take advantage of innovation in synthetic biology.
- **To realize the potential of GM crops, the R & D pipeline needs to be strengthened and the European regulatory process improved.**
- The R & D pipeline would benefit from a **programme that promotes preliminary evaluation in the field of the practical potential of genes defined in academic laboratories that could be useful in crops.** This programme referred to as PubGM would enable and facilitate **field testing of new GM crops** either in partnership with companies or so that the public sector could validate traits before commencing partnerships with companies.
- Many new plant breeding techniques developed since the EU GMO definitions were adopted in 1990, were not foreseen, and some plants with a particular novel trait will be captured by the legislation, whilst others will not. Given that there is no evidence for intrinsic risks associated with GM, it is not useful to have a regulatory framework that is based on the premise that GM crops are more hazardous than those produced by conventionally bred plants. As proposed by EASAC, **a future regulatory framework should be product rather than process based so that it is consistent and applies to the novelty of the characteristics of new plant varieties.**
- **Approval for commercial cultivation should be made on a national level as happens at present with pharmaceuticals.** This would safeguard against potential losses and damage to European agriculture that follow from the failure to adopt GM crops, and enable appropriate regulation of new technologies such as genome editing and synthetic biology for crops,

the guardian  
TheObserver

---

### There's no choice: we must grow GM crops now

Almost a billion people face starvation and that problem will worsen unless we use the most effective technologies

---

• [Observer editorial](#)  
• [The Observer](#), Sunday 16 March 2014

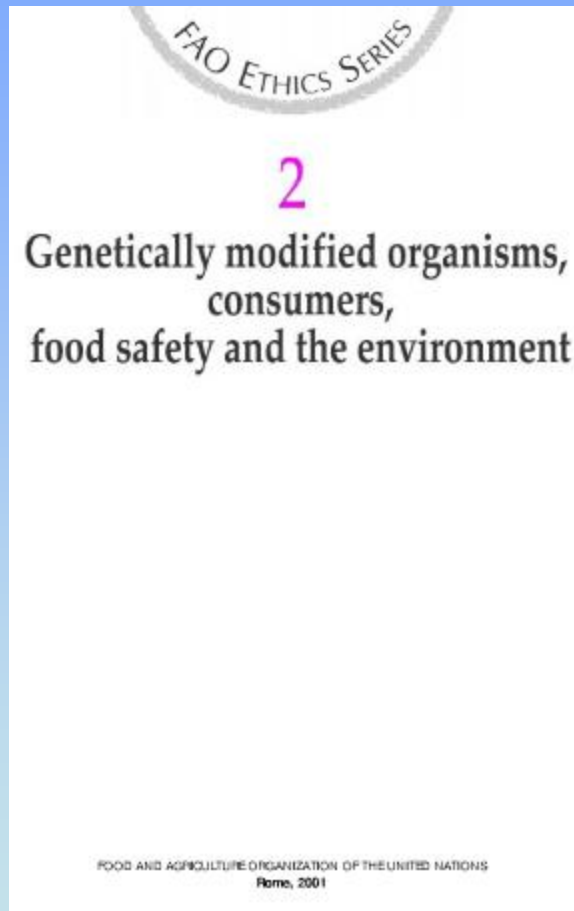
---



Government science advisers warned last week that European rules covering the growing of GM crops are no longer fit for purpose. Photograph: David Levene.

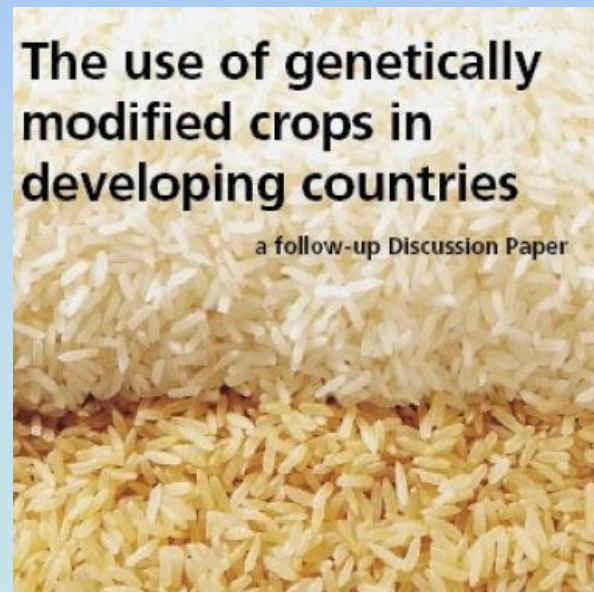
Feeding the swelling numbers of people on our planet is one of the most serious challenges facing our leaders today. By 2050, it is likely Earth's population will have reached 9 billion. Finding food for such numbers will not be easy. Science will not solve the problem on its own, of course, but clearly it has a key role to play. Without new technologies, future generations will starve. It is as straightforward as that.

# Discussions éthiques



## Genetically modified crops: the ethical and social issues

NUFFIELD  
COUNCIL ON  
BIOETHICS





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

**Ethics of modern developments in agriculture technologies**

**- Opinion No 24 -**

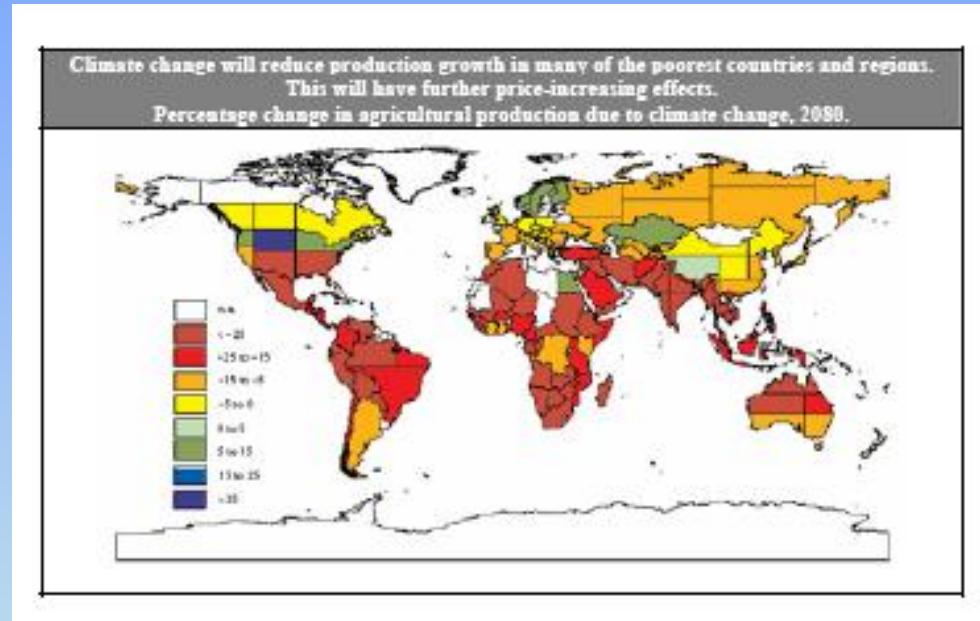
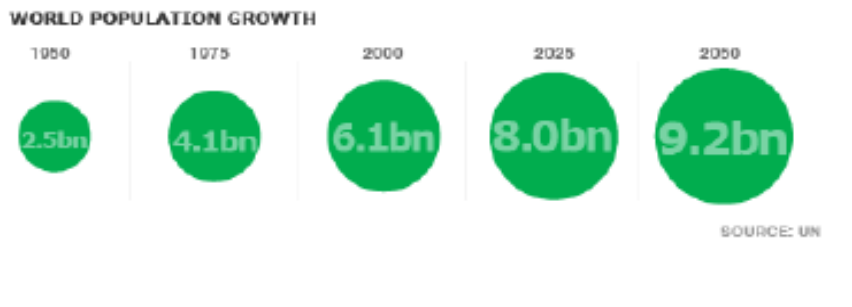
---

**- 17 December 2008 -**

# Unes prioritats

- Aliments suficients
- Aliments segurs
- Nivells similars d'alimentació a les generacions futures (sostenibilitat)
  
- Aliments saludables
- Aliments d'acord amb el nostre gust i la nostra cultura

# Una equació complexa



1990/2005 ratios of per capita consumption (FAO)	India	China	Brazil	Nigeria
Cereals	1.0	0.8	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.




**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

[العربية](#) | [中文](#) | [English](#) | [Français](#) | [Italiano](#)

[About FAO](#) | [In Action](#) | [Countries](#) | [Themes](#) | [Media](#) | [Publications](#)

[Contacts](#) | [News archive](#) | [Events](#) | [Audio and Video](#) | [Webcasting](#) | [Infographics](#) | [FAO in the News](#)

[Home](#) > [Media](#) > News Article

### Sharp rise in FAO Food Price Index

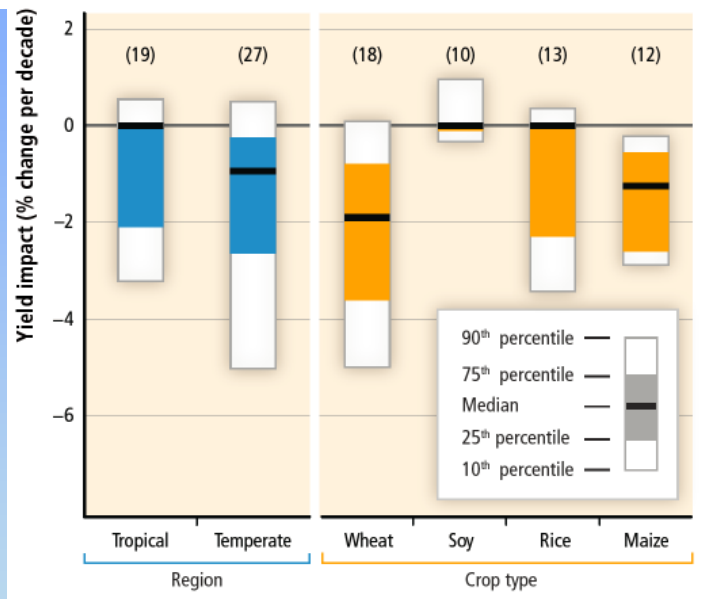
Weather and Black Sea tensions push prices to ten-month highs

**3 April 2014, Rome** - The [FAO Food Price Index](#) rose sharply in March, up 4.8 points, or 2.3 percent, to an average of 212.8, the highest level since May 2013.

"The Index was influenced, as expected, by unfavourable weather conditions in the US and Brazil and geopolitical tensions in the Black Sea region," said Abdolreza Abbassian, FAO Senior Economist.

These and other influences are reviewed in greater detail in the [AMIS Market Monitor](#) report, the monthly synopsis of the major food crops prepared by the G-20 Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), which is hosted at FAO headquarters in Rome.

"The Food Price Index looks at March trends. Since then, the initial fear over disruptions in grain shipments from Ukraine has subsided. Also, markets have started to discard any negative impacts that the current difficult domestic economic conditions may bear on plantings or harvests in 2014," Abbassian said.



**Based on many studies covering a wide range of regions and crops, negative impacts of climate change on crop yields have been more common than positive impacts (*high confidence*).** The smaller number of studies showing positive impacts relate mainly to high-latitude regions, though it is not yet clear whether the balance of impacts has been negative or positive in these regions (*high confidence*). Climate change has negatively affected wheat and maize yields for many regions and in the global aggregate (*medium confidence*). Effects on rice and soybean yield have been smaller in major production regions and globally, with a median change of zero across all available data, which are fewer for soy compared to the other crops.



# Una situació paradòxica

- L'agricultura és una activitat profundament innovadora
- Cal innovar si volem respondre als reptes que es presenten en el futur proper
- A Europa no hi ha percepció de la necessitat d'incrementar o mantenir els nivells de producció agrícola
- Reflexió, diàleg i coexistència de mètodes de conreu són essencials si no volem perdre la nostra capacitat d'innovar