

Successes

Poland bans GM seeds

28 May 2006

The Polish President has approved a ban of all Genetically Modified (GM) seeds.

This is a **major success** for campaigners in Poland who have worked closely with Friends of the Earth.

It is also a success for the local authorities, NGOs, farmers, politicians and scientists who have worked together on the issue.

This **brave step** puts the Government in direct conflict with the European Commission - which is likely to challenge them on the issue.

The history

In May 2004 Friends of the Earth were contacted by the International Coalition to Protect the Polish Countryside (**ICPPC** [<http://www.icppc.pl/>]) about starting a **GM-free** [<http://www.gmofree-europe.org/>] campaign.

By July 2004 the first farmer declared GM-free zones began to appear in Poland.

In November 2004 Malopolska Province become the first Polish region to go GM-free. One by one the other Polish provinces followed - until January 2006 when all **16 regions were declared GM-free** [<http://www.gmofree-europe.org/countries/Poland.htm>] .

Finally in May 2006 President Lech Kaczynski signed a parliamentary act banning the trade of GM seeds in Poland. The act also bans the import of GM seeds and their inclusion on the national plant record.

The future

This remarkable step adds further weight to our call for a complete ban on all GM in Europe - and to the unworkable idea of **coexistence** [http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/real_food/press_for_change/gm_contamination/index.html] between GM and non-GM crops.

If you would like to help keep the UK GM-free please join the Real Food email list.

Join our real food email list > [http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/real_food/press_for_change/join_list/index.html]