



## News and press releases

### Welcome to the GM Freeze press release archive.

Our latest press release is below. Click to view older items from the menu to the right.

We offer our publications free of charge.

\*\*\*However, if you can help us cover our costs we would very much appreciate a small donation (donations page [here](#)). We are a not-for-profit organisation, and your contribution will help us keep our high quality information available to everyone. Thank you.\*\*\*

## Industry GM Crop Figures Massaged: EU Four times too high for 2007 – 2008 ISAAA data due out soon

Immediate Release 22 January 2009

### Industry GM Crop Figures Massaged: EU Four times too high for 2007 – 2008 ISAAA data due out soon

Data on the area of GM crops recently obtained by GM Freeze shows that the annual global summary of GM cultivation exaggerated the area grown in the EU by more than four times.

Every year the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA) publishes a “global status” report on commercial growing of GM crops around the world. [1] In 2007, countries which had only small areas of crops were reported in the ISAAA report as <0.05million hectare [2]. The report used a figure of 0.45million hectare for the EU to come up with an overall global area – more than four times the actual figure of 110,808 hectare grown in 8 member states.

The EU figures were for the only GM crop grown commercially, Monsanto’s GM maize Mon810, and were contained in post release monitoring report on the crop [3] released to GM Freeze in January 2009. In Romania, ISAAA’s figures were more than 150 times the area grown as reported by Monsanto, and in Poland 143 times larger.

Based on the data given in the Monsanto report, GM crops were grown on just 0.06% of the EU’s agricultural land. [3] France suspended the growing of Mon 810 maize in October 2007, which was confirmed in January 2008 thus preventing cultivation last year.

ISAAA is due to report its 2008 figures in the near future.

Commenting Pete Riley of GM Freeze said:

“ISAAA are certainly adept at massaging their data to make the GM industry look more successful than they are. The way they have used to EU data to inflate them by a factor of 4 is unacceptable. We simply cannot rely on ISAAA figures to give an accurate picture –the 2008 data should be taken with a large grain of salt. However, one thing is very clear – GM crops are not dominating global agriculture in the way the biotech companies would wish them to be. Politicians need to take note and ensure they increase funds for agroecological research, which avoids dependence on GM seeds and agro-chemicals.”

ENDS

Calls to Pete Riley 0845 217 8992 or 07903 341 065

1. See [www.isaaa.org/resources/publications/briefs/37/pptslides/default.html](http://www.isaaa.org/resources/publications/briefs/37/pptslides/default.html)
2. Table showing ISAAA figures for GM crops in EU and those given in the Monsanto Monitoring Report for Mon810 maize

#### Press & News Releases

[Industry GM Crop Figures Massaged: EU Four times too high for 2007 – 2008 ISAAA data due out soon](#)  
22/01/2009

[Key Questions for GM Investigation Following Somerset OSR Contamination](#)  
09/01/2009

[UK Companies Not Prepared for Cloned Animals – consumers could be left in the dark](#)  
16/12/2008

[BBC had advance warning on unbalanced Horizon programme](#)  
27/11/2008

[Joint Open Letter to Royal Society re: Crop Production Study](#)  
26/09/2008

[GM Freeze calls for Thorough Investigation of GM Contamination Incident](#)  
12/09/2008

[GM Freeze Welcome Prince Charles’s Comments on GM Crops](#)  
14/08/2008

[GM Test Locations Should Remain Public says GM Freeze](#)  
28/07/2008

[Cabinet Office Food Report Lacks Balanced Analysis on GM](#)  
07/07/2008

[Brown and Woolas short on GM facts and history](#)  
19/06/2008

[Non-GM Crops Dominate in World Agriculture](#)  
17/06/2008

[Defra approve GM Potatoes Application](#)  
09/05/2008

[Debenham’s GM Ban Welcomed](#)  
28/04/2008

[GM Freeze Call for Government, Industry and Scientists to Respond To IAASTD](#)  
15/04/2008

[Science and Agriculture Panel Urged: Don't Be Taken in by GM Hype](#)  
02/04/2008

[Illegal GM Rice “Unsafe” say FSA](#)  
27/03/2008

[Urgent Action Needed on Potentially Hazardous Illegal](#)

EU Country	Monsanto area ha	ISAAA area million ha	ISAAA as % Monsanto
Czech Republic	5,000	<0.05	1000% (10X)
France	22,135	<0.05	225% (2.25X)
Germany	2,685	<0.05	1862% (18.6X)
Portugal	4,263	<0.05	1173% (11.7X)
Poland	327	<0.05	15290% (152X)
Slovakia	900	<0.05	5555% (55.5X)
Spain	75,148	0.1	133%(1.33X)
Romania	350	<0.05	14286% (142X)
<b>Total</b>	<b>110,808</b>	<b>&lt;0.45</b>	<b>406% (4X)</b>

The total area of agricultural land in the EU is 192.273million ha (110.849 million hectare arable). GM crops occupied only 0.06% of agricultural land (0.1% of arable land) in 2007.

Globally (based on 2007 ISAAA figures) GM crops occupied just 2.4% of world agricultural land (see [www.gmfreeze.org/uploads/GM\\_crops\\_land\\_area\\_final.pdf](http://www.gmfreeze.org/uploads/GM_crops_land_area_final.pdf))

3. Under Article 31 of EU Regulation 1829/2003, marketing consent holders for GMOs are required to produce a monitoring report on how the crop has behaved and whether any unexpected events had occurred. Monsanto's report on Mon810 maize was obtained by GM Freeze from Defra in January 2009 following the meeting of ACRE on 4th December where it was discussed.

Last updated 05/11/2008

© GM FREEZE - 2006

[GM Rice Contamination](#)

10/03/2008

[GM Industry Claims Grossly Exaggerate GM Importance](#)

14/02/2008

[GM Freeze Supports Call for Moratorium on Synthetic Biology After Artificial Genome Assembled](#)

25/01/2008

[GM Freeze Calls on IAASTD to Press on Despite Biotech Industry Taking Their Ball Home](#)

18/01/2008

[Chief Scientist's Misleading GM Claims: GM Freeze calls for a public apology](#)

17/12/2007

[King Exaggerates GM Progress](#)

27/11/2007

[FSA face GM Rice Review - Freeze Calls for Select Committee to Oversee Agency](#)

27/11/2007

[Defra Coexistence Consultation Farce](#)

08/11/2007

[Internal Documents Reveal Government Collusion with Industry on GM Potato Trial Licenses](#)

31/10/2007

[GM Freeze Welcomes Suspension of GM Crops in France](#)

30/10/2007

[Key Questions for the FSA's GM Rice contamination Review](#)

25/10/2007

[GM Rice Contamination Remains a Mystery – Lack of Records Hampers investigation](#)

08/10/2007

[FSA GMO Sampling Plans Ignore Vital DEFRA Research - Freeze Calls for Withdrawal of Consultation](#)

27/07/2007

[Food and Feed Imports at Risk from GM Contamination](#)

08/06/2007

[GM Potato Trial Cancellation has Wider Implications](#)

14/05/2007

[Freeze demands Extension to Outrageously Short EC consultation on GM](#)

10/05/2007

[GM Freeze Welcomes Patent Office Decision to Revoke Monsanto Soya Monopoly](#)

04/05/2007

[Freeze Calls for Honesty from BASF and Defra on GM Spud Trials](#)

24/04/2007

[Vigilance Still Needed on GM Rice Contamination](#)

12/04/2007

[Calls for GM Spud Trials to be Scrapped after Dutch Court Ruling](#)

14/03/2007

[Freeze calls for Prompt Action by FSA Following Further GM Contamination of Rice from USA](#)

06/03/2007

[GM Spuds – Industry Can't](#)