

GMO free municipalities in Germany

In Germany, landowners such as municipalities, towns and counties can forbid the use of genetically modified plants on their farmland. They oblige farmers who lease publicly owned land, by legally binding contracts, to exclude GMOs.

In 1999 Munich was the first town that excluded GM plants from their properties. By June 2009 more than 190 municipalities followed this example.

Main arguments:

- GM plants reduce land value,
- GM plants are against the will of farmers and consumers.

By prohibiting GMOs on their land the municipalities stand in for a regional and traditional agriculture. Farmers often follow GMO free municipalities by founding GMO free regions and vice versa.