

BASF seeking EU green light for new potato: chairman

August 31 2010



This picture, released by BASF, shows a person holding some Amflora potatoes. German chemical giant BASF said Tuesday it was seeking European Union approval for a new genetically modified potato six months after getting an EU green light for its Amflora spud.

German chemical giant BASF said Tuesday it was seeking European Union approval for a new genetically modified potato six months after getting an EU green light for its Amflora spud.

"We applied for approval for our next starch [potato](#), Amadea, in Brussels yesterday," BASF chairman Juergen Hambrecht said in a statement.

BASF hopes to market Amadea, which it called a "high performing starch potato," by 2013 or 2014 after obtaining the necessary authorisations, and use it to replace a first generation product that stirred considerable controversy.

The [European Commission](#) only gave its approval for Amflora in March, the first time it allowed a genetically modified product to be distributed in Europe in 12 years.

Meanwhile, BASF is working on yet another form of potato that would resist the blight that ravaged Irish [crops](#) in the mid 19th century, a spokeswoman told AFP.

Dubbed Fortuna and the first BASF potato designed for human consumption, it is based on a European potato that includes South American [genes](#).

BASF hopes to apply for EU approval by mid 2011, the spokeswoman added.

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Citation: BASF seeking EU green light for new potato: chairman (2010, August 31) retrieved 26 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2010-08-basf-eu-green-potato-chairman.html>

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