

# France definitively bans GM corn

May 5 2014

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Hundreds of anti-GMO activists and Greenpeace activists uproot genetically modified maize plants, on May 2, 2014, in a field near Roquettes

France definitively banned the growing of genetically modified corn on Monday after its highest court and Senate both confirmed an existing ban.

A grouping of leftist senators including members of the ruling Socialists, Greens and Communists approved a law banning MON810, a type of GM [corn](#) produced by US firm Monsanto, that had already been passed

by the lower house of parliament, overcoming opposition from right-wing members.

At the same time, the Council of State rejected a request from [corn producers](#) to overturn the ban on MON810.

The council said the applicants from the General Association of Corn Producers (AGPM) had failed to make the case that they faced an urgent economic crisis as a result of the ban, pointing to the fact that only a small portion of French corn is grown with GM seeds.

With Paris having twice put temporary bans on GM crops—in 2011 and 2013—AGPM said Monday's verdicts were "not a surprise".

The agriculture ministry banned MON810—the only insect-resistant GM corn allowed to be grown in the European Union—in March.

Its authorisation is currently under review by the EU as part of a wider look at the use of GM crops, but member states have the right to [ban](#) them regardless of rulings from Brussels.

France is pushing to cut Brussels out of the process entirely, with future GM authorisations taken only at the national level.

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