



The planting of GE maize is a very sensitive issue in Mexico. Maize is viewed as “part of the national heritage.” It is a source of pride to Mexicans from all different backgrounds that maize originated from wild species in Mexico.

There is strong support from indigenous communities to ban any plantings of GE corn. In the business sector, other Mexicans want to compete with the deluge of imported corn (GE and conventional) that has flooded the Mexican economy since the passage of NAFTA in 1992.

- 1998 Mexico implemented a ban on the planting of any GE maize.
- Mexico imports large quantities of corn and canola from the U.S.
- Mexico does not require GE labeling on food products or imports. The food and crops it imports from the U.S. contain GE products.

Mexico - Regulatory Framework



- 1996 Mexico permits GE cotton and soybeans.
- 2002-Pres. Mexico imports of U.S. agricultural products and food have been increasing at an annual rate of 10% (2008 = \$16 billion annually). These contain GE and non-GE products.
- 2005 Law of Bio-Safety of Genetically Modified Organisms (MX6051). This does not require labeling for packaged foods and animal feed. Labeling is required for seeds.
- 2008 “Reglamento” – Operational Rules for the 2005 Bio-Safety Law (MX 8048)
- 2009 Guideline – Special Régime for the Protection of Corn (MX9060). The Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGARPA) issues guidelines for conservation and preservation of Mexican corn varieties. With these in place, SAGARPA initiates the process of permitting experimental field fields of GE Maize. There is a three phase review process: 1) Phase One – experimental fields; 2) Phase Two – Pilot tests including research teams and evaluation reports; and 3) Phase Three – Commercialization stage.
- 02/04/10 The Mexican Secretary of Agriculture announced that experimental GE maize fields in northern Mexico had been planted. It is expected that these will reach phase III approval in 2012. It is estimated that the market will be comprised of seven international firms (BASF, Bayer, Dupont, Syngenta, Monsanto, Dow and Pioneer) and 200 Mexican companies.

Emerging &
Developing
Countries in
Africa, Asia &
Latin America
as a Growing % of
World Population

1950

2050

Rank	Country or Area	Population	Country or Area	Population
1	China	562,579,779	India	1,656,553,632
2	India	369,880,000	China	1,303,723,332
3	United States	152,271,000	United States	439,010,253
4	Russia	101,936,816	Indonesia	313,020,847
5	Japan	83,805,000	Ethiopia	278,283,137
6	Indonesia	82,978,392	Pakistan	276,428,758
7	Germany	68,374,572	Nigeria	264,262,405
8	Brazil	53,443,075	Brazil	260,692,493
9	United Kingdom	50,127,000	Bangladesh	233,587,279
10	Italy	47,105,000	Congo (Kinshasa)	189,310,849
11	Bangladesh	45,645,964	Philippines	171,964,187
12	France	42,517,690	Mexico	147,907,650
13	Pakistan	39,448,232	Egypt	137,872,522
14	Ukraine	36,774,854	Uganda	128,007,514
15	Nigeria	31,796,939	Vietnam	111,173,583
16	Mexico	28,485,180	Russia	109,187,353
17	Spain	28,062,963	Turkey	100,955,188
18	Vietnam	25,348,144	Japan	93,673,826
19	Poland	24,824,000	Sudan	88,227,761
20	Egypt	21,197,691	Iran	81,490,039
21	Philippines	21,131,264	Germany	73,607,121
22	Turkey	21,121,639	Burma	70,673,160
23	Korea, South	20,845,771	Thailand	69,799,501
24	Ethiopia	20,174,562	France	69,768,223
25	Thailand	20,041,628	Tanzania	66,843,312

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, International Data Base, January 2009