

Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture in the Euro-Mediterranean Area

“Allowing or banning Genetically Modified Food and
Feed? Morocco in search of a synthesis between
conflicting regulatory models”

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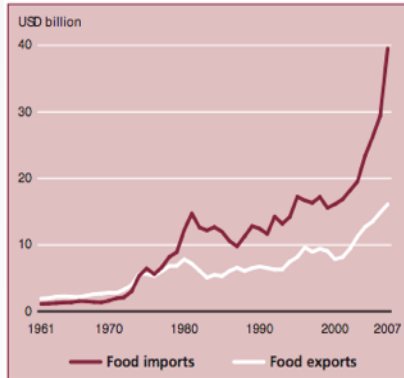
ROME

February 2, 2015

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Challenges of African Growth

- By the year 2050 the population of Africa will double to 2 billion people while the the land available for cultivation will decrease significantly



- Since mid-'70 Africa started to massively import food by creating an increasing food-trade deficit



- **Morocco** is a net exporter of fruits and vegetables and a **net importer of cereals**: US is the main supplier of corn gluten (US\$19.2 million) soymeal (US\$ 23.7 million) and dried distiller's grains; Europe is the main supplier of planting seeds (US\$ 80 million).

Biotech Crops Production

Rank	Country	Area (million hectares)	Biotech Crops
1	USA*	70.1	Maize, soybean, cotton, canola, sugar beet, alfalfa, papaya, squash
2	Brazil*	40.3	Soybean, maize, cotton
3	Argentina*	24.4	Soybean, maize, cotton
4	India*	11.0	Cotton
5	Canada*	10.8	Canola, maize, soybean, sugar beet
6	China*	4.2	Cotton, papaya, poplar, tomato, sweet pepper
7	Paraguay*	3.6	Soybean, maize, cotton
8	South Africa*	2.9	Maize, soybean, cotton
9	Pakistan*	2.8	Cotton
10	Uruguay*	1.5	Soybean, maize
11	Bolivia*	1.0	Soybean
12	Philippines*	0.8	Maize
13	Australia*	0.6	Cotton, canola
14	Burkina Faso*	0.5	Cotton
15	Myanmar*	0.3	Cotton
16	Spain*	0.1	Maize
17	Mexico*	0.1	Cotton, soybean
18	Colombia*	0.1	Cotton, maize
19	Sudan*	0.1	Cotton
20	Chile	<0.1	Maize, soybean, canola
21	Honduras	<0.1	Maize
22	Portugal	<0.1	Maize
23	Cuba	<0.1	Maize
24	Czech Republic	<0.1	Maize
25	Costa Rica	<0.1	Cotton, soybean
26	Romania	<0.1	Maize
27	Slovakia	<0.1	Maize
Total		175.2	

- In 2013 a record 175.2 million hectares of biotech crops were grown (+3%)

- Of the 27 Countries that make use of GM Crops, 8 are industrial Countries, 19 developing Countries

- 18 million farmers grew biotech crops (90% are in developing countries)



Africa?

- ✓ Pro GMO: South Africa, Burkina Faso, Sudan....
- ✓ NO GMO: Maghreb Countries

International Rules dealing with GMOs

- Multilateral Treaties

✓ GATT

✓ TBT

✓ SPS → “each Member has the right to establish its own appropriate level of protection” ... “SPS measures must be based on scientific principles” “if scientific evidence is missing a Member may provisionally adopt SPS measures...”

✓ IPPC

✓ Codex Alimentarius

✓ Cartagena Protocol → “nothing in this Protocol shall be interpreted as Restricting the right of a Party to take action that is more protective of the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity than that called for in this Protocol” (PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE)

Morocco's Regulatory Framework on Food Safety

- Loi n°28-07 « Sécurité Sanitaire des produits alimentaires »:
 - ✓ Art. 6 on controls on imported food products
 - ✓ Art. 3 on the precautionary principle
- Décret n° 2-12-389 on Food Labelling
 - ✓ No mention of GM products
- Loi n° 39-12 « Producton biologique des produits agricoles et aquatique »
 - ✓ Art. 11 prohibiton of GMOs

...and GMOs? 

Morocco's Regulatory Framework on GMOs....

- Circulaire du Ministère de l'Agriculture du 11 aout 1999
 - ➔ Legal basis to prohibit the import, the cultivation and commercialization of GM products
- Draft Law of 2008 was dismissed in 2011
- National Biosafety Committee (NBC) set up in 2005
- Office National de Sécurité Sanitaire des Produits Alimentaires (ONSSA) set up in 2008
- National Biosafety Framework published in 2013

EU-Morocco Relations

- Association Agreement of 2000: establishment of free trade area
- Agreement on agricultural, processed agricultural and fisheries products entered into force in 2012
 - ✓ Art. 8 of Protocol 1 refers to the SPS Agreement
- Towards the Advanced Status
 - ✓ Action Plan (2013-2017)
 - ✓ ALECA
- EU Support Programs to Morocco
 - ✓ Contribution of € 135 million to the ‘Plan Maroc Vert’

EU Policy on GMOs

- Comprehensive legislative framework on GMOs:
 - ✓ Art. 191 TFEU
 - ✓ EU Authorisation: Directive 2001 + Regulation 2003
 - ✓ EU Authority: EFSA
 - ✓ Labelling and traceability
 - ✓ Transboundary movements
 - ✓ Contained use
 - ✓ Guidelines on Coexistence
- To date, 50 authorization for food and feed products + 9 authorization for other uses; just 2 for cultivation :
Amflora Potato and maize MON 810 (100 000 hectares in Spain, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia)

EU and GMOs: Work in Progress

- Profound division between EU MS on the cultivation
 - ✓ Yes GMOs: ES, PT, UK, CZ, DK, ES, FI, MT, NL, RO, SL, SW
 - ✓ NO GMOs: AU, GR, CY, HU, LT, LIT, LUX, FR, IT, SL, DE, PL
- *Blocage* in the authorization process and legal uncertainty



Reform of Directive 2001/18/EU:

It is quite likely that the number of EU authorisation of GMOs will raise
(the text is awaiting the Council Decision on 2nd reading)

US Policy on GMOs

- NO federal legislation on GMOs
✓GMOs are treated as conventional products
- Increasing demands of specific legislation on Labelling and Traceability from States
- GMOs sector of paramount importance for US agri sector



- 1.3 million employees in biosciences and 5.8 million employees in related industry sector
- In 2013, 93% soybeans, 90% cotton, 90% corn grown in US were GM

US-Morocco Relations

- Free Trade Agreement of 2004: establishment of a free trade area
✓ Comprehensive Agreement providing rules on, inter alia: investments, intellectual property rights, TBT and SPS measures, dispute settlement procedures
- Data: since January 2006 US exports have risen from \$ 481 million (2005) to \$ 1.26 billion (2010)
- US Financing Programs on Biotechnologies
✓ ‘Maintaining a low profile and promoting biotechnologies between scientists and opinion leaders instead of raising the question to the public’

Morocco: what are the options?

- High-standard protection system... but it does not exclude to start using biotechnologies



- ✓ Message from EU: Co-existence
Would the reform change the EU attitude vis-à-vis GMOs?
Would Morocco be affected by the reform?
- ✓ Message from US: Labelling and Traceability
Is Morocco importing GMOs?
Would Morocco allow consumers and farmers to choose?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!