

# The possible deregulation of certain GMOs in the EU: What would the implications be? A Pathways Analysis

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# THE POSSIBLE DEREGULATION OF CERTAIN GMOS IN THE EU:

*WHAT  
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A PATHWAYS ANALYSIS

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[www.greens-efa.eu/](http://www.greens-efa.eu/)

# A pathways analysis

- directions of innovation and socio-technical change
- diversity of approaches used to address sustainability challenges
- distribution of costs, benefits and risks entailed by any given policy choice
- democratic inclusiveness, transparency and accountability

Leach et al (2022) Food politics and development.

*World Development* 134:105024



# Concentration in commodity crops

In 2022, according to the US Department of Agriculture, the largest four firms owned

- 97% of U.S. intellectual property over oil seed rape
- 95% of U.S. intellectual property over maize,
- 84% of U.S. intellectual property over soybean and
- 74% of U.S. intellectual property over cotton

U.S. Department of Agriculture (2023) More and Better Choices for Farmers, p. 42

# Impacts on innovation

“taken together, the increased concentration and economies of scale for dominant companies may pose significant barriers to entry for small and medium-sized enterprises and reduce innovation.”

US Department of Agriculture (2023) More and Better Choices for Farmers, p. 45

# Potential implications for

- Multinational pesticide–seed firms
- EU entities involved in gene editing
- Conventional seed companies, farmers, food processors/ manufacturers, retailers and consumers
- Organic and agroecological sectors

# Lock-in and irreversibility

Regulatory decisions can have wide and long-term implications, not only for the use of specific crop biotechnologies but for the broader sustainable and equitable development of agri-food systems.

Ely, A. et al (2022) Governing Agricultural Biotechnologies in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Germany: A Trans-decadal Study of Regulatory Cultures, online in *Science, Technology & Human Values*



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