

Recent Developments of the European GMO Policy : Implications from the European Commission and the United Kingdom

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Summary

In 2003, the European Union (EU) has issued its new regulations regarding genetically modified organisms (GMOs), and this has given momentum to uplift current de facto moratorium of GMOs since 1998. We can also watch a national-scale public dialogue on GMOs in the United Kingdom (UK) in 2003. Almost at the same time, the UK government has released the outcome of farm scale evaluation (FSE), which would have profound impact on policy direction related to European GMOs. In this way, we can witness various events in 2003 that would have crucial impact on the future GMO policy in the European countries. In this sense, what occurred in the year of 2003 would be regarded as a watershed to create future course of GMO policy in Europe. This report traces these major events occurred in the UK and EU, and try to shed lights on the future policy development related to GMOs.

The first part of the report focuses on the UK, describing the outcomes of the FSE, public dialogue process, and reactions from the UK government. The second part of the report tries to elucidate complicated process of EU regulatory system related to GMOs; what kind of changes happened through the introduction of new regulations, how the approval procedures have been changed, what kind of other measures are being discussed to prepare future commercialization of GMOs, and so on. The final part wraps up these situations surrounding GMOs in Europe and mention future research issues.