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Bosnia-Herzegovina

Trade Policy Monitoring

Testing for Biotech content in food products

2004

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Report Highlights:

Bosnia and Herzegovina Biotech Institute is for the first time conducting research on presence of (GMOs) in BiH. The main idea is to answer the question "are we eating GMOs in Bosnia and Herzegovina or not". A one-year testing program will include important crops grown in the country e.g. corn, potato and wheat.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Vienna [AU1]
[BK]

The Institute for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (INGEB) in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is for the first time conducting research on wider presence of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in BiH. Actually, INGEB plans to detect if biotech varieties of important agricultural plants such as potato, corn and wheat are being grown in the country. The project's goal is also to set up a base for a reference laboratory for GMO detection in the country. The research tends only to prove the presence of GMO while quantities and types of GM materials will not be examined because of limited equipment and funds available. This twelve months project that involves five researches will end up with a seminar on modern biotechnology and public presentation of the findings.

An assumption is that the GMO presence will be widely detected in the country due to its presence in the region and uncontrolled trade with seed and seedlings after BiH separated from former Yugoslavia in 1992 and was unable to control its borders. Furthermore, absence of regulations regarding import, approval, and growing of GMOs still exists.

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