

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY  
USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT  
POLICY

Voluntary    Public

**Date:** 6/27/2014

**GAIN Report Number:** RS1442

## Russian Federation

**Post:** Moscow

### GMO Registration for Cultivation Postponed

**Report Categories:**

Biotechnology and Other New Production  
Technologies

**Approved By:**

Robin Gray

**Prepared By:**

Yelena Vassilieva

**Report Highlights:**

The Russian government delayed the start of registration of genetically engineered (GE) crops for cultivation in Russia from July 1, 2014 to July 1, 2017. Given that the time for registration of GE crops for cultivation is expected to take about 5-6 years, the beginning of cultivation of such crops in Russia cannot be expected before 2023-2024. Registration of GE crops for imports and subsequent use in feeds and in food continues in accordance with existing Russian legislature.

### **General Information:**

On June 16, 2014, the Government of the Russian Federation (GOR) issued Resolution No. 548 that delayed the start of registration of Genetically Engineered (GE) crops for cultivation in Russia to July 1, 2017 (<http://government.ru/docs/13198>). According to notification to GOR Resolution No. 548, the three-year postponement of the registration will reportedly give the GOR agencies responsible for expert assessment of genetically engineered products more time to improve their methods of product quality control and provide modern testing equipment for laboratories. Delay in the start date of registration of GE crops for cultivation from July 1, 2014 to July 1, 2017 would likely postpone the initial cultivation of GE crops in Russia to 2023-2024.

NOTE: This decision does not impact the export of GE products to Russia which are used for food or feeds. Registration of GE crops and products for use for food or feeds is allowed and continues in accordance with the Russian regulation. For more information on the registration and use of GE crops and products in foods and feeds in Russia see FAS/Moscow GAIN report [Agricultural Biotechnology Annual Moscow Russian Federation 7-15-2013.pdf](#).

### Background

In 2013 the GOR adopted Resolution No. 839 that allowed registration of GE crops for cultivation in Russia. Under Resolution 839, registration was scheduled to open on July 1, 2014. FAS/Moscow reported on Resolution No. 839 in the GAIN Report: [Resolution on GMO Registration for Environmental Release Moscow Russian Federation 9-25-2013.pdf](#). Russian authorities were to develop an implementation mechanism and appoint officials responsible for registration of GE crops for cultivation by July 1, 2014. Industry analysts estimated that it would take approximately 4 to 5 years from the beginning of such registration to beginning of cultivation of GE crops in Russia. However, immediately after the adoption of Resolution No. 839, an anti-GMO campaign was launched in Russia. The Agrarian committees in the State Duma and in the Federation Council, Russia's two major legislative bodies, proposed several draft federal laws which would have implemented a complete and permanent ban of cultivation of GE crops in Russia, and a ban on imports of GE products. Although none of these drafts made it to parliamentary hearings, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation also publicly expressed concerns on the cultivation of GE crops in Russia. In April 2014, at the meeting of the Federal Government, Dmitry Medvedev, Russian Prime Minister, promised that the Government would consider postponement of implementation of Resolution 839. As a result, Government Resolution No. 548 did as promised by changing the dates specified in Resolution 839, from a July 1, 2014 implementation to a July 1, 2017 implementation date.

The unofficial translation of the GOR Resolution No. 548 of June 16, 2014 is given below.

*Begin unofficial translation:*

Government of the Russian Federation  
Resolution  
June 16, 2014, No. 548  
Moscow

On Amendments to the Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 839

of September 23, 2013

The Government of the Russian Federation decrees:

To replace the figure “2014” with the figure “2017” in Article 10 of the Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 839 of September 23, 2013 “On the State Registration of Genetically-Engineered-Modified Organisms Intended for Release into the Environment as Well as Products Derived from the Use of Such Organisms or Containing Such Organisms.”

Chairman of the Government  
of the Russian Federation

D. Medvedev

*End unofficial translation*

**FAS/Moscow Post Note:** the amended Article 10 now reads as:

“10. This Resolution shall enter into force on July 1, 2017, except articles 3, 6, and 7”  
instead of

“10. This Resolution shall enter into force on July 1, 2014, except articles 3, 6, and 7.”