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## Mexico

**Post:** Mexico

### Mexican Judge Blocks GE Corn Permits

**Report Categories:**

Biotechnology - GE Plants and Animals

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**Report Highlights:**

A federal district judge from Mexico City has placed an injunction on all planting activities involving genetically engineered (GE) corn in the country. The order follows a collective lawsuit against the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA) and the Environment Secretariat (SEMARNAT) and some agricultural biotech companies directing them to suspend the granting of permits for experimental, pilot, and commercial release of GE corn. The injunction is provisional. The Government of Mexico (GOM) is appealing but some private sector sources state that a ruling on the lawsuit is not expected for another several months. The court injunction was the result of a lawsuit filed by a group of social activists who oppose the planting of GE corn in Mexico. Although requests are pending, Mexico has yet to approve a permit for commercial GE corn planting.

## General Information:

**Background:** While Mexico has a sophisticated structure in place for the regulation of agricultural biotechnology, its implementation has been a very different story. As the “center of origin”, corn is an important aspect of Mexican identity. In this charged environment, the GOM has continued to move forward with extreme caution in making any decisions related to biotechnology. Any biotech approval for GE seed has three stages: experimental, pilot, and commercial. The GOM (SAGARPA) has issued approvals in the past for the first two stages. The GOM has issued no approvals for commercial GE corn plantings.

### Pending GE Corn Environmental Release Permits:

	Experimental	Pilot	Commercial
2012	12	8	6
2013	19	16	8

**Trade:** U.S. exports of GE corn to Mexico should not be affected by this ruling, as the Mexican government allows for the importation of GE corn grown in the United States. Almost all U.S. corn imported into Mexico is yellow corn for livestock feed and industrial use, while a majority of the domestic crop is white corn for human consumption. In 2012, the U.S. had more than \$2.5 billion in corn sales to Mexico.