

## 03.03-Genetically modified crops

### Genetically modified crops

#### Gene-policy transfer

China may relax its almost total ban on growing GM food  
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AFTER years of fierce debate in China about whether to allow **widespread** growing of genetically modified (GM) food crops, a strong signal emerged in 2013 that the leadership wanted to **push ahead**. It was given in a speech on agricultural policy by President Xi Jinping. In it he **recounted** his own experience of hunger during China's great **famine** in the early 1960s. He also recalled lean times later that decade during the **Cultural Revolution** when he went months without "seeing the tiniest drop of oil" or "knowing the taste of meat". He said that guaranteeing China's "food security" was still a serious worry. Hinting at what he saw as a possible **remedy**, he said China must "occupy the **commanding** heights of transgenic technology" and not yield that ground to "big foreign firms".

#### Vocab

1. **widespread** *adj.* existing or happening over a large area or among many people 分布广的；普遍的；广泛的

e.g. widespread damage 广泛的损坏

2. **push ahead** *phrasal verb.* 推进；推行 If you **push ahead** or **push forward with** something, you make progress with it.

e.g. The government intends to **push ahead** with its reform programme. 政府打算推进其改革计划。

3. **recount** *v.* ~ **sth (to sb)** to tell sb about sth, especially sth that you have experienced 讲述，叙述（亲身经历）

e.g. They recounted what had happened during those years. 他们叙述了那些年里发生的事。

4. **famine** *n.* a lack of food during a long period of time in a region 饥荒

e.g. a severe famine 严重饥荒

5. **Cultural Revolution** 文革

6. **hint at** *v.* 暗示；示意 If you **hint at** something, you suggest it in an indirect way.

e.g. Criticism is **hinted at**, but never made explicit... 批评总是含沙射影，但从未明说。

7. **remedy** *n.* = **solution** a way of dealing with or improving an unpleasant or difficult situation 处理方法；改进措施；补偿

8. **commanding** *adj.* if you are in a **commanding position** or have a **commanding lead**, you are likely to win a race or competition 居领先位置的；遥遥领先的（指可能赢得赛跑或比赛）

#### Sentence

Hinting at what he saw as a possible remedy, he said China must "occupy the commanding heights of transgenic technology" and not yield that ground to "big foreign firms".

主干：he **said** China.....

Hinting at what... 在这里用来修饰他所说的

Twenty years earlier, visiting European scientists had been **flabbergasted** at how much progress China appeared to be making in this area. Unlike the Europeans, who had had to beg regulators for permission to experiment with a few hundred square metres of GM plants, their Chinese counterparts were conducting trials across tens of thousands of hectares.

### Vocab

1. **flabbergasted** adj. =**astonished** extremely surprised and/ or shocked 大吃一惊；目瞪口呆

e.g. Everybody was **flabbergasted** when I announced I was going to emigrate to Australia. 我宣布要移民去澳大利亚时，所有人都惊呆了。

2. **regulator** n. a person or an organization that officially controls an area of business or industry and makes sure that it is operating fairly (某行业等的) 监管者，监管机构

3. **counterpart** n. =**opposite number** a person or thing that has the same position or function as sb/ sth else in a different place or situation 职位(或作用)相当的人；对应的事物

4. **conduct** v. to organize and/ or do a particular activity 组织；安排；实施；执行  
to **conduct an experiment/ an inquiry/ a survey**

### Sentence

Unlike the Europeans, who had had to beg regulators for permission to experiment with a few hundred square metres of GM plants, their Chinese counterparts were conducting trials across tens of thousands of hectares.

第一句：who had had to beg.....这里修饰的是 Europeans 指代 European scientists

句子主干是：Chinese counterparts **were conducting** trails across....

Since then, however, Chinese policy had grown much more **conservative**, for two main reasons. The first is anxiety among some members of the public about the safety of GM foods. The other is a worry that China's food market might become **reliant on** foreign GM technology. True, a large share of the **soyabeans** imported by China are genetically modified. So is the vast majority of the cotton it grows. In 2015 there were more than 6.6m farmers growing GM cotton, and a total of 3.7m hectares of GM crops under **cultivation**, including cotton and papaya, according to Randy Hautea of the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications, an industry group. But the government has been **reluctant to** approve the growing of GM **staples** such as maize (corn) and rice.

### Vocab

1. **conservative** adj. opposed to great or sudden social change; showing that you prefer traditional styles and values 保守的；守旧的

e.g. the conservative views of his parents 他父母的保守观念

2. **reliant** adj. =**dependent** ~ **on/ upon sb/ sth** needing sb/ sth in order to survive, be successful, etc. 依赖性的；依靠的

3. **soya bean** n. a type of **BEAN**, originally from SE Asia, that is used instead of meat or animal **PROTEIN** in some types of food 大豆

4. **cultivation** n. the preparation and use of land for growing plants or crops 耕种；种植；栽培

e.g. **rice/ wheat, etc. cultivation** 水稻、小麦等的种植

5. **reluctant** adj. ~ (to do sth) hesitating before doing sth because you do not want to do it or because you are not sure that it is the right thing to do 不情愿的；勉强的

e.g. She was reluctant to admit she was wrong. 她不愿承认自己有错。

6. **staple** n. a basic type of food that is used a lot 基本食物；主食

e.g. Aid workers helped distribute corn, milk and other staples. 救助人员协助分发谷物、牛奶及其他必需的食物。

Concerns about China's growing **dependence on** food imports (see chart) may be causing **policymakers** to rethink. This year's Document Number One, the name given to an annual **statement on** agriculture that is released by the leadership in January, said for the first time that China would "carefully promote" GM food crops. On April 13th Liao Xiyuan, an official at the agriculture ministry, said China planned to "**push forward**" commercial cultivation of GM maize over the next five years.

### Vocab

1. **dependence** n. (为了成功或存活的) 依靠, 依赖 Your **dependence on** something or someone is your need for them in order to succeed or be able to survive.

2. **policymaker** n. (政治) 政策制定者, 决策人 In politics, **policymakers** are people who are involved in making policies and policy decisions.

3. **statement** n. =**declaration** ~ (on/ about sth) a formal or official account of facts or opinions 声明；陈述；报告

4. **push forward** = **push ahead** PHRASAL VERB 推进；推行 If you **push ahead** or **push forward with** something, you make progress with it.

e.g. The government intends to **push ahead** with its reform programme. 政府打算推进其改革计划。

### Sentence

This year's Document Number One, the name given to an annual **statement on** agriculture that is released by the leadership in January, said for the first time that China would "carefully promote" GM food crops.

主干: Document Number One said China would....

中间 the name given to 作为 Document Number One 的同位语, 修饰 Document Number One

Worries about foreign domination of GM technology may **ease** if a \$43 billion deal reached in February goes ahead for the **takeover** of Syngenta, a Swiss agricultural firm, by a Chinese company, ChemChina. The **acquisition** must still be approved by regulators in several countries, but it could give China control of Syngenta's valuable GM-seed **patents**.

### Vocab

1. **ease** v. =**alleviate** to become or to make sth less unpleasant, painful, severe, etc. (使) 宽慰；减轻；缓解

e.g. This should help ease the pain. 这该有助于减轻痛苦。

2. **takeover** n. an act of taking control of a company by buying most of its shares 收购；接收；接管

e.g. a **takeover bid** for the company

3. **acquisition** n. a company, piece of land, etc. bought by sb, especially another company; the act of buying it 购置物；收购的公司；购置的产业；购置；收购

e.g. They have made acquisitions in several EU countries. 他们在几个欧盟国家购买了一些

产业。

4. **patent** n. an official right to be the only person to make, use or sell a product or an invention; a document that proves this 专利权；专利证书

**Sentence**

Worries about foreign domination of GM technology may ease if a \$43 billion deal reached in February goes ahead for the takeover of Syngenta, a Swiss agricultural firm, by a Chinese company, ChemChina.

主干: ...may ease 这里 ease 做不及物动词，译为缓解

if a \$43.... 作条件状语从句

a Swiss agricultural firm 修饰 Syngenta

China's policymakers may be trying to bring belated order to what is already thought to be the widespread, illegal, growing of GM crops. Greenpeace, an NGO, reported in January that 93% of samples taken from maize fields in Liaoning province in the north-east tested positive for genetic modification, as did nearly all the seed samples and maize-based foods it gathered at supermarkets in the area. Anti-GM campaigners in China may be too late in trying to close the barn door.

**Vocab**

1. **belated** adj. coming or happening late 迟来的；晚出现的

e.g. a belated birthday present 迟来的生日礼物

2. **Greenpeace** n. (保护环境及濒临灭绝动物的)“绿色和平”组织

3. **NGO** abbr. non-governmental organization (a charity, association, etc. that is independent of government and business) 非政府组织 (独立于政府或商界的慈善机构、协会等)

4. **modification** n. =adaptation ~ (of/ to/ in sth) the act or process of changing sth in order to improve it or make it more acceptable; a change that is made 修改；改进；改变

5. **campaigner** n. a person who leads or takes part in a campaign, especially one for political or social change (尤指政治或社会变革的) 运动领导者，运动参加者

6. **barn door** the large door of a barn • 仓库大门

**Sentence**

Greenpeace, an NGO, reported in January that 93% of samples taken from maize fields in Liaoning province in the north-east tested positive for genetic modification, as did nearly all the seed samples and maize-based foods it gathered at supermarkets in the area.

主干 Greenpeace reported

that 93% of samples taken from maize fields 修饰这个 reported

From the print edition: China

<http://www.economist.com/news/china/21697272-china-may-relax-its-almost-total-ban-growing-gm-food-gene-policy-transfer>

## Genetically modified crops Gene-policy transfer

### 转基因作物：转基因，转政策

China may relax its almost total ban on growing GM food.

中国或将放宽几乎全面禁止种植转基因食品的禁令。

AFTER years of fierce debate in China about whether to allow widespread growing of genetically modified (GM) food crops, a strong signal emerged in 2013 that the leadership wanted to push ahead. It was given in a speech on agricultural policy by President Xi Jinping. In it he recounted his own experience of hunger during China's great famine in the early 1960s. He also recalled lean times later that decade during the Cultural Revolution when he went months without "seeing the tiniest drop of oil" or "knowing the taste of meat". He said that guaranteeing China's "food security" was still a serious worry. Hinting at what he saw as a possible remedy, he said China must "occupy the commanding heights of transgenic technology" and not yield that ground to "big foreign firms".

关于是否允许推广转基因粮食作物的种植，中国在经过数年的激烈争辩之后，于2013年出现了一个强有力的信号：领导层希望推进这一政策。这一信号体现在习近平主席一次关于农业政策的讲话中。在讲话的内容中，他讲述了自己在20世纪60年代早期、中国大饥荒时期的饥饿经历，并回忆了接下来的文化大革命十年中的贫穷岁月，连续数月“滴油未进”、“不知肉味”。习主席表示，保障中国的“粮食保障”仍然是一个令人关切的严重问题。他暗示自己看到了可能的补救措施，那就是中国必须“占据转基因技术的制高点”，不要让“国外的大企业”抢占这一地位。

Twenty years earlier, visiting European scientists had been flabbergasted at how much progress China appeared to be making in this area. Unlike the Europeans, who had had to beg regulators for permission to experiment with a few hundred square metres of GM plants, their Chinese counterparts were conducting trials across tens of thousands of hectares.

早在二十年前，前来访问的欧洲科学家们就因看到中国在这一领域所取得的巨大进步而倍感惊讶。欧洲曾为了获得几百平方米的转基因作物试验田，不得不向政府管理层乞求。但中国的情形与此截然不同，其所实施的试验田规模已经达到了数万公顷。

Since then, however, Chinese policy had grown much more conservative, for two main reasons. The first is anxiety among some members of the public about the safety of GM foods. The other is a worry that China's food market might become reliant on foreign GM technology. True, a large share of the soya beans imported by China are genetically modified. So is the vast majority of the cotton it grows. In 2015 there were more than 6.6m farmers growing GM cotton, and a total of 3.7m hectares of GM crops under cultivation, including cotton and papaya, according to Randy Hautea of the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications, an industry group. But the government has been reluctant to approve the growing of GM staples such as maize (corn) and rice.

然而自那以后，中国的相关政策就变得日益保守起来，主要有两个原因。一是是部分公众对转基因食品的安全性产生担忧，二是担心中国的食品市场可能会因此而依赖于国外的转基因技术。没错，中国进口大豆中有相当大的比例都是转基因大豆，种植的绝大部分棉花也是如此。据行业协会——国际农业生物技术应用服务组织的兰迪·豪特介绍，2015年，中国种植转基因棉花的农民超过了660万，而包括种植棉花与木瓜在内，用于培育转基因作物的全部

土地面积共达370万公顷。但是政府却从未批准对转基因主食作物的种植，比如玉米和水稻。

Concerns about China's growing dependence on food imports may be causing policymakers to rethink. This year's Document Number One, the name given to an annual statement on agriculture that is released by the leadership in January, said for the first time that China would "carefully promote" GM food crops. On April 13th Liao Xiyuan, an official at the agriculture ministry, said China planned to "push forward" commercial cultivation of GM maize over the next five years.

中国对进口食品的依赖日趋严重，或许这一情形引起了决策层的反思。今年一月，由领导层下发的关于农业年度报表的一号文件首次提出，中国将“谨慎地推广”转基因粮食作物。4月13日，农业部司长廖西元表示，中国计划在接下来的5年内“推进”转基因玉米的商业化培育。

Worries about foreign domination of GM technology may ease if a \$43 billion deal reached in February goes ahead for the takeover of Syngenta, a Swiss agricultural firm, by a Chinese company, ChemChina. The acquisition must still be approved by regulators in several countries, but it could give China control of Syngenta's valuable GM-seed patents.

如果中方公司中国化工今年二月达成的以430亿美元收购先正达公司(瑞士农业企业)的协议顺利进行，转基因技术受外国支配的担忧也许会有所缓解。虽然该笔收购仍须得到若干国家管理层的认可，但是它却能使中国掌握先正达公司重要的转基因豆种专利权。

China's policymakers may be trying to bring belated order to what is already thought to be the widespread, illegal, growing of GM crops. Greenpeace, an NGO, reported in January that 93% of samples taken from maize fields in Liaoning province in the north-east tested positive for genetic modification, as did nearly all the seed samples and maize-based foods it gathered at supermarkets in the area. Anti-GM campaigners in China may be too late in trying to close the barn door.

中国的决策层也许试图为已经广泛应用、但实质非法的转基因作物种植产业引入迟来的秩序。非政府组织“绿色和平”在今年一月的报告中称，取自中国东北辽宁省的玉米样本中，有93%都对转基因测试呈阳性。同样的，在该地区收集到的种子样本和超市内以玉米为原料的食品几乎也都是如此。在中国，反转人士试图关闭谷仓大门的举措也许为时已晚了。