



The possible deregulation of certain GMOs in the EU: What would the implications be? A Pathways Analysis

Adrian Ely, University of Sussex Business School

on behalf of authors of the report:

Patrick van Zwanenberg, Elise Wach and

Dominic Glover (corresponding author: D.Glover@ids.ac.uk)

THE POSSIBLE DEREGULATION OF CERTAIN GMOS IN THE EU:

WHAT WOULD THE IMPLICATIONS BE?

A PATHWAYS ANALYSIS

AUTHORS:
ADRIAN ELY
PATRICK VAN ZWANENBERG
ELISE WACH
DOMINIC GLOVER (CORRESPONDING AUTHOR: TLGLOVERBIDS ACLIK)



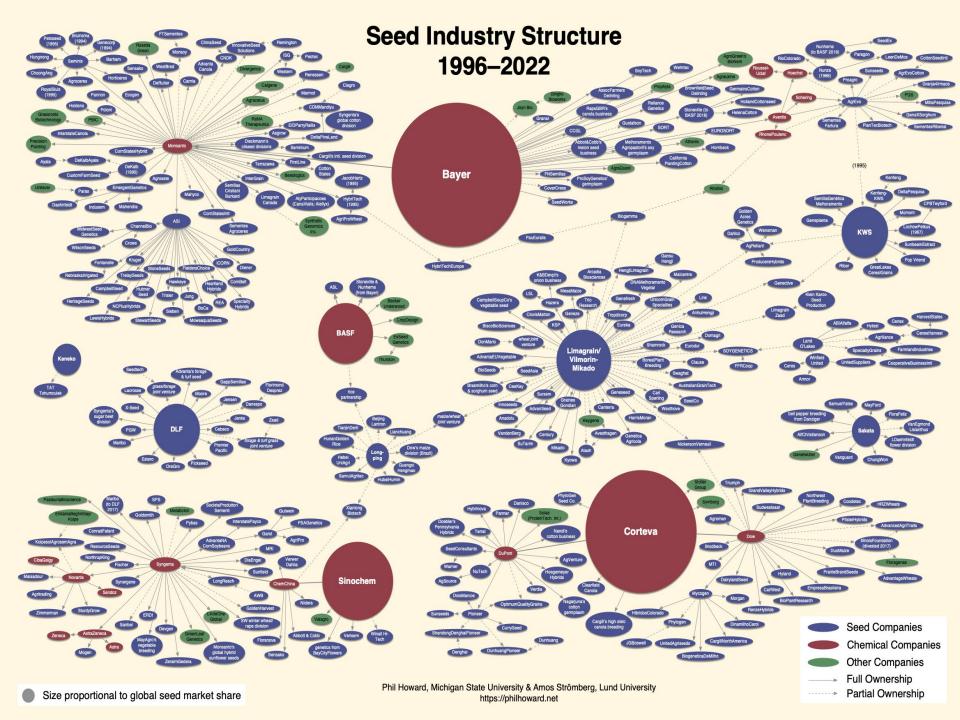
Available at www.greens-efa.eu/

A pathways analysis

- directions of innovation and socio-technical change
- diversity of approaches used to address sustainability challenges
- distribution of costs, benefits and risks entailed by any given policy choice
- democratic inclusiveness, transparency and accountability

Leach et al (2022) Food politics and development.

World Development 134:105024



Concentration in commodity crops

In 2022, according to the US Department of Agriculture, the largest four firms owned

- 97% of U.S. intellectual property over oil seed rape
- 95% of U.S. intellectual property over maize,
- 84% of U.S. intellectual property over soybean and
- 74% of U.S. intellectual property over cotton
 - U.S. Department of Agriculture (2023) More and Better Choices for Farmers, p. 42

Impacts on innovation

"taken together, the increased concentration and economies of scale for dominant companies may pose significant barriers to entry for small and medium-sized enterprises and reduce innovation."

US Department of Agriculture (2023) More and Better Choices for Farmers, p. 45

Potential implications for

- Multinational pesticide—seed firms
- EU entities involved in gene editing
- Conventional seed companies, farmers, food processors/ manufacturers, retailers and consumers
- Organic and agroecological sectors

Lock-in and irreversibility

Regulatory decisions can have wide and long-term implications, not only for the use of specific crop biotechnologies but for the broader sustainable and equitable development of agri-food systems.

Ely, A. et al (2022) Governing Agricultural Biotechnologies in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Germany:
A Trans-decadal Study of Regulatory Cultures, online in *Science*, *Technology & Human Values*





SPRU SCIENCE POLICY RESEARCH UNIT

Thank you