

An Open Letter by Scientists to German Minister

- Startseite, Wissenschaftlerkreis Grüne Gentechnik E.v. April 15, 2009 <http://www.wgg-ev.de/>

In an open letter initiated by Wissenschaftlerkreis Grüne Gentechnik e.V., more than 1,600 scientists have appealed to Federal Minister Aigner not to sacrifice as a political manoeuvre a technology with such rich opportunities as green biotechnology.

Furthermore, they emphatically ask her to disclose the scientific basis for her political decision and for clarification for the public.

"We are about to go it alone and abandon a leading technology of our century. Our students have already recognized this. Given these conditions, also the often quoted Golden Rice Project will surely no longer be feasible in Germany." Prof. Dr. Peter Beyer, Co-developer of the Golden Rice, Institute of Biology, University of Freiburg

"Diminish the impact of the climate change and adapt plants to drought! Only science will secure the food of the world population - not ideology!" Prof. Dr. Reinhard Szibor, Institute of Forensic Medicine, University of Magdeburg

"Genetic engineering in plant breeding offers a still unexploited potential for organic farming, for improved protection of the environment, for sustaining the diversity of species and health." Prof. Dr. Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard, Max-Planck-Institute for Developmental Biology, Tübingen

"Once again we banish an innovative technology from Germany instead of encouraging our best young scientists to engage themselves in this area. However, we need multi-disciplinary approaches especially for the changeover from the fuel-based economy to a sustainable, biological-based one. In this process, the breeding of new, adapted plants plays a crucial role - even if genetic engineering is used." Prof. Dr. Bernd Müller-Röber, Institute of Biochemistry and Biology, University of Potsdam

"You can do nothing but wonder why a lot of money is spent for safety research when the results are not accepted because of a 'gut feeling.'" Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Nellen, Department of Genetics, University of Kassel

"Genetic engineering as an innovative tool for plant breeding has a still unexploited potential for agriculture, an improved protection of the environment, for sustaining the diversity of species and health. We should not gamble away this potential by pseudo-scientific and emotionally charged debates with ensuing misguided political decisions in Germany and Europe." Prof. Dr. Gabriele Krczal, Director RLP AgroScience GmbH, IPlanta - Institute for Plant Research

"No research - no know-how gain! Whoever banishes safety research of GMO crops into the greenhouse, does not meet the natural conditions and takes the concerns of the population seriously." Prof. Dr. Klaus-Dieter Jany, Chairman of the CEF Panel at the EFSA, Vice-President for Research and Teaching at Wadi-International-University, Syria

"Both from a scientific as well as from an economic standpoint it would be a tragedy if we do not utilize the enormous potential of a technology that has been developed with great research expenses and is already applied worldwide, but leave this to others and buy back the abandoned know-how at a high price in the future." Prof. Dr. Andreas Schier, Study Group Phytomedicine/Biotechnology, School of Economy and Environment Nürtingen-Geislingen