
Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) Position Statement



Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) have become widely used in agriculture to improve crop yields and to increase resistance to pests and disease, with approvals granted by governments and regulators around the world.

Since their appearance 30 years ago, many GM crops have been declared safe for human use, animal feed, or both. However, GM technology continues to prompt passionate discussions, with opponents raising concerns about the impact of GM crops on biodiversity, as well as the reliance and costs to smallholder farmers from seed companies.

Our Position

Olam supports a science-led approach on GMOs; we believe genetically modified crops can make an important contribution towards more sustainable agriculture and food systems, which better utilise existing farmland to feed a growing world population with fewer resources.

Leading scientific and regulatory bodies, as well as food and health experts, have widely declared genetically modified crops and food ingredients as safe. Approved and regulated GM technology can be a valuable tool to increase yields and support farm incomes, while delivering significant beneficial impacts (e.g. lowering chemical use, greenhouse gas emissions, soil degradation).

We believe that responsibly grown GM crops can be part of a sustainable mix of agricultural production systems. We respect the choice of farmers and customers who wish to support either conventional (i.e. non-GM) or GM production methods. We support access to products to suit their preference and will supply approved GM and conventional products to meet customers' specific needs and provide information in order to meet any legislative requirements and voluntary labelling. Many important crops, including products such as coffee, cocoa and nuts, currently do not have GM variants commercially available or grown.

Open trade is critical to supporting global food security and we support harmonisation of policies between exporting and importing countries that enable agricultural commodities to be traded efficiently. We support a risk-based approach to manage unintentional, low-level presence of GM products, which have been authorised in exporting countries, to minimise trade disruptions.

We will continue to monitor the scientific evidence and regulatory requirements regarding GMOs; and will continue to be fully compliant with regulations with respect to the use of GMO in jurisdictions in which we operate.