



CiB – Centro de Informação de Biotecnologia – Portugal  
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Free translation of Press Release

## How to avoid being manipulated with the excuse of the GMO

Yesterday, the so called “Plataforma Transgénicos Fora” [the anti-GMO Portuguese Platform] issued a press release stating that they have analyzed the presence of GMO – Genetically Modified Organisms – in Portuguese supermarkets. This press release is an exercise of misinformation and another piece of manipulation that unfortunately echoes in some mass Media.

It is also another way to frighten the consumers and also makes the distributors and retailers ask themselves about the quality of the product they are providing to their clients. Truth be told, there is nothing to be afraid of. These products are as safe and innocuous as those produced with conventional plants.

There is no risk involved in the consumption of oils produced with genetically-modified soybean. Not only these food products were thoroughly tested before being used for consumption, but they were also approved by EFSA – European Food Safety Authority. Finally they have been available on the market for more than 15 years and no public safety issues arise from their use as a food product.

It's extraordinary that the social communication accepted to disseminate this equivocal study without doing any kind of control by an amateur group and without even searching for other sources of information or try to contradict what was delivered to them.

This press release was published after the announcement that once again a worldwide rise in the use of genetically-modified crops took place (a 6% increase in relation to 2011, 170 million hectares and 17,3 million farmers), when genetically modified varieties of rice and beans were approved to be produced and when environmental advantages of their use are being acknowledge worldwide. In fact this technology has repeatedly proved to deliver top quality products and to reduce in the impacts on the environment when they are used in crop production.

Consumers, retailers and distributors can remain confident on the safety of these products. There are suitable and trustful sources that can – and should – be consulted in order to confirm this.

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Original Press Release at  
<http://cibpt.org/inicio/index.php/cib/comunicados/2013/224-esclarecimento-como-evitar-ser-manipulado-a-custa-dos-ogm>

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CiB - Centro de Informação de Biotecnologia (Center for Biotechnology Information, Portugal) is a nonprofit and private association created in 2002. Its aim is promoting communication of Biotechnology in Portugal and in the Portuguese-speaking countries. CiB contributes to clarify different audiences about biotechnological applications in everyday life. Topics covered are new technologies applied to agriculture, industry, environment, food and feed and medicine.

Over the recent years, CiB has participated in public debates and in political hearings, it was involved in development of legislation, regulation and standards on biotechnology issues; organization of events for clarification and training of different audiences (e.g., scientists, journalists, farmers, students and general public), and production of content to promote the public understanding of biotechnology.

To accomplish these goals, CiB is supported by different entities: companies, industries, public and private institutions and even associated sole proprietorships.

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