

DuPont harvests GM corn in China

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Singapore: Amid regulatory hurdles, DuPont has successfully harvested its first genetically modified test crops of corn in Chinese fields this autumn. Many leading players like Monsanto has retreated from its efforts to grow GM crops in China over mounting frustrations with the regulatory process.

Though China is already a large producer of GM cotton, the country has not yet approved commercial cultivation of GM corn. With China being a lucrative market for corn, approval of genetically engineered varieties would mark a big victory for the seed maker.

However, increasing opposition by the Chinese consumers in using GM varieties of crops has forced Beijing regulators to stop approvals for GM imports.

Monsanto, who earlier conducted small field trials has now backed ahead of hostile environment. The company's "focus right now is on supporting farmers in the country through our conventional seed businesses, not on biotech cultivation efforts," said Mr Juan Ferreira, vice president of Monsanto international business.