

Norway: GMO-free today. How to keep it that way?



Aina Bartmann

Network for GMO-free food and feed

Conference of GMO-Free Regions - Berlin 7 May 2015





The network coordinates the work on behalf of 16 farmer-, environmental-, solidarity- and consumer organizations in Norway. We represent more than 1.4 million members.



Our aims

- Ensure freedom of choice for consumers and farmers
- Food production along ecologically responsible lines
- Food sovereignty for all nations, including the right to reject GMO

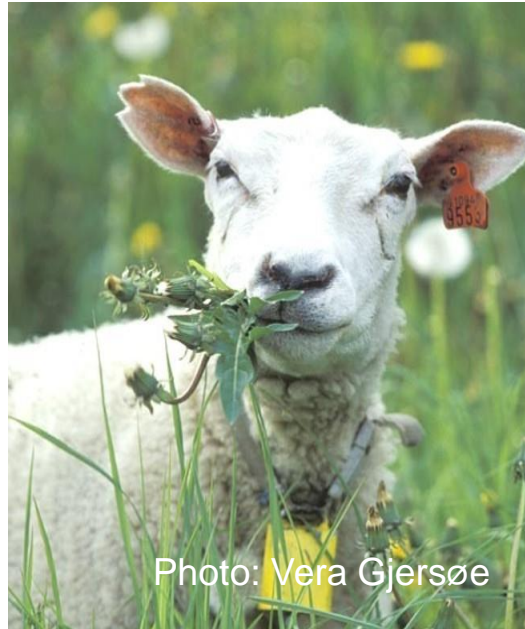
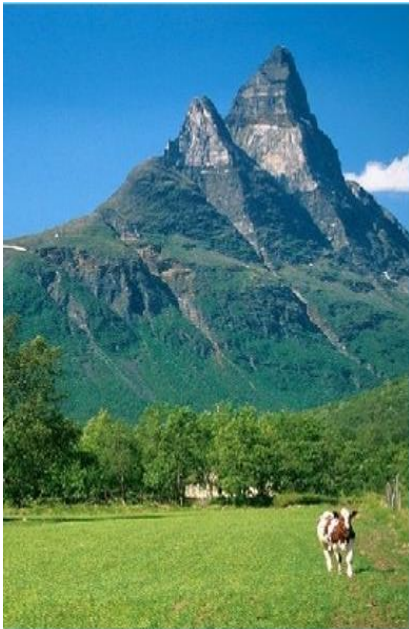


Photo: Vera Gjersøe



Photo: Audun Aagre

United and stronger

- The member organizations wanted to take a position on GMO, but lacked resources for systematic work
- Now more ongoing, targeted and consensual message
- Norway not in EU, but member of the European Economic Area (EEA). Gene Technology Act still in force





«We love The Norwegian Gene Technology Act»

....GMOs may only be approved when there is no risk of adverse effects on health or the environment. In deciding whether or not to grant an application, considerable weight shall also be given to whether the deliberate release will be of benefit to society and is likely to promote sustainable development [in the production area]

Broad-based consensus in Norway on strict GMO-policy, but still at stake



- No GMOs permitted for food or feed (only tobacco and carnations)
- Governmental support to:
 - GenØk – Centre for Biosafety
 - Biotechnology Advisory Board
 - Global Seed Vault on Svalbard (NON-GMO)
- Only reason to «give up» seems to be fear of penalty sanctions within WTO or other trade agreements
- Similar debate in many other countries

Strengthen International Alliances:


- Information sharing
- Coordinated campaigning
- If possible; joint positions on international negotiations
- Demand that UN agreements must take precedence over trade agreements (Cartagena etc)



Food production based on agro-ecological methods more efficient per hectare



Industrial farming
Monocultures
GMO



Family-based
farming based on
local, renewable
resources

The future is in our hands



Network for GMO-free food and feed Norway

E-mail: gmo@bygdekvinnelaget.no, mobile 0047 913 50 074

Norwegian links: [Gene Technology Act](#)

Biotechnology Advisory Board: <http://www.bioteknologiradet.no/english/>

GenØk- Center for Biosafety: <http://genok.com/about-genok/>