

Barry Callebaut's position on GMOs

1. Definition of Genetically modified organisms (GMOs)

Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are officially defined in EU legislation as "organisms in which the genetic material (DNA) has been altered in a way that does not occur naturally by mating or natural recombination"¹. The most common types of GMOs that have been developed and commercialised are genetically modified crop plant species, such as genetically modified maize, soybean, oilseed rape and cotton varieties. Such varieties have generally been genetically modified to provide resistance to certain insect pests and/or tolerance to herbicides. Barry Callebaut is aware of the both the ongoing debate as well as support for GMO in terms of its added value to potentially increasing food production, support of sustainable agricultures and health consequences.

The application of GMO technology is strictly regulated and the European Union has established an extensive legal framework on GMOs since the early 1990s. Barry Callebaut is following the requirements set down in the community Register of GM Food and Feed in the EU.

2. Raw materials from GMO sources

All Barry Callebaut raw materials produced in EU, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Turkey, Serbia and Russia used for the production of its food products are from a non-GMO source. In addition:

- food products from these origins fully comply with the European Regulations regarding this subject: EC/1829/2003 and EC/1830/2003 (applicable from 19/04/2004 onwards) regarding the marketing and labeling of GMO products
- fully comply with the Russian legislation, in particular CU TR N° 022/2011 on Food Labeling;

¹ Plan D, Van Den Eede G. The EU Legislation on GMOs - An Overview. EUR 24279 EN. Luxembourg (Luxembourg): Publications Office of the European Union; 2010. JRC57223. <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC57223>

- fully comply with the Turkish legislation, in particular Regulation on “Genetically Modified Organisms and Products Thereof” published on 13 August 2010
- fully comply with the Swiss legislation, in particular in Ordinance VGVL of 23 November 2005.
- fully comply with the Serbian legislation on the GMO (GMO Law "Sl. glasnik RS", br. 41/2009);
- fully comply with the British legislation on Genetically Modified Food Regulations 2004 and the Genetically Modified Organisms (Traceability and Labeling) Regulations 2004

No GMO labeling is required for our products manufactured in Europe, Russia, Serbia, Turkey, Switzerland and the United Kingdom under the above mentioned legislation.

Semi-finished cocoa products from Barry Callebaut plants in Africa are from non-GMO sources.

Barry Callebaut food products produced outside EU, Russia, Turkey, Serbia, Switzerland and United Kingdom and Russia contain ingredients like vegetable soybean oil and soy lecithin from GMO-origin, depending on the client's request.

For non-GMO soy lecithin our suppliers are able to confirm us with each delivery the non-GMO status of their soy lecithin. In addition, they have certified their complete flow of raw materials and put it either under the existing ISO quality system or under a separate certification scheme (= IP certification).

3. Informing customers of GMO sources or products

As a B2B business, we are committed to providing information on product ingredients to our customers, including for the ingredients derived from GMOs in the raw material products we source worldwide. With regards to labelling of 'non-GMO' claims, we adhere to the regulations and certification bodies where products are produced.