



# Unshackling Innovation

## Will Europe block or enable GM crops?

**27 September (9:30 – 12:45), European Parliament (room PHS 7C50), Brussels**

Europe helped invent agricultural biotechnology, but has done more than anyone else to thwart genetically modified (GM) crops. Will Europe's cold shoulder prevent urgent agricultural modernisation in developing countries? Will Europe's scientists ever see their innovations take root? What can Europe learn from other countries' experiences? How can science reclaim its seat at the table?

### 9.00 Welcome Coffee

### 9.30 Opening Remarks – Anthea McIntyre, MEP

- Em. Prof. Marc Van Montagu, PRRI,
- Beat Spath, EuropaBio
- Ed Bray, Moderator

### 9.50 Agricultural Innovation & GM technology

Why does agricultural innovation matter, and why does it matter for Europe? What about public research: will farmers ever be allowed to grow its GM plants?

**Key note address: Sir Richard Roberts**, Nobel Laureate and Signatory of the 100+ Nobel Laureates Letter Supporting Precision Agriculture and GMOs: "How Europe can help responsible innovation in the developing world"

#### Round table discussion followed by Q&A

- **Barend Verachtert**, DG Research and Innovation- Unit of Biotechnologies
- **Em. Prof. Marc Van Montagu**, PRRI,
- **Pekka Pesonen**, Copa Cogeca
- **Dr. Filip Cnudde** Dow AgroSciences
- **Sir Richard Roberts**
- **Lambert van Nistelrooij**, MEP

### 11.10 Farmers' choice around the world

How can GM crops help to achieve food security and sustainable development? Do GMO authorization systems in 3<sup>rd</sup> countries enable farmers to access GM crops from public research? What can Europe learn from the world?

#### Key note address: Dr. Claude Fauquet

Director of the global Cassava partnership "Improving food security for poor farmers"

#### Round table discussion followed by Q&A

- **James Higgiston**, Minister-Counselor for Agricultural Affairs, U.S. Mission to the EU
- **Prof. Diran Makinde**, African Biosafety Network of Expertise (ABNE)
- **Dr. Mahaletchumy Arujanan** PhD, Malaysian Biotechnology Information Centre (MABIC)
- **Dr. Claude Fauquet**
- **Esther Herranz Garcia**, MEP (tbc)

### 12.30 Closing Remarks

**Summary of the main points of discussion:** Ed Bray

**Closing remarks - Dr. Nevena Alexandrova**, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia: "Reflection on the discussion in the light of agricultural innovation systems & knowledge sharing & the FAO 2016 International Symposium on Agri Biotechnologies."

### 12.45 Lunch