

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## Germany

**Post:** Berlin

### Parliamentary Question Reveals Support for GE Crops

**Report Categories:**

Biotechnology - GE Plants and Animals

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**Report Highlights:**

The German government recently responded to a parliamentary enquiry regarding the promotion of genetically engineered (GE) crops in the context of foreign aid. While Germany does not support the use of GE technologies in developing countries, nor are GE crops allowed to be cultivated in Germany, the government did recognize the positive role GE technology can play in addressing global food security. In the context of Germany's anti-biotech political environment, it is noteworthy that this would be highlighted.

The German government recently answered a parliamentary enquiry (called in German, 'Kleine Anfrage) by the Left Party about the use of biotechnology to fight against famine. Following is an unofficial translation of a press release by the Federal Government of Germany:

“No promotion of genetically modified crops in the context of development cooperation

The use of genetically modified (GM) crops, according to the federal government, isn't currently part of Germany's bilateral or multilateral development cooperation. As the Federal Government in its reply ([17/10714](#)) to an inquiry by the group of The Left ([17/10555](#)) further informs, partnerships are not build in the context of development cooperation which create specifically markets for GM crops in their framework , nor is the Green Biotechnology which is dominated by the private sector, promoted. Related to agricultural biotechnology, the primary objective of the Federal Government is the protection of people and the environment. However, the government declared that the acceptable potential (of Green Biotechnology) should be utilized. According to the Federal Government, “All options and therefore all acceptable technological possibilities should be taken into account to meet the challenge of having to feed nine billion people in 2050.”

#### Background information

A "Kleine Anfrage" is a question posed by a party in Parliament that must be answered by the German Federal government. It is one oversight tool used by Parliament to better understand or to highlight particular government policies.

This particular parliamentary enquiry was made by members of the leftist party (die Linke), which currently only has a 6 percent level of popular support. The 14 part question was critical of organizations and companies and associated with bringing new agricultural technologies to developing countries and had anti-capitalist undertones.

For further information, click [here](#) for a complete USDA/FAS report on Germany policies toward GE crops.