

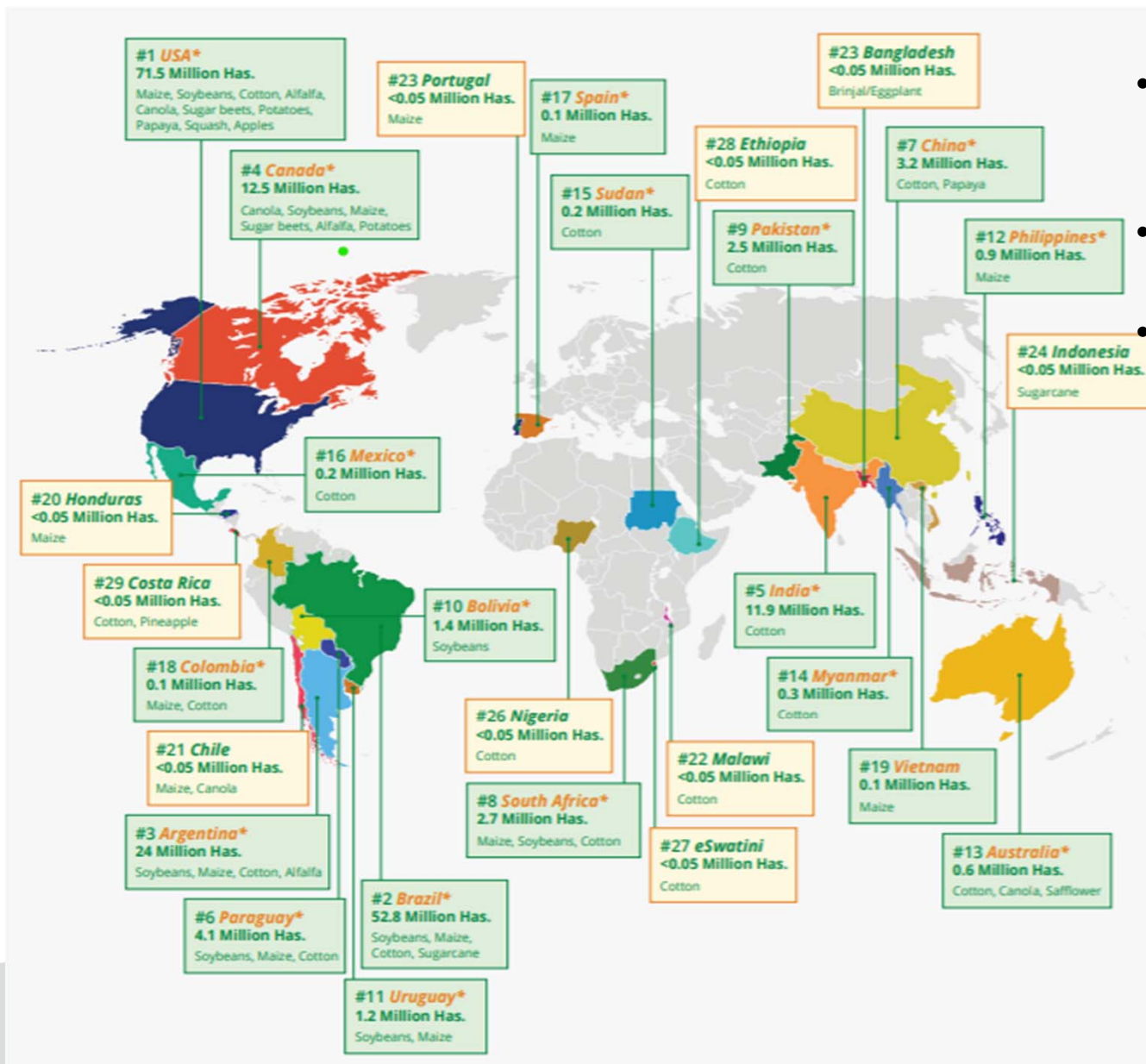


# ***Sustainable agriculture: Challenges and opportunities of plant biotechnology in Europe***

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**CropLife Europe Conference – Sustainable solutions to protect crops  
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# Global Picture – GM cultivation



- 190 million ha grown worldwide
- 29 countries
- 2 EU countries with 111,000 ha

Source: ISAAA, 2019

- GHG emissions (> 15 million cars) ↓
- Environmental benefits ↑
- Yield ↑
- Farmers' income ↑

Source: Brookes (2018)

# Importing instead

- **EU dependence on proteins for feed**
- **Limited availability of GM-labeled food in EU supermarkets**
- **> 70 approved GM products for import in EU**
- **48 GM import applications pending**
- **Mainly maize, soybean, oilseed rape**



# GM imports for food and feed use



## Risk assessment by EFSA

- Taking longer than rest of the world (4-5 years)
- New EU Transparency rules
- Despite long safety track record, continuing increase in data requirements and updated guidance
- 34 relevant EFSA guidance documents (ca 3000 pp)
- Retroactive application of new requirements
- Some scientifically unjustified requirements
- Clock is stopped 10-20 times on average per application
- Big hurdle for new applicants

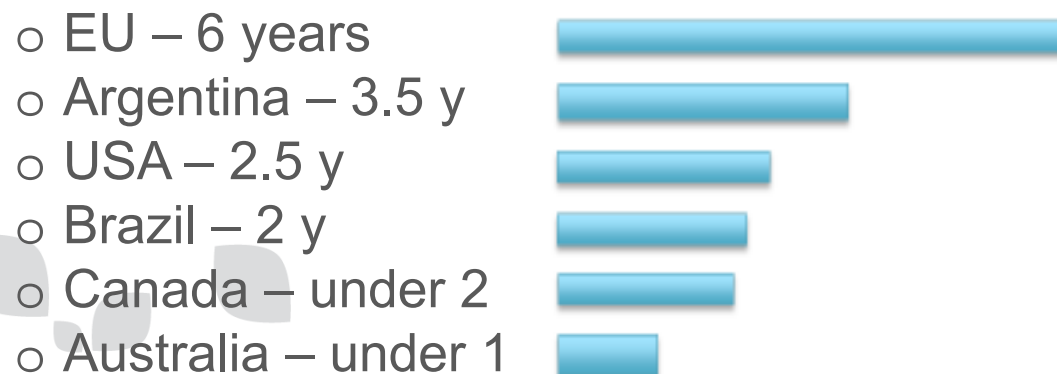


# GM imports for food and feed use



## ■ Risk management by Commission & Member States

- 1 year on average until final EU approval
- Frequent cancellations of Standing Committee meetings
- No qualified majority outcome in Member State votes, political reasons
- GMO approval timelines in global comparison



# What else is on our radar?

- **Green Deal / Farm 2 Fork**
- **New Commission initiative - Incorporation of sustainability criteria**
- **Plant Breeding innovation including gene editing**
  - Enormous potential, complementary with transgenic technology
  - Discussion at EU level since 2007
  - EU policy change urgently needed to keep EU agriculture competitive
  - Will be critical to keep innovation in the EU and equip farmers to help meet Green Deal's objectives

