

## Overall information on GMOs in the Czech Republic in 2025

### Legislative framework

The Act 78/2004 Coll., on the Use of Genetically Modified Organisms and Genetic Products transposes two EU Directives 2001/18/EC and 2009/41/EC, covering thus all three types of GMO use: 1) the contained use, 2) deliberate release into the environment for any other purpose than placing on the market and 3) placing on the market of GMOs as or in products. Besides above mentioned EU legislation, the Act also transposes EU Directive 2015/412 providing the possibility for EU member states to restrict or prohibit the cultivation of GMOs. However, the Czech Republic has not imposed any ban on GM crops, yet.

#### 1. Contained use

About 120 premises have been authorised for the contained use of GMOs in the Czech Republic. These facilities are classified as class 1 and/or class 2 contained use, 4 institutions are in class 3. The GMOs used are mostly microorganisms, cell lines and laboratory animals.

#### 2. Deliberate release into the environment

##### a) Field trials

In the growing season **2025**, only tree field trials with GM plants for research purposes are conducted:

1. Plum trees with a modification conferring virus-resistance (resistance to plum pox), notified by the Crop Research Institute;
2. Spring barley producing LL-37 peptide, notified by Usovsko ltd
3. Spring barley with shortened internodes, notified by The Institute of Experimental Botany of the Czech Academy of Sciences

The total area of the field trials (without buffer zones) is ca **3805 m<sup>2</sup>** in 2025.

##### b) Clinical trials with medicinal products containing GMOs

As of October 2023, 10 different clinical trials with medicinal products containing GMOs are conducted in 12 hospitals:

- **Idecabtagene Vicleucel**: University Hospital Brno, University Hospital Hradec Králové, University Hospital Olomouc, Institute of Hematology and Blood Transfusion, General University Hospital in Prague;
- **Ciltacabtagene Autoleucel/JNJ-68284528**: University Hospital Brno, University Hospital Hradec Králové, University Hospital Ostrava, Institute of Hematology and Blood Transfusion, General University Hospital in Prague, University Hospital Pilsen;
- **Tecartus**: University Hospital Brno, Institute of Hematology and Blood Transfusion, General University Hospital in Prague;

- **Tisagenlecleucel/Kymriah**: University Hospital Ostrava;
- **MB-CART2019.1**: University Hospital Hradec Králové, University Hospital Olomouc, University Hospital Ostrava, Institute of Hematology and Blood Transfusion, General University Hospital in Prague;
- **CAR123**: Institute of Hematology and Blood Transfusion;
- **Rapcabtagene autoleucel/YTB323**: University Hospital Olomouc, Institute of Hematology and Blood Transfusion;
- **BMS 986393**: University Hospital Brno, University Hospital Ostrava, Institute of Hematology and Blood Transfusion, General University Hospital in Prague;
- **BMS 986515**: Institute of Hematology and Blood Transfusion;
- **Nadofaragene Firadenovec**: Motol University Hospital, Thomayer University Hospital, Androgeos, The Liberec Regional Hospital a Kroměříž Hospital;

### Commercial cultivation

The only GM crop authorised for commercial cultivation in the European Union is maize **MON810**. Although the Czech Republic has not imposed any ban, no MON810 has been grown in its territory since 2017. The main reason is that growers have been facing problems with placing their products on the market, including meat and milk from livestock fed by GMmaize.

### New Plant Breeding Techniques / New Gene Techniques

In the Czech Republic, new genomic techniques (NGT) have so far been applied in the contained use only, mostly for basic research. The ongoing projects use the techniques CRISPR-Cas or TALEN. These techniques have been regulated in the same way as GMOs. The European Court of Justice (ECJ) in its ruling from July 2018 endorsed this approach.

(ref.<http://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?docid=204387&text=&dir=&doclang=EN&part=1&occ=first&mode=DOC&pageIndex=0&cid=1409608> )

A new proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on plants obtained by certain NGT and their food and feed, and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/ was issued by the European Commission in July 2023 and it is being heavily discussed at the EU level. In this regulatory proposal, the procedures for deliberate release and marketing have been designed to consider different risk profiles of plants obtained by NGT. Specifically, it is proposed that plants obtained by targeted mutagenesis or cisgenesis, which may also occur naturally or be produced by conventional breeding (so-called Category 1 NGT plants), would be treated similarly to conventional plants. A register would be set up to ensure transparency. All NGT plants that do not fall under the first case are called 'Category 2 NGT plants' and fall under GMO legislation, therefore an authorisation process for their deliberate release into the environment as well as placing on the market would be required.

Plants from both categories were proposed to be prohibited in organic farming.

#### Information for the Public

Information on legislation, registers of authorised users and GMOs and various guidelines are made available on the website of the Ministry of the Environment at the addresses [www.mzp.gov.cz](http://www.mzp.gov.cz).

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Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic  
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