

# 7<sup>^</sup> GMO-free European Regions Conference

*Urbino - 18 giugno 2009*

*The voluntary agreement in the Marche Region*

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## August 2003: GMO Emergency

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- ❑ Destroyed over 1,200 quintals of corn;
- ❑ Other quantities of maize distressed by the National Corps of Forest Rangers;
- ❑ Disorientated farmers;



REGION of MARCHE  
intervenues

# ... the seizure of a corn field.....

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.....the collection before thermal-destruction.....

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## ... the National Corps of Forest Rangers carries out controls .....



# ... the farmer's dismay.....

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## What the Region Marche has done:

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- established the " OPERATING CORE ON Prevention and intervention ON GMOs" (DGR 1265/03)
- approved the "Global Plan of Activity necessary for THE PREVENTION and the CONTRAST intervention regarding GMOs the (years 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007.2008, 2009)
- approved the "Regional Law Nr 5, of 3 March 2004, (BURMA Nr. <23, 11/03/2004) on "Rules on protection of agricultural crops, typical, quality and biological."

# The Operating Core

Region of Marche: Service of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing;  
Service of Environment  
Service of Law  
  
P.F. Veterinary and Food Safety  
+ academic experts

**NATIONAL CORPS OF FOREST RANGERS**

**EXPERIMENTAL INSTITUTE of ZOOPROPHYLAXIS of UMBRIA  
and MARCHE**

**CENTRAL INSPECTORATE of QUALITY  
Office management of ANCONA**

**ASSAM**

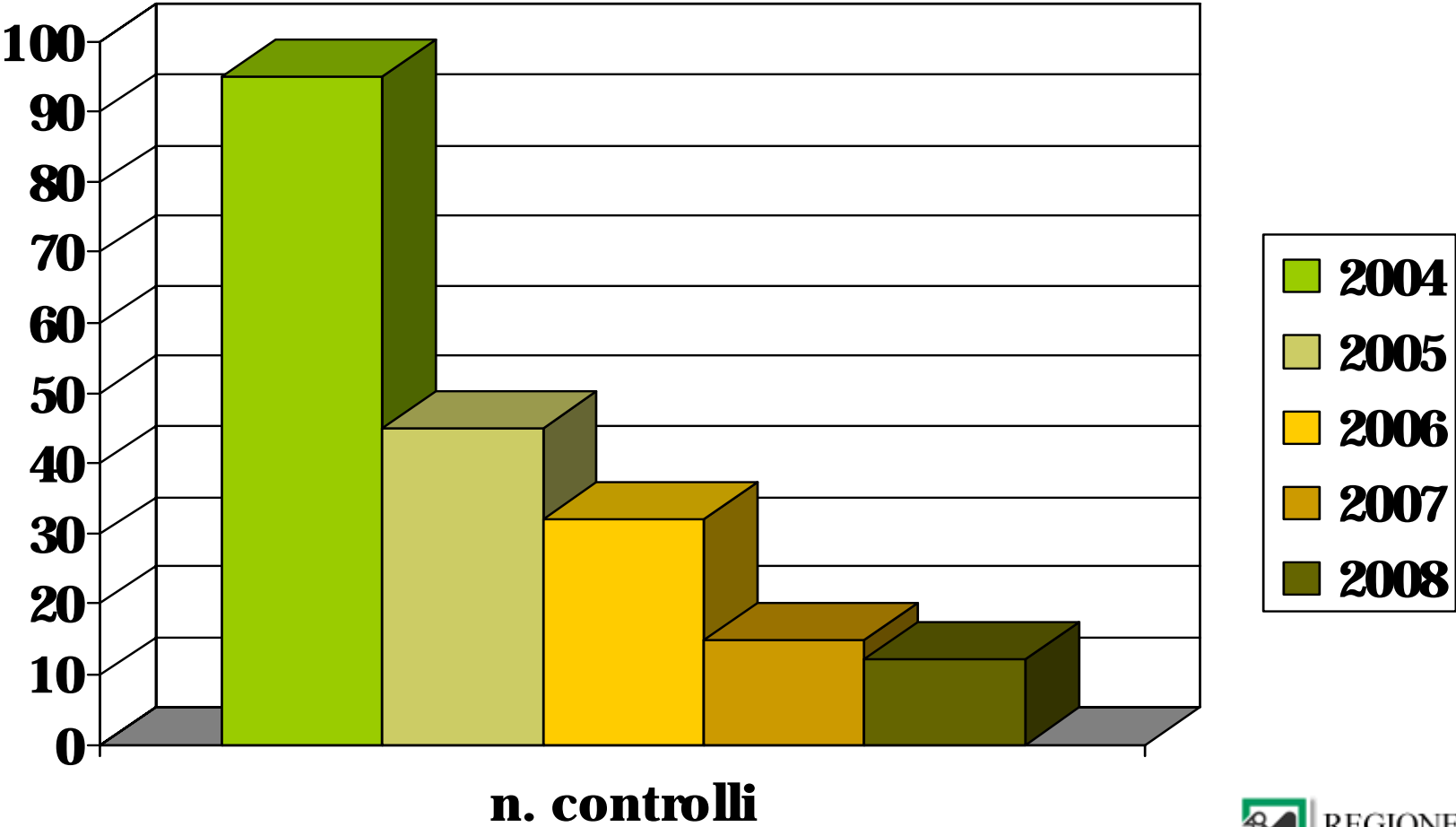


- ✓ Control of seed corn and soybeans for the presence of GMOs

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- ✓ Annual monitoring food animals (maize and soybeans)
- ✓ Monitoring program on the presence of GMOs in maize production systems (I.Z.S.U.M.)
- ✓ Information and communication (booklet "GMOs: opportunity or risk?")

# CONTROLS CARRIED OUT ON SEED CORN for NOT CONTROLLED BY MIPAAF



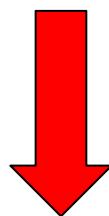
November, 27<sup>th</sup> 2008: the Municipality of Urbino convenes a meeting to create a GMO-free area in order to maintain the organic production chain, through voluntary agreements amongst farmers

- **The need to establish regional arrangements for the institution of voluntary agreements among farmers emerges;**
- **With the Decision of the Regional Government of Marche of 15 June 2009, the “Regional Ruling for the creation of voluntary agreements amongst farmers working in dedicated areas in no-transgenic production chain;**

# The legal basis..... :

## ➤ Regulatory framework not very well-defined;

- EU Commission Recommendation Nr 2003/556/EC is not compulsory;
- 2006 Law of Portugal is an example not adaptable to the situation of the Region of Marche;
- Decision of EU Council of Environment Nr 16882/08 notes the possibility to create GMO-free areas on the basis of voluntary agreements;
- Sapid LIFE-Environment project ([www.sapidlife.org](http://www.sapidlife.org)) has highlighted some opportunities to create voluntary agreements between farmers;
- Need to respect the farmers' voluntariness
- 



It is decided for a Regional Act approving common rulings

# Regional Rules (1):

1. Application only for NO GMO crops
2. Definition of “Free Area” not cultivated with GMOs for farmers’ voluntary decision
3. Procedures for the creation of free areas:
  - Municipal administration subscribes agreement with the farmers’ representative of organizations in the area
  - Approval by the City Council and large publication
  - Expressions of dissent evaluated with the regional operating core that, if it is the case, proposes the final approval to the Service of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries of the Marche Region
  - in the case of numerous municipalities a Municipal Administration will be appointed as a leader.

## Regional Rules (2):

### 4. Size and specifications:

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- at least 3,000 hectares;
- referring to genetically modified crops approved by the EU (case-by-case approach) that are not wanted to be voluntarily cultivate ([http://ec.europa.eu/food/dyna/gm\\_register](http://ec.europa.eu/food/dyna/gm_register));

5. Public communication of final decisions on Regional Official Gazette and site [www.agri.marche.it](http://www.agri.marche.it);

6. Duration of approval: 5 years – renewable;

7. Obligation of communication of changes to the Service of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries;

## Regional Rules (3):

8. Renewal on request and subject to further inquiry carried out by the Region of Marche;
9. Expiry of creation of GMO-free area in the following cases:
  - a) Non-submission of the request for renewal or non acceptance
  - b) all applicants have placed a request for cancellation;
10. Supervision carried out by the Service of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (Marche Region) - Operating Core for the prevention and intervention on GMOs.

# Our Strategy to counter GMOs:

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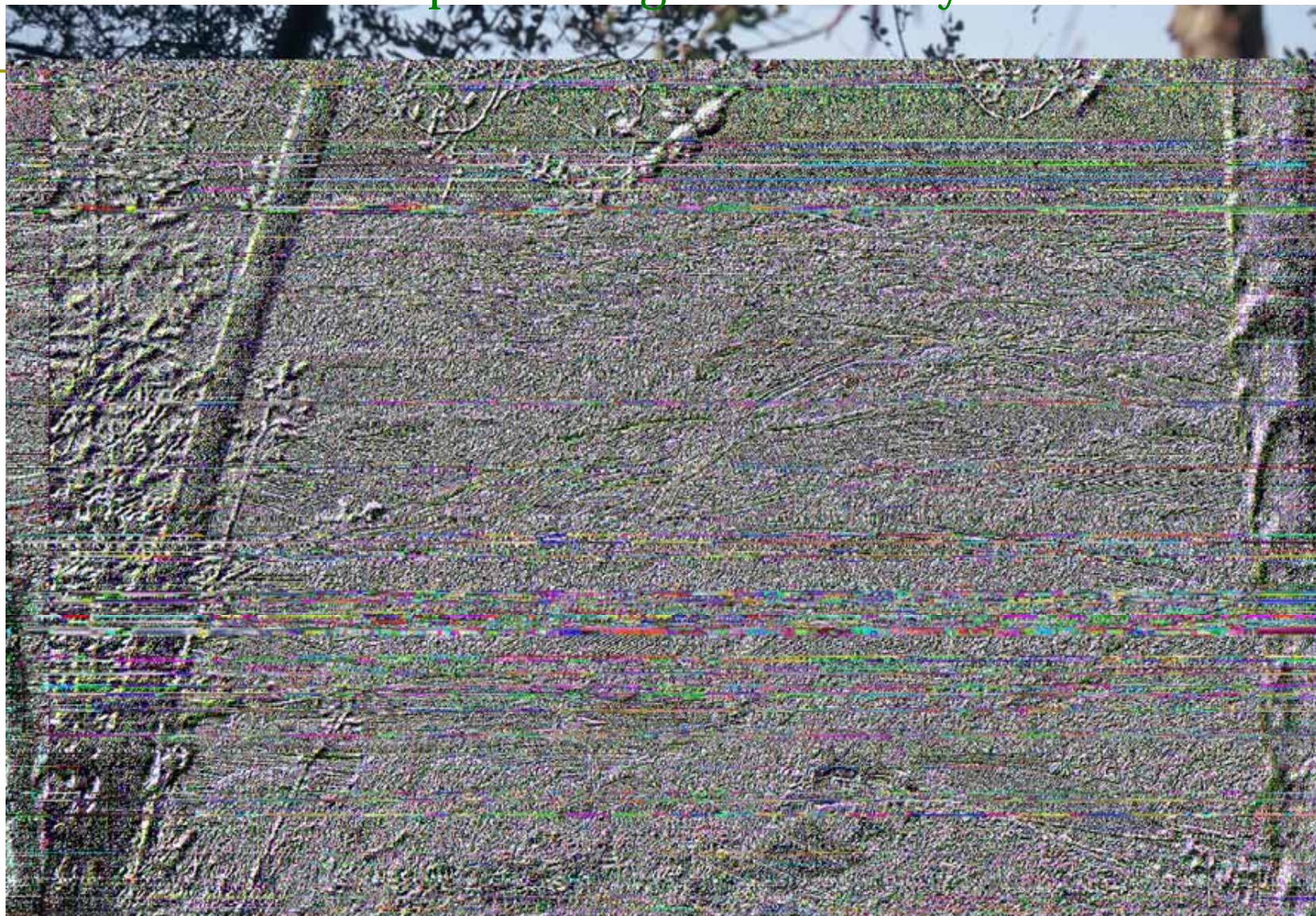


European  
**GMO-Free**  
Regions  
NETWORK

- ❑ PREVENTION AND CONTROLS
- ❑ INFORMATIONS  
[www.agri.marche.it/ogm](http://www.agri.marche.it/ogm)
- ❑ REGIONAL RULINGS AND COLLABORATION
- ❑ Active Particopation at national, European and Extra-european



# REGION of MARCHE GOALS : preserving our territory



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION**



**[www.agri.marche.it/OGM](http://www.agri.marche.it/OGM)**