In an interconnected global economy, food security relies on the ability of agricultural products to move efficiently between producers and consumers. Delays in import approvals on the part of just one trading partner – including delays in innovations reaching the marketplace – can have significant repercussions all around the world, to the detriment of farmers, consumers, the global economy, and the planet’s environment.

Good regulatory practices are important...

- By adopting sound, predictable regulatory policies, governments can work together to support and achieve mutual progress towards Sustainable Development Goals.
- Timely, science-based regulatory practices – including those regarding biotech import approvals – are critical in ensuring grower access to essential new innovations.

...to enable delivery of innovation to the marketplace.

- By adopting new technologies and innovations, governments can meet the responsibility of working together toward food and nutrition security, economic growth, and sustainable practices.
- A robust pipeline of products is critical to improving national and global food security. Making innovations available to growers enables higher production under increasing environmental constraints, including climate change.

What are the consequences of delayed import approvals?

- Impeding global initiatives to improve food and nutrition security
- Stalling economic progress and new jobs in farming communities
- Holding back the adoption of more environmentally sound practices

Benefits to exporters

- Economic gains
- Additional job creation
- Potential reduced deforestation and enhanced environmental sustainability
- Indirect benefits including growth in the agricultural and supporting industries

Benefits to importers

- Increased and diversified availability of food/feed crops for a more safe and stable food supply
- Increased consumer choice
- Reduced food prices in some geographies

Benefits to farmers

- Farm income growth and job creation
- Adoption of biotech seeds that are more productive in climate change conditions
- Fewer natural resources required for cultivation
Significant global impact of delayed import approvals in China

Delays in China’s import approvals have had a significant impact on its major agricultural trading partners that cultivate biotech crops. As summarized below, Informa recently conducted an analysis of resulting economic hardships that major cultivators have experienced over the past five years, and also projected the significant value to be unlocked with timelier and more predictable biotech import approvals from China.

### IMPACTS FOR MAJOR CULTIVATORS AROUND THE WORLD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IMPACT</th>
<th>ESTIMATED LOSSES</th>
<th>POTENTIAL VALUE TO GAIN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farm income</td>
<td>Was restricted by $8 billion</td>
<td>Could increase by over $9 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job creation and support</td>
<td>More than 120,000 potential jobs were prevented</td>
<td>Nearly 100,000 jobs could be made possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wage growth</td>
<td>Over $6 billion was prevented</td>
<td>Could increase by nearly $6.3 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential economic output</td>
<td>Was reduced by nearly $11 billion</td>
<td>Could increase potential GDP by nearly $12.5 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential business sales</td>
<td>Was reduced by nearly $22 billion</td>
<td>Could increase by nearly $24 billion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

China’s Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) could easily adopt several measures that would streamline the biotech import approvals and unlock new economic and growth opportunities for importing and exporting countries alike.

- **Allowances for exemptions**: MOA enables applicants to seek exemptions from in-country study requirements, based on familiarity and substantial equivalence to the conventional counterpart in other countries.
- **Defining scope of in-country studies**: If an additional in-country study has to be conducted, the type of study shall be determined based on the risk related to intended use, and only studies that can give additional safety information shall be requested.
- **Addressing biosafety concerns**: MOA provides feedback and approval within 20 days of a National Biosafety Committee (NBC) recommendation. All technical questions and requests related to safety and intended use must be raised at the first NBC meeting.
- **Earlier risk assessment process**: MOA accepts and begins the risk assessment process prior to an approval in exporting countries.

Assess the full Informa report: The Impact of Delays in Chinese Approvals of Biotech Crops