



NORWAY

The Scandinavian nation becomes the first country to use next-generation sequencing in its national healthcare system. The Norwegian Cancer Genomics Consortium will sequence tumor genomes of 1,000 patients in the hope of identifying which cancer treatments will be most effective.



THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Plans for a new research center near Prague, focused on new drug development, tissue engineering and diagnostics, are revealed. The center will employ 600 people and plans call for \$120 million in EU funds. Construction should start by year end and will take two years to finish.



BRAZIL

For the third year in a row, Brazil leads the world in the adoption of biotech crops, with a 19% increase in the area planted. According to a ISAAA report, adoption of GM crops grew 8% compared to 2010 to reach 160 million hectares in 2011.



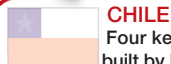
KENYA

The government sets up a regulatory authority and pushes to enact a biosafety law in preparation for the commercial adoption of biotech crops within five years, according to a report released by the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA).



PERU

An ethanol plant run by Maple Energy is slated to open in the first quarter. A portion of the sugar cane-derived ethanol will be sold to local fuel providers and the rest exported to the US and Europe.



CHILE

Four kelp farms off the coast of Chile have been built by US company Bio Architecture Lab to provide the biomass for biofuel production. The brown seaweed can yield twice as much ethanol as sugar cane using a microbe developed by researchers in Chile, France and the US (see p. 251).