



MONTHLY BULLETIN
ON GENETIC ENGINEERING
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NATIONAL

GM crops not a priority!

GM Education, May 29, 2014

<http://www.gmeducation.org/latest-news/p217731-india-to-return-gmo-crops-to-thebackburner.html>

India's new government halts predecessor's pro-GM push

The newly elected Indian government will take a cautious approach to genetically engineered cropping. GM crops "will not be a priority for the new government", the new Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh said on taking office this week.

"Only if absolutely necessary can genetically modified crops be looked at,"



It is unclear at the moment whether this means [the outgoing government's push for GMO](#) crop field trials will be abandoned. The Indian Supreme Court has asked the government to submit an affidavit on its Technical Expert Committee's recommendation for a moratorium on commercial field trials.

New action plan on food security

Times of India, May 27, 2014, Laxmi Ajai Prasanna

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/thiruvananthapuram/Food-security-experts-to-submit-action-plan-to-new-NDA-govt/articleshow/35629081.cms>

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Setting an agenda for food security with focus on toxic chemicals-free organic farming, noted trade and food security experts led by Vandana Shiva and Devinder Sharma are on a mission to prepare a comprehensive action plan on food security, which will be presented to the new government at the Centre.

"We must have a national mission to grow more food. When every fourth Indian is hungry and every second child is malnourished, we have a major food and nutrition crisis. Growing more of Monsanto's Bt Cotton or hybrid corn is not a solution to hunger," said Vandana Shiva.

GMOs' fate hangs on India & China!

Organic and Non-GMO Report, May 2014, By Ken Roseboro

http://www.organicconsumers.org/articles/article_29918.cfm

- Two populous nations could determine future of GMOs

A 2013 GlobeScan public opinion survey found that 46% of people across 10 countries (China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, Turkey,

the U.K. and the US) say that GM crops pose a “very serious” issue.



Overall concern levels across the nations that GlobeScan consistently has polled have risen a modest five percentage points since 2003. But in India, the number of consumers now describing GM crops as a very serious issue is up 13 points to 47% since 2011. In China, the same measure is up five points to 40%. When we combine those who call GM crops a “somewhat serious” issue with those who describe it as “very serious,” the rise in concern is much starker in both countries. The fact that China and India are home to roughly 2.5 billion people and are major drivers of the global food system on both the demand and supply side is why this is important now. Consumer and producer sentiment in India and China is likely to influence the trajectory of agricultural biotech.

Activists, farmers protest GM seeds

Times of India, May 25, 2014,
<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/madurai/Activists-farmers-protest-genetically-modified-seeds/articleshow/35571787.cms>

MADURAI: A group of activists, farmers, students and scientists staged a protest against Monsanto — leading producer of genetically engineered seeds and Genetically Manufactured Organism (GMO) on Saturday. The protest included a discussion session by scholars and scientists and a march from Tallakulam to the Collectorate with the intention of sensitising the public about the harm of genetically engineered seeds.

Sankar Narayanan, a city based activist who convened the protest meeting said that it was a global protest against Monsanto and GMO held on Saturday in 50 countries. In Tamil Nadu, the protest was held in Chennai, Coimbatore, Erode, Trichy and Madurai. "Mansanto is the largest pesticide producer now into seed business. They will wipe out local farming practices and conventional seed banks with the intension of creating monopoly in seed production," he said. G Velmurugan, a research scholar from Madurai Kamaraj University carrying out his research on pesticides said that he realised the danger of GMO after he started his study. "The protest against Monsanto was taken up last year also and the renowned organic farming champion Nammalvar was with us then," he recalled.

GLOBAL

Global march against Monsanto

<http://www.march-against-monsanto.com/>



On May 24, 2014 hundreds of thousands of activists from around the world joined in the third global March Against Monsanto, calling for the permanent boycott of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and harmful agro-chemicals. Marchers advocated food transparency, an end to corporate food corruption, and a transition to local, organic and sustainable agriculture. The marches took place on six continents in over 50 countries, with events in over 420 cities. In the US, marches were held in 47 states. A comprehensive list of marches can be accessed at www.march-against-monsanto.com.

Tami Monroe Canal, founder of March Against Monsanto (MAM), was inspired to start the movement to protect her two daughters.

“Monsanto’s predatory business and corporate agricultural practices threatens their generation’s health, fertility and longevity. MAM supports a sustainable food production system. We must act now to stop GMOs and harmful pesticides.”...

In India, more than 250,000 farmers have committed suicide after Monsanto's Bt cotton seeds did not perform as promised. Farmers, left in desperate poverty, are opting to free their families of debt by drinking Monsanto pesticide, thereby ending their lives. Many farmers in other countries are also stripped of their livelihood as a result of false promises, seed patenting and meticulous legal action on the part of Monsanto and other big-ag interests. In many parts of Africa, farmers and their communities are left to choose between starving or eating GMOs.



Call to stop spread of GMOs

Coalition calls for the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to take action

Testbiotech and others, May 16, 2014

<http://stop-the-spread-of-transgenes.org/?q=node/21>

Today sees the start of an international call by a broad coalition of organisations to stop the spread of genetically engineered organisms into the environment. The initiative says that binding regulations must be implemented to prevent the

release of genetically engineered plants that can persist and invade the environment or lead to transgene flow into native populations or local varieties at centres of origin and of genetic diversity. The organisations will be approaching the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and encouraging them to become actively involved. The CBD, under its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, requests that effective measures are taken to protect biodiversity and prevent unintended transboundary movements of genetically engineered organisms.

The call is supported by Asociandote a Ecologistas en Accion (Spain) Econexus, Ecoropa, ETC Group, European Network of Scientists for Social and Environmental Responsibility (ENSSER), Friends of the Earth, Europe (FOE), Gene-ethical Network (Germany), Greenpeace International, Red de Semillas (Spain), Testbiotech (Germany), the Third World Network and the Union de Cientificos Comprometidos con la Sociedad, UCCS (Mexico) and others. Further supporters will be asked to join...



The organisations signing up to the call are aiming to mobilise further support from civil society and will bring the issue to the meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Convention on Biological Diversity, in September/October 2014 in South Korea.



GMOs as good as terrorist acts!

Voice of Russia, May 15, 2014

http://voiceofrussia.com/news/2014_05_15/GMO-related-activities-to-be-considered-as-terrorist-acts-in-Russia-9062/

Russian lawmakers want to equate GMO-related activities that may harm human health or even cause death to terrorist acts and impose criminal liability on producers, sellers and transporters of genetically modified organisms, the newspaper Izvestia writes in its Thursday issue. A bill to this effect was submitted to the Russian State Duma lower parliament house by the Duma agrarian committee and the Liberal Democratic Party

(LDPR) faction, who claimed that the government's bill referred to parliament was too mild.

The bill's initiators say liability for GMO-inflicted harm should be expanded to state and local self-government officials. Under the bill, criminal responsibility should be applicable to companies and government officials only, while individuals should be subject to disciplinary liability. The bill also provides for fines for concealing or deliberate distortion of information about environmental impacts of GMOs.

Also Read:

GMO producers should be punished as terrorists, Russian MPs say

Russia Today, May 15, 2014

<http://rt.com/news/159188-russia-gmo-terrorist-bill/>

“When a terrorist act is committed, only several people are usually hurt. But GMOs may hurt dozens and hundreds. The consequences are much worse. And punishment should be proportionate to the crime,” co-author Kirill Cherkasov, member of the State Duma Agriculture Committee told RT.



Russian anti-GMO activists raise funds for "first-ever" independent int'l research

Russia Today, May 17, 2014

<http://rt.com/news/159580-russia-anti-gmo-activists/>

As Russian MPs ponder over a draft bill that could see GMOs outlawed, the country's chief genetic safety activist tells RT she is skeptical about the legislative initiative and urges "long-overdue" independent international research. GMO production and distribution is likened to terrorism by the authors of a draft bill submitted to the Russian parliament earlier this week. It's not the first comparison of the kind, according to Elena Sharoykina, director of the Genetic Safety Public Association (GSPA), a 10-year-old NGO in Moscow, Russia's major campaigner for GM-free food and agriculture.

In an interview to RT, Sharoykina recalled a statement made by the NATO Committee on the Challenges to Modern Society in the Belgian city of Liege in 2004, in which it warned that GMOs may be used as a genetic weapon. "If serious international experts on security who have close ties with the scientific community say this is possible then there's no smoke without fire," Sharoykina said.

A draft law submitted to the Russian parliament seeks to impose punishment up to criminal prosecution to producers of genetically-modified organisms harmful to health or the environment.

The draft legislation submitted on Wednesday amends Russia's law regulating GMOs and some other laws and provides for disciplinary action against individuals and firms, which produce or distribute harmful biotech products and government officials who fail to properly control them.

Spinning a consensus on GMOs!

Food & Water Watch blog, May 12, 2014, by Tim Schwab

<http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/blogs/spinning-a-consensus-on-gmos/>



Journalist Keith Kloor, always a busy beaver advancing the biotech industry's agenda, linked to Food & Water Watch in a recent blog, portraying us as part of the "GMO Fear Train" that's going off the tracks. His post centered on New York Times' writer Mark Bittman's recent statement that GMOs are "probably harmless," a stance Food & Water Watch criticized last week as hollow and shortsighted.

But to Kloor, Bittman's article was evidence that even mainstream foodies are accepting the "scientific consensus" regarding the safety and so-called merits of GMOs. Unfortunately, Kloor appears confused about the meaning of the word "consensus."

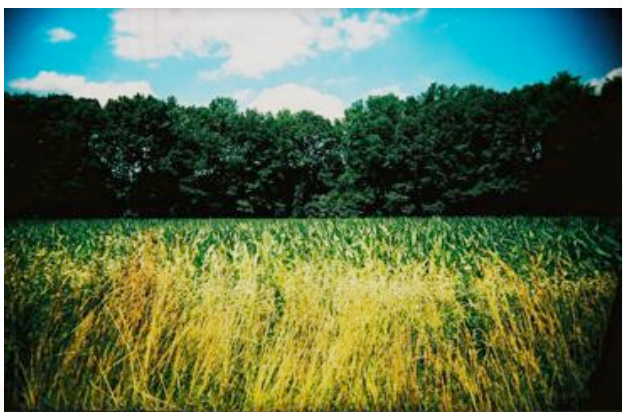
Parroting industry talking points, Kloor asserts that a consensus on GMOs exists by linking to the website of "futurist" Ramez Naam, which points to a variety of scientific groups that say a lot of different things about GMOs — that they are safe, or not unsafe, or haven't been shown to be unsafe, or shouldn't be labeled.

France bans GM corn!

Greenfudge.org, May 15th, 2014

<http://www.greenfudge.org/2014/05/15/french-parliament-definitively-bans-growing-gmo-corn/>

The French senate has voted to ban the growing of transgenic corn, reports *L'Express*. The legislation now forbids the famous MON108 corn as well, which is the only authorized GMO corn in the European Union. From now on, no genetically modified corn can be grown in France, according to the decision of French Parliament. While several governmental decrees had already banned the farming of Monsanto's *MON108* corn in French territory, the full ban on GM corn was enacted on May 5.



The secret bedfellows

Daily Mail, May 6, 2014, By Sean Poulter

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2621058/Secret-emails-reveal-ministers-plotted-GM-lobbyists-Documents-two-worked-campaign-win-sceptical-consumers.html>

Collusion between the Government and the multinational firms behind genetically modified food is revealed in official documents.

Emails between civil servants and the GM industry show how the two worked together on a media strategy to win over consumers sceptical about so-called Frankenstein Food.

One official even asked lobbyists for "eye-catching themes" for ministers.

The contacts were part of a wider strategy designed to relax European regulations on growing the controversial crops and spend millions of taxpayers' money on GM research in British fields...

Cosy dealings with the biotech giants

FEBRUARY 8, 2013 Email from Monsanto to the GM team at Defra refers to many supermarkets banning farmers giving their animals GM feed. Two months later, Tesco, Co-op, Marks & Spencer and Sainsbury announced an end to the GM feed ban.

APRIL 15 Email from the Agriculture and Biotechnology Council (ABC), which speaks for the GM industry, to Defra, headed 'ABC Messages on media suggestions'. Three days later the Government's chief scientific adviser told the media GM crops were needed to feed the world.

JUNE 10 Tele-conference between officials in

Defra's Agri-tech Strategy and the ABC. Five days later David Cameron said Government policy on GM would move to a supportive 'pro-science' policy.

JUNE 19 The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) meets the ABC and food industry to discuss the new pro-GM Agri-tech strategy.

JULY 17 Email from BIS to ABC asking for help identifying journalists to be targeted for the release of the Agri-tech strategy and including a list of names. The ABC reply on July 19 includes the sentence: 'I ... have highlighted in red the journalists who have been negative towards biotech in the past.'

Details of the emails have been made public after Freedom of Information requests by lobby group GeneWatch, which said the public would be shocked at the level of collaboration...

Often these exchanges coincided with major announcements by ministers which shifted Government policy to support GM, despite clear opposition among consumers

Poison on the fields!

GreenMedInfo, April 29 2014

<http://www.greenmedinfo.com/blog/glyphosate-roundup-linked-cancer-lymph-tissue-new-study>



A new review on the relationship between pesticide exposure and the risk of blood cancers in the lymph glands (lymphomas) has confirmed the existence of a link with the world's most popular herbicide glyphosate (aka Roundup).

Published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health and titled, "Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma and Occupational Exposure to Agricultural Pesticide Chemical Groups and Active Ingredients: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis," the paper focused on systematic

reviews and a series of meta-analysis of almost 30 years worth of epidemiological research on the relationship between non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) and occupational exposure to 80 agricultural pesticide active ingredients and 21 chemical groups. The review focused on 44 papers, all of which reported results from studies performed in high-income countries.

Also Read:

Are pesticides linked to health problems in Argentina?

BBC World Service, May 14, 2014, By Linda Pressly
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-27373134>



Could pesticides - their use and abuse - increase levels of cancer and birth defects? It is a question asked across the vast belt of Argentina where GM crops are grown. In Chaco, the Minister of Public Health wants an independent commission to investigate a growing health crisis.

Angry mothers meet U.S. EPA over concerns with Roundup herbicide

Reuters, May 27, 2014, By Carey Gillam

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/05/27/us-monsanto-roundup-epa-idUSKBN0E72IH20140527>

A group of mothers, scientists, and environmentalists met with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulators on Tuesday over concerns that residues of Roundup, the world's most popular herbicide, had been found in breast milk. The meeting near Washington D.C., followed a five-day phone call blitz of EPA offices by a group called "Moms Across America" demanding that the EPA pay attention to their demands for a recall of Roundup.

A systematic review and meta-analysis

Schinasi L, Leon ME

Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2014 Apr

23;11(4):4449-527. doi: 10.3390/ijerph110404449.

Open access:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24762670>



Fashion designer launches campaign against use of glyphosate in her local parks

Horticulture Week, May 15, 2014, by Sarah Cosgrove

<http://www.hortweek.com/news/1294591/>

Katherine Hamnett, who was awarded a CBE in 2010 for services to fashion, has launched a campaign against glyphosate use in parks in the London Borough of Hackney.

Her motivation came after she saw amenity workers spraying the herbicide in London Fields, very close to her house. She has since printed leaflets and posters warning people not to walk or picnic near the sprayed area in the wildflower meadow.

Bees Dying at an Alarming Rate: Is Glyphosate the Cause? [Video]

May 18, 2014, by Reivin Johnson

<http://guardianlv.com/2014/05/bees-dying-at-an-alarming-rate-is-glyphosate-the-cause-video/>

Bees are dying at an alarming rate, and scientists



are doing everything they can to figure out if the main ingredient in Roundup®, glyphosate, is the cause. Monsanto's most successful product is its Roundup Ready® seeds which have stirred a global

commotion about the safety of animals and humans who ingest food that comes from GMO crops like soy and corn. *Natural News*, conducted a poll where 51 percent of readers expressed their disdain for Monsanto.

Vineyard activists taste joy!

RFI, May 15, 2014

<http://www.english.rfi.fr/visiting-france/20140515-french-anti-gm-protectors-walk-free-after-destroying-vineyard>



Fifty four activists who destroyed a field of genetically modified vines in eastern France in 2010 were acquitted by a court of appeal on Wednesday after the Judge declared that the state should never have allowed the plantation of such vines in an open area. The judges ruled that ministerial authorisation to allow a government research body, INRA (National Institute for Agronomic Research), to test out the crops in an area which was surrounded by other vineyards was “illegal”. The court pronounced that there was “a clear failure to appreciate the inherent risks” of such an experiment in an unconfined space and

criticised the lack of a “real study” about the impact of the GM vines.

“It’s remarkable, this is the first time we have won an appeal” said a jubilant Jean-Pierre Frick, one of the spokespeople for the group of activists.

Pak court halts sale of GM seeds

Dawn.com, May14, 2014, by Jamal Shahid
<http://www.dawn.com/news/1106195/court-stops-regulator-from-issuing-licences-for-modified-seeds>

The Lahore High Court has ordered the federal government to stop issuing licences for genetically-modified (GM) varieties of cotton or corn until a legal framework is put into place to assess the new types of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) that are fast cropping up every day.

The decision effectively halts and prohibits the supply and sale of fresh GM seeds in Pakistan including pest-resistant strains of Bt cotton and Bt corn. These varieties are genetically altered to be more resistant to certain types of pests and diseases.



The restraining order will affect previously-approved varieties of GM seeds. It will also affect

23 varieties of Bt cotton and 14 new varieties of Bt corn approved in March 2014.

This is a shame, Syngenta!

Russia Today, May 15, 2014, by William Engdahl
<http://rt.com/op-edge/159184-syngenta-gmo-opposition-silencing/>



A German farmer has revealed shocking GMO company tactics to silence him in an exclusive interview with RT Op-Edge.

German dairy farmer, Gottfried Glöckner, has told William Engdahl about attempted blackmail, character assassination and, ultimately, wrongful imprisonment he suffered when he refused to back off his charges that the Anglo-Swiss GMO company, Syngenta, had provided him with highly toxic GMO Maize seeds that ruined his prize dairy herd and his land.

After spending two years in prison, Glöckner is traveling round the world to tell the story and warn the public of the extreme danger of GMO seeds.

What a disgrace, Monsanto!

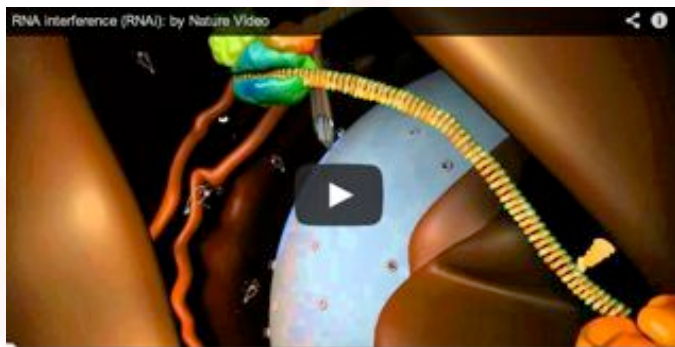
Monsanto silences scientist who explores risks of gene modification

guardianlv.com, May 20, 2014, by Reivin Johnson

<http://guardianlv.com/2014/05/monsanto-silences-scientist-who-explores-risks-of-gene-modification-video/>

[video at the link above]

Monsanto has been accused of silencing at least one scientist who explores the potential risks associated with the company's genetic modification technology called RNA interference (RNAi). Vicki Vance, Jr. Professor of Botany at the University of South Carolina, is a scientist who has contributed to the study of RNAi. RNAi lies at the heart of the debate on whether Monsanto is willing to admit the alleged hazards and the uncertainty associated with the technologies used to manufacture their products.



The point of this article is to reveal how Monsanto has attempted to suppress any credible scientific research containing human data that could lead to the further development on how human DNA reacts to the interference of genetically altered plant RNA through RNAi technology. The point is not to make any unsubstantiated claims that enough evidence exists to officially define this

technology as dangerous to humans. The article should spark a discussion on the lack of understanding present in the public debate on RNAi.

A waste of public money!

CRIIGEN, May 28, 2014

<http://criigen.org/communiquer/86/display/OGM-Monsanto-invite-a-s-auto-evaluer-avec-3-millions-d-argent-public>



We learn also that Monsanto itself, in the person of Yann Fichet and under the umbrella of pro-GMO lobby Europabio, was invited to participate in this so-called "forum for dialogue". This committee now seems to be infiltrated by seed companies and GM proponents: Bayer CropScience and Limagrain are also

[participating], and the National Association of Food Industries (ANIA). We cannot conceive of participating alongside the very people who use lobbying tactics to allow the acceptance and marketing of their products in the grossest absence of evaluation and lack of transparency.

Professor Gilles-Eric Séralini said, "As scientists and as the authors of the study behind this initiative from the ministry (MEDDE), we strongly condemn the inadequacy of the protocol as well as the

biased composition of the 'dialogue' body established for this project, which is also without scientific legitimacy. Our role is to actively participate in the construction of a protocol that fully satisfies the initial recommendations on the need for a chronic long-term study. But there has never been a dialogue on this issue in a committee whose ability to steer anything is limited to its name."

Farmer loses his case to be GM free

Safe Food Foundation, 28 May 2014

<http://permaculturenews.org/2014/05/28/steve-marsh-loses-his-case-to-be-gm-free/>



The future of organic and non GM food in Australia is uncertain after a WA farmer today lost his legal battle with a neighbouring farmer...

Scott Kinnear, director of the Safe Food Foundation, says he is very disappointed and gravely concerned for Steve Marsh and his family and their farm and for the future of organic and non GM food in Australia remaining GM free.

"This is a huge setback for organic and Non-GM farmers and their choice to remain GM Free. This has been an important test case, of interest to

many parties, locally and globally. If Steve on legal advice chooses to take this case further, the Safe Food Foundation will continue to work to legally protect the rights of Australian consumers to buy organic produce free of GM. We also call on our legislators to work on finding a solution to this vexed issue. State and Federal governments have continuously stated that the solution to any GM contamination events is common law. This has clearly failed today and demonstrates that the law has not kept up with new technologies such as GM."

"We thank Steve Marsh who has risked his farm to make a stand for all of us, a move that demonstrated his courage, tenacity and integrity."

Also Read:

Australian court rules against organic canola farmer

Reuters, May 28 2014

<http://mobile.reuters.com/article/idUSS9N0NL01I20140528?irpc=932>

What an opt-out?

Corporate Europe Observatory, May 27, 2014

<http://corporateeurope.org/food-and-agriculture/2014/05/biotech-lobbys-fingerprints-over-new-eu-proposal-allow-national-gmo>

[links to sources at the url above]

A proposal to allow member states to ban specific GM crops from their territories looks set to have a giant biotech-industry-friendly loophole.



On Wednesday 28 May, EU countries will have what could be a decisive meeting on the text of the proposal. And paradoxically, this text is turning out to be rather Monsanto-friendly. A final decision could be taken at the Environment Council in June. So how did we get from a national ban proposal to an industry-friendly opt-out?

Also Read:

Governments make laws, not companies

Food & Water Watch Europe

TAKE ACTION:

<https://secure3.convio.net/fww/site/Advocacy;jsessionid=583C58191DC37934AD9AC5CA5A00C2D1.app331a?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=1303>

- Make sure GM companies don't call the shots about their own products

The European Commission thinks it is a good idea to make COUNTRIES wishing to ban GM crops ASK for permission from GM companies first. Common sense says that's just not right.



National bans on cultivation of GM crops: Tactical manoeuvring in Berlin, lobbying in Brussels

Marianne Falck, May 27, 2014

<http://mariannefalck.de/national-bans-gm-crops/> [links to sources at this url]

English translation of German original at

<http://mariannefalck.de/gentechnik-anbauverbot/> by Marianne Falck



* The German federal government deceives the public that the cultivation of genetically modified plants will be banned soon. However, in the EU, the opposite is emerging.

The majority of the German public reject GM crops. Under the current EU law, member states (MS) may only prohibit the cultivation on their territory if they can demonstrate risks to health or the environment. Therefore, many people look to Brussels with hope of the new proposed national cultivation ban, which has been in discussion for months.

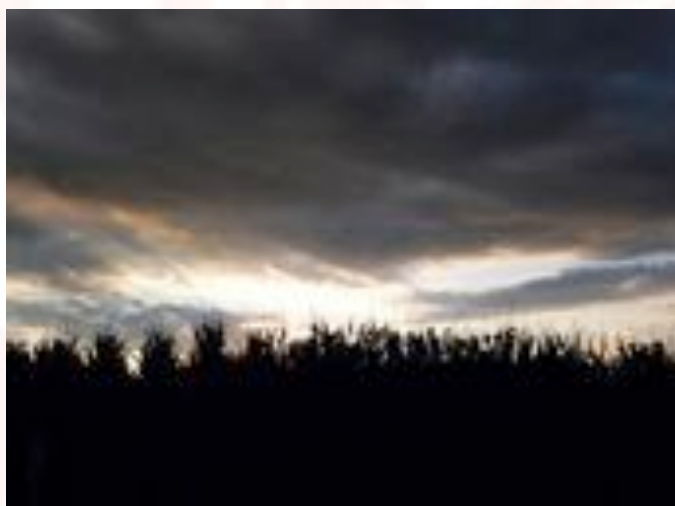
GMO-free EU under threat

The Greens in the European Parliament, May 28, 2014

<http://gmo.greens-efa.eu/gmo-free-eu-under-threat-12472.html>

- Misleading proposal from Greek Presidency agreed in Coreper today

Permanent representatives of Member States agreed today on a misleading proposal from the Greek Presidency that pretends to give Member States more freedom to ban GMOs on their territory.



Pests raise cost of GM cotton farming!

globo.com, May 28, 2014

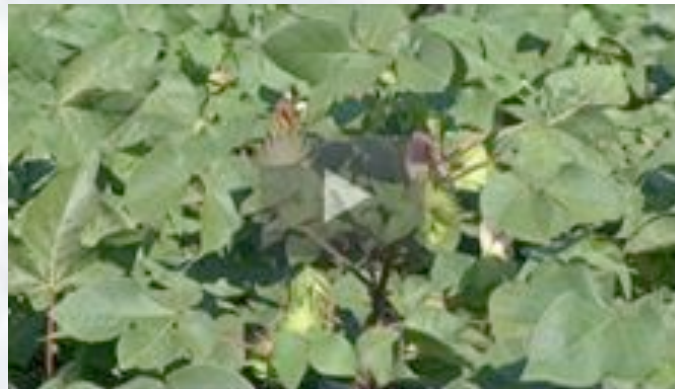
GMWatch/Google translation of Portuguese

original at:

<http://g1.globo.com/economia/agronegocios/noticia/2014/05/pragas-elevam-o-custo-da-lavoura-de-algodao-transgenico-em-mt.html>

* GM planting has not been enough to control caterpillars

* Insecticide costs are up to 45% higher than last season



Cotton producers in Mato Grosso are having to spend more this year to combat pests that attack the crop. Those who have opted for GM seed are not free from the problem.

The plants are developing, we can already see the plumes in some plots, but less than a month away from the beginning of harvest, the farmer Octhávio Palmeira is still worried about pest attacks.

Waging war on peasants!

GRAIN, May 26, 2014

<http://www.grain.org/article/entries/4945-2-4-d-soy-waging-war-on-peasants>

Global attempts by Dow AgroSciences to gain approval for new genetically-modified soybean varieties resistant to the herbicide 2,4-D have become particularly aggressive in recent months.



[References at url above]

Simultaneous applications have been filed in several of the countries where genetically engineered crops (GE or transgenic crops or GMOs) were introduced in the 1990s.

The push for approval of new transgenics is part of a broader strategy by agribusiness to make the world's farms increasingly dependent on its toxic herbicides, thus increasing the profits it derives from selling these chemicals. The current situation is a rerun of the 1990s' introduction of Roundup Ready (glyphosate-resistant) crops, only this time the herbicides in question are much more toxic. These weed-killers have been around for a longer time and the case for their hazardousness to human health and the environment has been well documented.



Soaps not coming clean!

New York Times, May 30, 2014, By Stephanie Storm

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/31/business/biofuel-tools-applied-to-household-soaps.html?_r=1

Consumer products containing ingredients made using an advanced form of engineering known as synthetic biology are beginning to show up more often on grocery and department store shelves.



That technology is synthetic biology, which involves the creation of biological systems intended for

specific purposes. Synthetic biology, originally aimed at producing biofuels, has been around for about 20 years, but applications have only recently begun to emerge across several industries including cosmetics, flavorings, and scents.

Unilever recently announced that it was using algae oil made by a company called Solazyme in Lux, a popular soap. The two companies signed an agreement in 2009 to explore use of Solazyme's products in the consumer giant's goods.



But in an illustration of how reluctant companies may be to disclose the use of synthetic biology, it is unclear whether the oil in Lux was generated through the same synthetic process. Unilever declined to comment.

These announcements have prompted some environmental groups and consumer activists to call for labeling that would disclose whether synthetic biology was used to make product ingredients.

GE & FOOD

GM foods neither safe nor needed!

Earth Open Source, May 19, 2014

<http://earthopensource.org/index.php/reports/gmo-myths-and-truths>

Genetically modified crops and foods are neither safe nor necessary to feed the world, a new report by genetic engineers shows.



The second edition of *GMO Myths and Truths*, co-authored by genetic engineers Dr John Fagan and Dr Michael Antoniou and researcher Claire Robinson, was released today as a free online download by the sustainability and science policy platform Earth Open Source.

The second edition follows the publication two years ago of the first edition, which was downloaded 120,000 times just a few weeks after

publication and was read online by several times that many visitors. At 330 pages, the new edition is nearly three times the length of the original and summarizes many new studies.

10 reasons we don't need GM foods

New short report from the authors of *GMO Myths and Truths*

Earth Open Source, May 23, 2014

<http://earthopensource.org/index.php/reports/10-reasons-we-don-t-need-gm-foods>

“‘10 reasons’ explains that GM crops do not increase yield potential or reduce pesticide use. Nor can they help us meet the challenges of climate change any better than existing non-GM crops, or deliver more nutritious foods. GM crops have been shown to have toxic effects on laboratory and farm animals.”



"There is only one way in which GM crops outperform non-GM crops: they are easier to patent in a way that guarantees ownership not only of that GM plant variety but also all plants bred from it. This process enables consolidated ownership of the seed and food market by a few large companies on a scale that has never happened before."

GMOs & global dead-zones!

The Boston Globe, May 23, 2014, by Doug Gurian-Sherman

<http://www.bostonglobe.com/opinion/2014/05/23/inexpensive-solutions-still-outperform-gmos/82mtWI9welGBe8utMN8oVK/story.html>

We are not producing our food sustainably. Climate change is already reducing productivity in some areas, and this is projected to worsen. Agriculture is also responsible for a substantial share of climate-change gases, most unsustainable uses of fresh water, and is the main cause of the several hundred global "dead zones," such as in the Gulf of Mexico and Chesapeake Bay.

Genetic engineering is often proposed as a major and necessary way to address these problems. But as developed so far, globally it has not contributed meaningfully to the changes we need. Large corporations that dominate development of genetically modified crops have produced only a very few commercial successes — despite close to 30 years of effort. Over 99 percent of biotech crops are immune to herbicides, more commonly known

as weedkillers. That has led to hundreds of millions of pounds more of herbicide use, tens of millions of acres of herbicide resistant weeds, and a new generation of resistant crops that will greatly increase the use of older, riskier herbicides. Soil-preserving conservation tillage, sometimes attributed to genetic engineering, was largely adapted in the United States before herbicide-resistant crops, which have probably increased its adoption only modestly.



food advocates, yesterday launched a signature campaign urging the Philippines government to stop the commercialization of the genetically modified rice variety known as "golden rice". Fr Joy Pelino, head of Marbel diocese's social action center, urged Mindanao farmers and residents "to remember to put our communities and the environment first before the interests of biotech firms and agri-corporations."

Dagohoy Mangaway, a farmer and activist, expressed concern that the introduction of "golden rice" will destroy the purity of organic rice farms. Mangaway, a member of Go Organic in Davao City, said more than 50 varieties of native Philippine rice are grown throughout Mindanao using indigenous organic farming techniques...

More than 60 countries have already imposed a moratorium or outright bans on genetically-modified organisms. The Philippines, however, does not have a bio-safety law or the capacity and resources to conduct robust risk assessments for



Organic farmers urge end to GMO rice

UCA News, April 23, 2014, by Keith Bacongco
<http://www.ucanews.com/news/philippine-organic-farmers-urge-end-to-gmo-rice/70765>

Our techniques and varieties are better, advocates say. Go Organic Mindanao, a network of organic

genetically modified organisms intended for field testing and propagation.

Also Read:

Golden rice falls at first hurdle

Jonathan Matthews and Claire Robinson, May 13, 2014

<http://www.gmwatch.org/index.php/news/archive/2014/15431-golden-rice-falls-at-first-hurdle>

It is more than reprehensible that a product that doesn't yet work in the field, hasn't been proven safe, and may not even help people with malnutrition, is being promoted as a miracle cure that could already be saving millions. All this false promotion does is distract attention from the proven alternatives that are already effectively combating vitamin A deficiency in a country like the Philippines - the main target of the golden rice promoters

Breast milk, indigenous food: A mother's recipe for healthy children

rappler.com, May 11, 2014, Velvet Escario Roxas

<http://www.rappler.com/move-ph/57745-breast-milk-indigenous-food-mother-recipe-healthy-children>



In the past few months, there's been news about the impending commercialization of GE "Golden" rice: genetically engineered rice aimed at producing beta carotene and enhancing Vitamin A levels amongst deficient children and mothers.

BT brinjal farming ruins Gazipur farmers

New Age, May 7, 2014

<http://newagebd.net/9116/bt-brinjal-farming-ruins-gazipur-farmers/>

Farmers in Gazipur [in Bangladesh] who were given the controversial Bt brinjal saplings have said they would no more cultivate the genetically engineered crop as the cultivation has ruined them.



During a spot visit on Monday at four Bt brinjal fields in Gazipur, New Age found that Bt brinjal plants faced several troubles – they did not grow up, and came under attack of different pests including shoot borers.

Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute officials were also found removing the institution signboard set up at Masud Sarker's Bt brinjal field at Baraid village of Kaliganj upazila.

"Other farmers mock me and laugh at me seeing the miserable condition of Bt brinjal... Remove the signboard from my field and I would cultivate local brinjal," Masud expressed anger to the visiting officials.

Masud was given 1,100 saplings of Bt brinjal. He told New Age that he had followed all the instructions of the institute.

Army boots out GMOs from food supply!

Advisor Chen I-wan Blog, May 14, 2014
http://blog.sina.com.cn/s/blog_4bb17e9d0102ed7.html

"The army has established [an] excellent model for people of the whole nation: No GMO staple food and GMO food oil should enter army food supply! All education bureaus and department, all canteens of primary and middle schools and universities, what should they do?"



"The standard established by the State Food & Drug Administration Bureau for infant formula powder allowing to add chemical extracted GM

soybean oil and GM soybean protein powder, what should they do?"

"Must also emphasize, banning GM food oil is not enough, must also ban all chemical extracted food oil also causing serious harm to human health!"

Also Read:

Claims that US soybeans cause infertility stoke China's GMO battle

Wall St Journal, May 14, 2014, Chuin-Wei Yap
<http://stream.wsj.com/story/latest-headlines/SS-2-63399/SS-2-531616/>



If there's any wonder why China is taking it slow with genetically modified food, two separate developments this week will tell you why.

GE & AGRICULTURE

Marketing a fraud!

Center for Food Safety, May 5, 2014, By Jaydee Hanson

<http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/blog/3126/synthetic-biology-rebranding-extreme-genetic-engineering#>

Some years ago, bread companies got the word that customers wanted more fiber in their bread. Instead of making more of their bread with whole grains, a few companies actually put in wood pulp and labeled it as “fiber”. Today, in San Francisco, a group of synthetic biology companies and a representative from the US Department of



Agriculture (USDA) are holding a meeting called the SynBioBeta Cultured Food Forum about how to market foods and food additives made from extreme forms of genetic engineering as “natural” and “sustainable”...

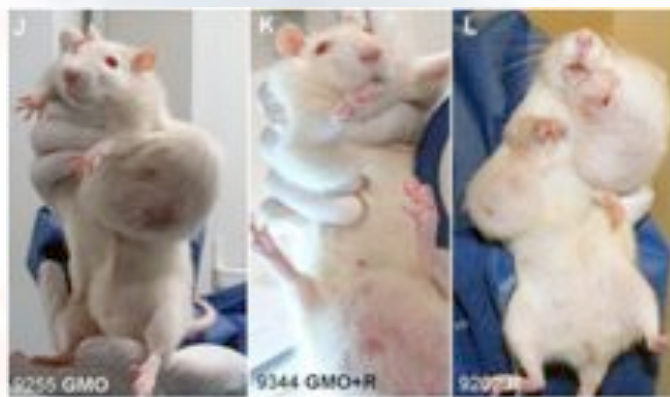
Whenever you read or hear the term synthetic biology, remember that it is a euphemism for extreme genetic engineering. This supposedly new technology is really just a similar but more extreme form of the genetic engineering of bacteria, plants,

and animals that has been going on for the last three decades or more.

The witch-hunting of Seralini

Naturalsociety.com, May 14, 2014, Paul Fassa
<http://naturalsociety.com/sordid-details-behind-attacks-seralinis-notorious-gmo-rat-study/>

Remember the GMO rat study finding that rats fed GMOs developed tumors and died prematurely? After Seralini’s long term toxicity study results were publicized with displays of rats showing huge tumors, a tsunami of outrage from pro-GMO related scientists got favorable mainstream media (MSM) press. The hundreds of scientists who defended Seralini’s work were ignored. Many fence-sitters were left confused and willing to side with the barking dogs of the biotechnology industry.



This publicized display was the air and sea attack to soften the defense of the anti-GMO ideology island. Then the actual landing attack against that island’s science was embarked by setting up former Monsanto scientist Richard E. Goodman in a newly

created biotech editorial position at the journal Food and Chemical Toxicology (FCT).

Escape route for pesticides!

Pesticide Action Network Europe, May 20, 2014
<http://www.pan-europe.info/News/PR/140520.html>

Pesticide Action Network (PAN) was founded in 1982 and is a network of over 600 non-governmental organisations, institutions and individuals in over 60 countries worldwide working to minimise the negative effects and replace the use of harmful pesticides with ecologically sound alternatives

Commission health service DG SANCO is on its way to develop an escape route for endocrine disrupting pesticides that will be banned in future. This is done behind closed doors with EU member states and Food Authority EFSA. Sweden fiercely protested against this initiative because they feel the pesticide Regulation is misused and doesn't allow for a general derogation. Food Authority EFSA is also active in the SANCO working group, lobbying to revise the legislation on endocrines back to traditional risk assessment and encouraging SANCO to use an escape route.

PAN Europe feels that EU Commission is undermining the rules and the hazard approach that is included in the democratically agreed rules. By unilaterally changing the rules, Commission is sidelining EU Parliament and choosing economic

interests over their own mission to protect people and the environment.

Also Read:

Sweden to sue EU for delay on hormone disrupting chemicals

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE, May 22, 2014
<http://www.capitalfm.co.ke/business/2014/05/sweden-to-sue-eu-for-delay-on-hormone-disrupting-chemicals/>



Sweden on Thursday said it would sue the European Commission over a delay in identifying harmful chemicals in everyday products, which it blamed on chemical industry lobbying. "This delay is due to the European chemical lobby, which put pressure again on different Commissioners," Swedish Environment Minister Lena Ek told AFP. The Commission was due to set criteria by December 2013 to identify endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) in thousands of products — including disinfectants, pesticides and toiletries — which have been linked to cancers, birth defects and development disorders in children.

Decision over GM crops quashed!

Radio New Zealand, May 22, 2014

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/245089/decision-over-gm-crops-quashed>

[audio report at link above]



A decision by the Environmental Protection Authority to allow the development of genetically modified crops has been quashed by the High Court.

In 2012 the Crown Research Institute Scion, went to the authority to find out whether it could use two new breeding techniques to grow pine trees.

The authority ruled they were not genetically modified and allowed them to be exempt from the law which restricts genetically modified crops in New Zealand.

But the High Court found it had misinterpreted the law.

The Sustainability Council said the error could have allowed the organisms to be used in food production, putting New Zealand's reputation of a

non-GM food producer at risk especially in anti-GM markets in Europe.

GMO's promise oversold!

agjournal, May 21, 2014, By Candace Krebs

<http://www.agjournalonline.com/article/20140521/News/140519877#ixzz32MrrhL9x>

“We’ve now got farmers convinced that genetic modification will give us wheat that will grow on three inches of rain and that it’s the only way to solve our problems. That’s how destructive the conversation has become,”

The wheat industry has been working for years to gain access to the same technology used to develop high-tech seed for corn, soybeans and other crops, but at least one prominent breeder has qualms about the potential drawbacks of rushing to introduce genetically modified wheat.

“Among consumers, there are a lot of myths and fallacies being spread, but I think they are also being spread on the science side,” said Brett Carver, chief wheat breeder at Oklahoma State University. “There’ve been some promises made about GM wheat that I don’t think are true or are being overstated.”

His main complaint is the way wheat has been portrayed as lagging behind other crops with the blame often placed on a lack of genetic modification. Carver is currently helping to edit a



technical book that follows advancements in 16 major field crops and says studies show wheat is more than holding its own. Carver contends changing climate trends in the last 25 years have benefited corn and beans more than GM seed development has. Most of the yield gains breeders have achieved are the result of taking advantage of a longer growing season and the ability to plant earlier in the spring, he said...

“Genetic modification is not the only way to get there, but you don’t read that,” Carver said.

He fears wheat farmers are hearing one message on GM technology: that the wheat industry can’t successfully compete with other crops or make significant improvements without it.

Monsanto’s false reports!

examiner.com, May 24, 2014, by Nancy Swanson
<http://www.examiner.com/article/are-substantial-equivalence-safety-studies-for-gm-soy-fraudulent>

Over 10 years ago the Pacific Ecologist reported that a Japanese research team uncovered serious discrepancies in safety reports submitted by Monsanto to the Japanese Health and Welfare Ministry. The Safety Assessment Application Documents were submitted in order to obtain a safety certificate necessary for the import of genetically modified (GM) soy to Japan. Based on these reports, submitted by JAPAN-MONSANTO, their herbicide-tolerant soybean was approved as food by the Japanese Ministry of Health and Welfare and as animal feed by the Ministry of Agriculture in 1996. The research team reported their findings to Japan's Agriculture and Fisheries Ministry but received no response.

GM maize a curse for Mexico!

Why is Monsanto interested in Mexico's maize market?

AlJazeera, May 27, 2014, Timothy A Wise
<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2014/05/mexico-monsanto-maize-gmo-2014526114154374563.html>

I'd come to Mexico to investigate the ongoing controversy over the proposed introduction of genetically modified (GM) maize into the birthplace of this important global food crop. The issue was hot, because last October a Mexican judge had issued an injunction halting all experimental and commercial planting of GM maize, a process that

was well underway in six northern states. The ruling cited the need for precaution to ensure that Mexico's rich diversity of maize varieties were protected from inadvertent "gene flow" from GM maize.



Scientist who dared Monsanto is no more!

AP, May 10, 2014, Michael Warren

<http://www.bigstory.ap.org/article/argentine-scientist-who-challenged-monsanto-dies>

Dr. Andres Carrasco, an Argentine neuroscientist who challenged pesticide regulators to re-examine one of the world's most widely used weed killers, has died. He was 67. Argentina's national science

council announced Carrasco's death on Saturday. He had been in declining health.



Carrasco, a molecular biologist at the University of Buenos Aires and past-president of Argentina's CONICET science council, was a widely published expert in embryonic development whose work focused on how neurotransmitters affect genetic expression in vertebrates. But none of his research generated as much controversy as his 2010 study on glyphosate, which became a major public relations challenge for the St. Louis, Missouri-based Monsanto Company.

This monthly bulletin is brought out by Southern Action on Genetic Engineering (SAGE), a coalition of civil society activists, farmers, scientists, academicians, and consumer groups of four Southern States of India, viz., Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Orissa. SAGE has been waging a concerted battle against genetic engineering through a series of activities that involve public protests, media actions, seminars, consultations and publication of a series of educational materials