WORRIES OF A DUTCH HOUSEWIFE ABOUT GMOS

MIEP BOS

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For JW and F.

"We don't know shit about biology."

Craig Venter. ("Decoding the genome" Ralph Brave, Jan. 9, 2001**)**

GMOs in it or not?

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Introduction

By Miep Bos.

I've never been a great speaker; I love to do my work in writing, sitting in front of my PC. I am just a housewife, mother and artist, who likes to know what she is eating and what kind of food she prepares for her family.

In 1996 I came aware of the fact that manufacturers didn't want to tell me whether they use GMOs in their products, I wrote to them all.
Consumers pay for the products and so I thought that the customer should be treated like a king.
But now I know that I have nothing more to say about my own food.
Multinationals will decide what is good for us!
The only thing you can do is to shop organic, only food with a label on it like the Dutch "EKO hall-mark".
But the consequence is that organic food must stay uncontaminated, farmers must not plant GM crops in the neighbourhood.
There is more than enough organic food to feed the world!
http://www.i-sis.org.uk/organicagriculturefeedtheworld.php

Our government is confident with coexistence but I think this is a fairytale. The Netherlands are too small for GM crops, scientists told us so at the public hearing "Eten en Genen" in 2002.
http://www.bio-ned.nl/EtenenGenen_Eindrapport.pdf

Our government didn't listen to them.
Not long ago, German authorities have found genetically modified rapeseed in conventional crops. A spokesperson for the environmental minister of North Rhine-Westphalia stated that consignments from the company Deutsche Saatgutveredlung contained seeds tolerant to the herbicide glufosinate. Glufosinate is sold by the German company Bayer CropScience under the trademarks LIBERTY and BASTA. About 1500 hectares have already been planted with the genetically modified crops. The origin of the contamination is unclear. http://www.gmwatch.org/archive2.asp?arcid=8288

Ten years ago I already did send petitions against field trails to our department of Environment. So did Greenpeace and two brave citizens of Amsterdam. Our local newspaper published the fact that we had collected 98 signatures. The result was; that Former minister Pronk did ban the field trails for the time being.
But these days our government allows the field trails again, there are GM potatoes to be used in a factory for paper production and not for consumption (recently again forbidden by the Council of State) and GM maize fields, but there is not a great number of them.

It is ridiculous to grow Bt maize in the Netherlands, because the target insects that should be killed by the Bt, do not live here. But other useful insects will die from it.
Furthermore, I have pleaded for a GM-free country. Many EU-countries have declared themselves GMO-free or have GM-free regions.
http://genet.iskra.net/

In 2004 I have also led a citizens' initiative to create a GM-free Lelystad.
http://www.gentechvrij.nl/lelystadgentechvrij.html

World Summit on GMO-Free Diversity announced: Bonn, May 2008

Fragment:

At their final plenary the participants of the GMO-Free Regions Conference 2007 adopted the following call for a World Summit on GMO-Free Diversity in Bonn (Germany), 12-16 May 2008:

"We, the participants of the 3rd Conference of GMO-Free Regions in Europe invite the farmers, gardeners and consumers of the world to celebrate the diversity of our seed and food and cultures and their freedom from GMOs, patents and corporate control. This celebration will coincide with and address the meeting of the parties of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Convention on Biodiversity in Bonn, Germany in May 2008. We call upon organisations, communities and institutions from around the world to join us in organising this event and to contribute to its program. Let us join forces for the freedom of seed and reproduction and the freedom from GMOs and patents on life. Let us also make our message be heard be the representatives of governments as well a the people of the world."

http://genet.iskra.net/en/node/375
download PDF

I am thankful for the patience of my family, they often look at my back, while I am computing. I also thank all the people, who were very helpful in these 11 years.

Lelystad, 29th of September 2007, Miep Bos

What is GM doing to our animals?

What is genetic engineering?

By Miep Bos.

The Netherlands.

In 1996 the first ships with genetically engineered soybeans, entered the harbour of Rotterdam. The Consumentenbond (Consumer organisation with only a few consumers in it and with former members of multinationals) and the government didn't bother. They okayed it and so they introduced it in the whole of Europe, they got it in by the backdoor. They didn't think it necessary to label it. Critical people discovered, that the consumer doesn't have any advantages to eat GMOs. An herbicide is inserted in a soy plant, being genetically engineered. DNA is changed by it (the blueprint of life). So GM-soy is being made resistant to an herbicide. GM-maize becomes poisonous to a certain caterpillar (of a moth), which eats itself into the plant. The only winner is the multinational, the inventor of the conditional sale. The GMO-seed, the herbicide and the fertilizer are all of the same multinational.

The seed has to be bought over and over again together with the herbicide and the fertilizer. The consequence also is that the soil will be poisoned and that the GMOs will cross-pollinate. This is an unwanted result. The problems that originate from it are huge, especially in the case of Bt-Cotton. The Indian journalist Palagummi Sainath has won the *2007 Ramon Magsaysay award* (a kind of Asian Nobel Price) because he wrote about the distress caused by the introduction and planting of Bt-Cotton in the Third World. Many Indian farmers killed themselves because of the bad results of this crop.
http://www.gmwatch.org/archive2.asp?arcid=5693

Now the first results of independent science are coming into the world; .

GM: New study shows unborn babies could be harmed
Mortality rate for new-born rats six times higher when mother was fed on a diet of modified soy.
By Geoffrey Lean, Environment Editor
The Independent on Sunday, 08 January 2006
http://news.independent.co.uk/environment/article337253.ece

Fragment;

Women who eat GM foods while pregnant risk endangering their unborn babies, startling new research suggests.

The study - carried out by a leading scientist at the Russian Academy of Sciences - found that more than half of the offspring of rats fed on modified soy died in the first three weeks of life, six times as many as those born to mothers with normal diets. Six times as many were also severely underweight.

Also see http://www.i-sis.org.uk/Making-the-World-GM-Free-and-Sustainable.php

Fragment from; http://www.gmwatch.org/archive2.asp?arcid=5705

First of all, let's summarize the evidence collected from animals. Pusztai's government-funded study demonstrated that rats fed a GM potato developed potentially pre-cancerous cell growth, damaged immune systems, partial atrophy of the liver, and inhibited development of their brains, livers and testicles. Rats fed a GM tomato developed stomach lesions, and seven of 40 died within two weeks. Mice fed GM maize had problems with blood cell formation as well as kidney and liver lesions. Those fed GM soy had problems with liver cell formation, and the livers of rats fed GM canola were heavier. Pigs fed GM maize on several Midwest farms developed false pregnancies, sterility, or gave birth to bags of water. Twelve cows fed GM maize in Germany died mysteriously. And twice the number of chickens died when fed GM maize compared to those fed natural maize.

From: Seeds of Deception by Jeffrey Smith

Spilling the Beans is a monthly column available at www.responsibletechnology.org . Publishers and webmasters may offer this article or monthly series to your readers at no charge, by emailing column@responsibletechnology.org. Individuals may read the column each month by subscribing to a free newsletter at www.responsibletechnology.org.

From; Dr Michael Antoniou argues that genetically modified crops are dangerous and unnecessary

Interview by Nick Jackson

Published: 27 September 2007
Fragment from The Independent

"And animal feeding studies have shown the potentially damaging effects of soya, maize and potatoes. GM potatoes have caused intestinal lesions; GM soya has caused liver cell changes and premature death in the young; GM maize has caused problems with the kidneys and the blood system. Mechanistically, we do not know why this is happening or what the consequences for human health are, but there are clear physiological changes that have been recorded. Once out there we cannot contain it.

We don't need GM crops. Crop genetic diversity is enormous and can be exploited through natural cross-breeding aided by modern genetic screening technologies. The problems we have in agriculture are social and political. What is driving GM crops is economics."

http://news.independent.co.uk/education/higher/article2999527.ece

See the video. (6a)

The Netherlands again.

The Dutch government think, GM is a positive (economic favourable) technique, in contrary to a large number of other EU-countries.

Dr Joseph Cummins, Professor Emeritus of Genetics at the University of West-Ontario
warns: "Probably the greatest threat from genetically altered crops is the insertion of modified virus and insect virus genes into crops. It has been shown in the laboratory that genetic recombination will create highly virulent new viruses from such constructions. Certainly the widely used cauliflower mosaic virus [CaMV] is a potentially dangerous gene. It is a Para retrovirus meaning that it multiplies by making DNA from RNA messages. It is very similar to the Hepatitis B virus and related to HIV. Modified viruses could cause famine by destroying crops or cause human and animal diseases of tremendous power."

The secret of the composition.
All Bt products contain, (like all other herbicides), other ingredients than Bt. They are the most poisonous ingredients of the formula and are the secret of the multinational.

GMOs in Europe
The EU has permitted some genetically engineered crops to come to the market and some –enzymes and -coagulant. But the EU citizens themselves don't want GMOs. In Europe GM-soy, and GM-maize (namely Spain), are being planted, mostly for feed.

Placed on the market are (for food and feed), GM-maize, GM-soy, GM-oilseed rape (food; oil). GM-carnation (not for feed and food) and GM-cotton (oil) are admitted for consumers. For the latest details see; (14)

You will find most fields of genetically engineered foods in the USA. They are selling it as feed.
However, products from cattle and poultry fed with GMOs are not being labelled in the EU.
Nearly all GM-products are mandatory labelled.

They also plant rice in the USA. Conventional rice was polluted by GM-rice that came to Europe. Now the USA has to test the rice first.

In Argentina large fields of GM soy are being planted for the Dutch meat industry. The forest disappears very quickly together with very useful medicinal plants and herbs.
When the Dutch people heard this on TV they were shocked and wanted to do something about it. They collected signatures and send them to the government.

In Iraq the USA plant GM crops. (8)
In Africa they donate GM crops but some countries like Zambia don't want this. (9)
In Canada the common canola is contaminated all over that country by GM canola. (10)
In the United Kingdom people died because scientists were testing a GM medicine on them. (11)
In Afghanistan Wageningen University and other universities plan to test GM poppies for medical purposes. (13)
In the USA, 7 out of 10 processed products on the shelf have some ingredient or the other that is a genetically modified corn or soy derivative. Labelling is not mandatory and unless specified as "organic", it is likely to contain GMOs.

Corn derivatives: Malt, corn syrup, baking powder, confectioner's sugar, food starch and fructose sugar.

Soy derivatives: Bread, soy sauce, tofu, margarine, soy lecithin, protein isolates.
Common products: Infant formula, cereal, mayonnaise, crackers, candy, peanut butter, tomato sauce, ice cream, chips, chocolate, salad dressing, frozen yoghurt.
In the whole world; Creeping Bent grass, Sugar Beet, Argentine Canola, Polish Canola, Papaya, Chicory, Melon, Squash, Carnation, Soybean, Cotton, Sunflower, Lentil, Flax, Linseed, Tomato, Alfalfa, Tobacco, Rice, Potato, Wheat, Maize. Trees, Fish. See (15) and push "submit".

There are non-GM solutions: (Text from 16a)

A non-GM solution applied Africa: push-pull

In Kenya, an Indian scientist by the name of Dr Zeyaur Khan has developed an alternative to Novartis Bt maize. Every year around half of the maize harvest in Kenya is destroyed by the simultaneous invasion of "witchweed" (striga) and stem borers. The harmful insects are related to the maize borers, which Novartis developed its GM Bt maize to combat. The biotechnology company has already launched a programme for testing and introducing Bt maize in Kenya. Khan's "push-pull" method combats both the weeds and the insects, without chemical pesticides or genetic manipulation.
Khan has slides and a video showing the havoc that can be wrought by the weeds and the stem borers in the maize fields of Kenyan smallholders – depressing pictures of maize plants with limply hanging leaves full of holes, often surrounded by the treacherously beautiful flowers of witchweed, a parasite that grows on the roots of the maize plant. The seeds of the parasite remain active in the ground for ten years or so.
Khan and his team tested more than four hundred types of grass and finally hit on Napier grass, a type that proved to be very attractive to stem borers. A hedge of this type of grass planted around a maize field lures the insects away from the maize. Desmodium was sown between the maize plants in order to make them unattractive to stem borers; it repels the insects and also combats the witchweed, as well as fertilising the soil with natural nutrients.
This is the "push-pull" method: the desmodium "pushes" the stem borers out of the maize field and the Napier grass provides the "pull".
"At last I've got real, healthy maize", sighs a peasant woman in Khan's video. "I can sell the Napier grass and use the money to pay for my child's education." Others buy cattle with the money they earn, thus extending their diet to include milk and meat. More and more farmers are opting for the "push-pull" method in countries such as Uganda, South-Africa, Ethiopia and Malawi. A problem is that the desmodium seed is imported from Australia and is therefore expensive. Farmers in Africa are now cultivating their own desmodium seed and earning some money by selling it. (16) Unknown translator.

Organic agriculture, doesn't use GMOs, fertilizer and herbicides, and keeps the soil healthy.
Maharishi Vedic Organic Agriculture (MVOA) is organic agriculture with valuable extras like recitations by Pundits for better crops, that are sweeter, larger, and have larger nutrition values.
Works with the consciousness of the farmers and of the crops by means of meditation. (19)
Maharishi Honey is tested best. (20)
Ayurveda recommends foods that are alive with "chetana" - natures own intelligence. The Council of Maharishi Ayurveda Physicians suggests eating foods that are as close to their "natural" state as possible, to benefit from their "chetana" value.

Links from "What is genetic engineering?" And more. You can also see it at: http://www.gentechvrij.nl/watisgentech.html and scroll down.

www.indiatogether.org/2007/aug/ivw-sainath.htm 1A
www.i-sis.org.uk/Making-the-World-GM-Free-and-Sustainable.php 1
www.i-sis.org.uk/Making-the-World-GM-Free-and-Sustainable.php 2
www.bevaco.nl/dossiers/ap.html 3
www.wolmanzouten.nl 4
www.kunstkringlelystad.nl/expo20051201fGeheimvhHout.html 4A
www.gmfreeireland.org/ 5
www.nieuwsblad.be/Article/Detail.aspx?ArticleID=GF213G558%20 6
http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=5575765927481977413&hl=en 6A
www.rvu.nl/kvw/index.php?i=8&n=905 7
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www.i-sis.org.uk/ZWFHFNO.php 9
www.organicconsumers.org/ge/canola061505.cfm 10
www.guardian.co.uk/medicine/story/0,,1735069,00.html 11
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http://gmoinfo.jrc.it/ 14
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www.genetic-id.com/cp_main.htm — Tests
www.biosafety.be/PDF/2001_18.pdf — EU law on GMOs, labelling etc.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=joweZ6uM5iY — Must see!
www.youtube.com/watch?v=qHobGDHtq4E
www.youtube.com/watch?v=6SBH88lvlos
www.seedsofdeception.com/Public/Home/index.cfm
http://video.google.co.uk/videoplay?docid=2108022965800005689&q=seeds+of+deception+jeffrey+smith&total=1&start=0&num=10&so=0&type=search&plindex=0

DR. JOHN FAGAN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

John Fagan, Ph.D., is a molecular biologist who spent more than two decades using recombinant DNA techniques in his own research. He has received over $2.5 million in grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), including a Research Career Development Award from the National Cancer Institute of NIH. More than thirty of his papers have been published in leading journals, including Molecular and Cellular Biology, Journal of Biological Chemistry, Journal of Molecular Biology, and Biochemistry.

In 1994 took Dr. Fagan an ethical stand against germ-line genetic engineering and renounced $1.8 million in further grants. Since that time, Dr. Fagan has travelled extensively throughout North America, Europe, and Asia speaking on the hazards of genetic engineering and genetically engineered foods.
From; http://www.istpp.org/bio/fagan.html

GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD-A SERIOUS HEALTH RISK
by Dr. John Fagan

Genetically engineered foods containing genes derived from bacteria and viruses are now starting to appear in the shops, and foods with insect, fish, and animal genes will soon follow. These genetic changes are radically different from those resulting from traditional methods of breeding. Yet, the sale of these foods is being permitted without proper assessment of the risks and without adequately informing the public, even though many scientists say that genetically modified foods could cause serious damage to health and the environment.

Art by Yamuna Gerritsma.

WHAT IS GENETIC ENGINEERING?

Genes are the blueprints for every part of an organism. Genetic engineering is the process of articficially modifying these blueprints. By cutting and splicing DNA-genetic surgury-genetic engineers can transfer genes specific to one type of organism into any other organism on earth.

WHY DO IT? Scientists want to transfer desirable qualities from one organism to another, for example, to make a crop resistant to an herbicide or to enhance food value.

IS IT NECESSARY? At first sight it may seem appealing. However, closer examination reveals that commercial and political motives are taking precedence with little regard to the possible dangers. We already have the ability to feed the world's population without the risks posed by genetic engineering. Why subject humanity to these unnecessary risks?

WHAT ARE THE DANGERS? (Please see more detailed discussion below.)

Those identified so far include:
<> New toxins and allergens in foods
<> Other damaging effects on health caused by unnatural foods
<> Increased use of chemicals on crops, resulting in increased contamination of our water supply and food
<> The creation of herbicide-resistant weeds
<> The spread of diseases across species barriers
<> Loss of bio-diversity in crops
<> The disturbance of ecological balance
<> Artificially induced characteristics and inevitable side-effects will be passed on to all subsequent generations and to other related organisms. Once released, they can never be recalled or contained. The consequences of this are incalculable.

WHAT IS THE SITUATION NOW?

Genetically modified foods available, or about to appear, in U.S. markets include tomatoes, squash, yeast, corn, potatoes, and soybeans (which are used in 60% of all processed foods, such as bread, pasta, candies, ice cream, pies, biscuits, margarine, meat products and vegetarian meat substitutes). Genetically modified organisms are also used to produce cheeses and canola oil. But this is just the beginning. In a few years it may be almost impossible to find natural food.

The food industry and government appear to be complacent. They assume that these new foods are not substantially different from existing foods and pose no special risks. But this assumption is wrong and dangerous. The

radical changes being made by biotechnologists could never happen in nature, and have already caused toxic side-effects. Current regulations require only minimal safety testing for some foods, and none at all for others. In no case do regulations require evaluation of long term impacts on health.

Most genetically modified foods will not be labelled. Under present regulations manufacturers are already introducing genetically modified ingredients into many processed foods without informing consumers. The government is ignoring the wishes of the public. Surveys consistently find that 85-90% of consumers want clear labelling of all genetically engineered foods.

DESPITE INTENDED BENEFITS, MANY TECHNOLOGIES PRODUCE DISASTROUS SIDE-EFFECTS.

Increasingly, society is recognizing side-effects such as nuclear pollution, global warming, and the toxic effects of pesticides and herbicides. Medicines are often withdrawn because the side-effects turn out to be too poisonous. In every case, it has taken time for hazards to come to light and for action to be taken.

Genetic engineering poses the greatest danger of any technology yet introduced. Because many of the damageing effects of genetic engineering are irreversible, we must prevent problems before they occur. The precautionary approach is essential if we are to protect ourselves, our children, and all generations to come. We must take action now, if we want to prevent an avalanche of genetically engineered foods from inundating the market and placing virtually everyone at risk.

WE MUST ACT BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!

Genetically engineered foods are being introduced without due regard for health, yet many damaging effects will be irreversible.

What is needed

TO PROTECT OUR HEALTH:

<> Any food produced through genetic engineering should be banned until scientifically shown to be safe and safe for everyone.
<> In the meantime, labeling should be required for any food that contains even one genetically engineered ingredient, or that has been produced using genetically modified organisms or enzymes.
<>Full disclosure labelling will allow consumers to choose what they eat. It will also help scientists trace the source of health problems arising from these foods.

TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT:

<> All applications of genetic engineering should be banned that carry the risk of accidental or intentional release of genetically modified organisms into the environment.

What you can do

<> Write to members of Congress, government, food producers, supermarkets, the press and consumer groups, expressing your concern and enclosing this leaflet.
<> Make copies of this document for friends, family, colleagues, students, trades unions, clubs and societies. Alert everyone to the dangers.

DANGERS OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOODS

The scientific facts demonstrating the need for an immediate worldwide ban

Because living organisms are highly complex, genetic engineers cannot possibly predict all of the effects of introducing new genes into them. This is the case for even the simplest bacterium, not to mention more complex plants and animals. THIS IS BECAUSE:
<> the introduced gene may act differently when working within its new host
<> the original genetic intelligence of the host will be disrupted I the new combination of the host genes and the introduced gene will have unpredictable effects; and therefore
<> there is no way of knowing the overall, long-term effect of genetically engineered foods on the health of those who eat them.

THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF THE FACTS:

<> Unnatural gene transfers from one species to another are dangerous. Biotechnology companies erroneously claim that their manipulations are similar to natural genetic changes or traditional breeding techniques. However, the cross-species transfers being made, such as between fish and tomatoes, or between other unrelated species, would not happen in nature and may create new toxins, diseases, and weaknesses. In this risky experiment, the general public is the guinea-pig.
Biotechnology companies also claim their methods are precise and sophisticated. In fact, the process of inserting genes is quite random and can damage normal genes. Genetic research shows that many weaknesses in plants, animals, and humans have their origin in tiny imperfections in the genetic code. Therefore, the random damage resulting from gene insertion will inevitably result in side-effects and accidents. Scientists have assessed these risks to be substantial. (Refs: Palmiter, R.D. et al (1986) ANNUAL REVIEW OF GENETICS 20: 465; Inose, T. et al (1995) INT. JOUR.

FOOD SCIENCE TECH. 30:141.)

<> Unpredictable health damaging effects When genetic engineers insert a new gene into any organism there are "position effects" which can lead to unpredictable changes in the pattern of gene expression and genetic function. The protein product of the inserted gene may carry out unexpected reactions and produce potentially toxic products. There is also serious concern about the dangers of using genetically engineered viruses as delivery vehicles (vectors) in the generation of transgenic plants and

animals. This could destabilise the genome, and also possibly create new viruses, and thus dangerous new diseases. (Refs: Green, A.E. et al (1994) SCIENCE 263:1423; Osbourn, J.K. et al (1990) VIROLOGY 179:921.)

<> Genetically engineered products carry more risks than traditional foods The process of genetic engineering can thus introduce dangerous new allergens and toxins into foods that were previously naturally safe. Already, one genetically engineered soybean was found to cause serious allergic reactions, and bacteria genetically engineered to produce large amounts of the food supplement, tryptophan, have produced toxic contaminants that killed 37 people and permanently disabled 1,500 more.

**(Refs: Nordlee, J.A. et al (1996) THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE 688;
Mayeno, A.N. et al (1994) TIBTECH 12:364.)**

<> Increased pollution of food and water supply More than 50% of the crops developed by biotechnology companies have been engineered to be resistant to herbicides. Use of herbicide-resistant crops will lead to a threefold increase in the use of herbicides, resulting in even greater pollution of our food and water with toxic agrochemicals. (Ref: Goldberg, R.J. (1994) WEED TECHNOLOGY 6:647.)

<> Health-damaging effects caused by genetic engineering will continue forever Unlike chemical or nuclear contamination, genetic pollution is self-perpetuating. It can never be reversed or cleaned up; genetic mistakes will be passed on to all future generations of a species.

<> Inadequate government regulation Biotech companies claim that government regulatory bodies will protect consumers. However DDT, Thalidomide, L-tryptophan, etc. were approved by U.S. regulators with tragic results. Recently it was found that 80% of supermarket milk contained traces of either medicines, illegal antibiotics used on farms, or hormones, including genetically engineered bovine growth hormone (rbGH). The facts show that regulators are not protecting the public adequately. (Ref: Epstein, S.S. (1996) INT. JOUR. HEALTH SERVICES, 26:173.)

<> Ethical concerns Transferring animal genes into plants raises important ethical issues for vegetarians and religious groups. It may also involve animal experiments which are unacceptable to many people.

<> Gene transfer across species and competition from new species damaging the environment When new genetic information is introduced into plants, bacteria, insects or other animals, it can easily be passed into related organisms, through processes such as cross pollination. This process has already created "super weeds". Existing species can also be displaced from the ecosystem with disastrous effects, as happened with genetically modified Klebsiella soil bacteria. (Ref: Holms, M.T. and Ingam, E.R. (1994) Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America (Supplement), 75:97)

Crops are now being engineered to produce their own pesticides. This will promote the more rapid appearance of resistant insects and lead to excessive destruction of useful insects and soil organisms, thus seriously perturbing the ecosystem. In addition, the pesticide produced by the plant may be harmful to the health of consumers. (Refs: Union of Concerned Scientists (1994) GENE EXCHANGE, 5:68; Mikkelsen, T.R. et al (1996) Nature 380:31; Skogsmyr, I. (1994) THEORETICAL AND APPLIED GENETICS 88:770; Hama, H. et al (1992) APPLIED ENTYMOLOGY AND ZOOLOGY 27:355.)

GLOBAL THREAT TO HUMANITY'S FOOD SUPPLY

Giant transnational companies are carrying out a dangerous global experiment by attempting to introduce large numbers of genetically engineered foods widely into our food supply. Because genetic manipulations can generate unanticipated harmful side-effects, and because genetically engineered foods are not tested sufficiently to eliminate those that are dangerous, this experiment, not only jeopardizes the health of individuals, but could also lead to national or even global food shortages and large-scale health threats.

There is no logical scientific justification for exposing society to this risk, nor is it necessary to take this risk for the purpose of feeding humanity. It is only of benefit to the biotech industry, which will obtain short term commercial gains at the expense of the health and safety of the whole population. Tampering with the genetic code of food is reckless and poses a serious threat to life. It could easily upset the delicate balance between our physiology and the foods that we eat. There is already ample scientific justification for an immediate ban on genetically modified foods in order to safeguard our health.
CAMPAIGN TO BAN GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD
For further information, please contact jfagan@mum.edu
From; http://www.netlink.de/gen/fagan.txt

MRS. WIETEKE VAN DORT

Mrs. Wieteke van Dort is a famous Dutch (TV-) actress, painter and writer, she is also worried about GM-food. She has participated in our international GMOs-free exhibitions, several artists from different countries did send their work to us. She also did attend a lot of demonstrations for a GMOs-free world. And favours organic agriculture.

www.kunstkringlelystad.nl/kkexpogentechvrij.html

www.wietekevandort.nl

Letter of support for the GM-free Lelystad citizens' initiative - 26 August 2004

Dear Miep Bos

I am writing to you on behalf of the Independent Science Panel (ISP) on Genetic Modification (GM). The ISP consists of two dozen prominent scientists from seven countries, spanning diverse disciplines, and who are concerned to provide critical scientific information to the global debate over genetic engineered crops, in view of its importance for the future of our food and agriculture.

We understand that together with citizens from Lelystad, The Netherlands, you are leading a citizens' initiative to create a GM-free Lelystad. This initiative is not alone, for many in Europe and around the world have successfully created GM-free regions.

We are encouraged by your efforts and lend our support to the initiative. In this regard, I am pleased to draw your attention to the ISP's report, 'The Case for a GM-free Sustainable World', which is an extensive review of the scientific and other evidence on the problems and hazards of GM crops and the manifold benefits of all forms of sustainable agriculture (please find attached the Report's Executive Summary). Based on this, we are calling for a global ban on environmental release of GM crops, to make way for agroecology, organic farming and other forms of sustainable agriculture. The report is available for downloading at the ISP website, www.indsp.org

It is clear, from the evidence presented in the ISP Report, that there are many unanswered questions on the safety of GM crops. Very few studies have been conducted, particularly as to the effects of GM foods on human health, and the few independent studies that have been carried out raise serious concerns. Research increasingly shows that GM crops can affect the environment and wildlife negatively. Given the scientific uncertainties and the likelihood that once GM crops are released into the environment, transgenic contamination of non-GM crops is inevitable, it is imperative that the Precautionary Principle is applied. Particularly so in the case of Lelystad where there are many organic farms. We wish you all the best in your initiative and hope that our report can contribute to your local meetings on 30th August and 16th September, and to informing the local council vote on 16th September.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. Mae-Wan Ho (m.w.ho@i-sis.org.uk)
For the Independent Science Panel
PO Box 32097
London NW1 0XR
UK **http://www.indsp.org/Lelystad.php**

From an USA correspondent

29-08-2007 All about GMOs.

1. People in strategic places in government, academia, and industry are being bribed. http://www.gmwatch.org/archive2.asp?arcid=4796
2. Personnel in academia and industry are fired when the have opposing views of what the biotech multi-nationals consider to be true.
3. Bt-cotton in India and Indonesia is an economic, human, and environmental disaster.
4. Gene technology for drought resistant plants: there are plans but no actual crops ready for sale.
5. Gene technology for salt resistant plants: there are plans but no actual crops ready for sale.
6. Testing on bio-safety and human safety show only positive results, negative effects on human health and environment are purposely not disclosed.
7. US farm families have often 2 to 3 income earners in on family to make ends meet. Often there are the farms that grow GMO crops.
8. Soybeans: In GMO soybeans, the protein content is 1.0% lower and the yield is 5 to 6 bushels per acre lower compared to conventional (non-GMO) soybeans.
9. GMO crops/seed is more expensive than conventional seed. Farmers that grow GMO crops spray three times instead of once, leading to weed resistance.
10. Monsanto is releasing corn/maize in 2009 that has 10 biotech genes/traits. What is your opinion on this? Will it now be resistant to every disease or herbicide?
11. Farmer that grow GMO seed are prohibited from keeping seed over to the next growing season; this is a custom as old from the earliest form of agriculture. Most farmers in the developing countries still practice this and what will it mean if they cannot save seed for next year?
12. Organic farmers and co-existence: Theoretically yes, but many municipal council members are bought off and misinformed to allow GMO crops near organic farmers. With GMO crops nearby, organic farmers lose their niche.
13. Labeling of GMO product: this is not allowed in the USA, furthermore, milk treated rBST is also not labeled. Is this lack of labeling evidence that the GMO products are unsafe?
14. Purposely releasing as many GMO crops (approved or not approved yet) into the environment results in genetic contamination. Eventually non-GMO farmers and the larger community give up and have to allow GMO crops.
15. Contaminated land is often land that cannot sustain crops longer. Does Bt kill only the European corn borer but does it also affect microbial soil life?
16. Bt Corn: there is enough evidence that rats fed only with GMO/Bt corn developed liver cancer.
17. If rats develop various cancers, what will happen to humans?
18. The incidence of allergies has increased thrice since GMO soybeans are in production.
19. Finally, what good did agricultural- and chemical multinational companies bring to the world?

Here is an article on GMOs and the dangers, received from Mr. N. Konijnendijk.

GMO:

Genetic Modification is not precise as biotech companies claim it to be:
In biotech crops, vectors and/or "DNA bombardment" introduce most of the gene sequences. Both methods of gene introduction are not precise. Scientists cannot precisely determine where the novel gene sequences will end up in the recipient's genome. Furthermore, once the novel gene sequence is incorporated in the host's genome, this particular gene sequence might be "shuffled" in the host's DNA. Thus, in theory a novel gene construct with an adjacent promotor sequence (to keep for instance the herbicide gene "on" all the time) might be broken up. Theoretically, the promotor sequence could then regulate another gene in the host's genome, with unknown results.

Allergic reactions---novel proteins:

As indicated above, inserting genetic sequences is not as precise as biotechnologists like us to believe. Since we cannot predict where the "foreign DNA segments" will reside in the host's genome, we cannot predict with 100% accuracy how these "foreign DNA sequences" will operate. Promotor genes that were introduced could transcribe novel proteins—generated due to DNA shuffling. Long–term exposure to such foods could lead to allergic reactions in humans and animals. Studies on potential allergies are difficult to perform due to the fact that we do not always know what proteins, or novel proteins we are looking for. Furthermore, studies on allergic reactions are difficult to design (e.g. find participants, placebo effect, etc.) and are lengthy.

Out-crossing of "foreign genes":

Many genetically modified crops are open pollinated. Open pollinated crops have their pollen released by wind or insects, and this pollen can travel significant distances to pollinate other plants. Thus it is possible to have non-GMO corn "contaminated" by GMO corn—e.g. Bt resistance showing up in non-GMO corn. Another example is of GMO canola (Brassicae species) genes showing up in related species such as Brassica juncea. As a result, farmers that were growing non-GMO corn or Brassica juncea still have to test for GMO because of the likelihood of genetic contamination. These farmers typically end up paying for the testing to confirm their non-GMO status, adding additional costs to their farm operations. The issue of who pays for "genetic contamination" is often very contentious.

News from abroad; Quatar

Boycott of firms dealing in 'tainted' goods urged
Gulf Times (Qatar), 25 August 2007 [shortened]
http://www.gulf-times.com/site/topics/article.asp?cu_no=2&item_no=168747&version=1&template_id=36&parent_id=16

PROMINENT scholar Ali Mohyeedin al-Qurradaghi has called upon dealers and consumers to boycott companies trading in tainted commodities and genetically modified foodstuff, saying that cheating in these goods is a 'crime against humanity' that should be strictly dealt with.

Al-Qurradaghi, a professor of Shariah at Qatar University, has also called for a stricter law and monitoring of the local market to deter companies dealing in foodstuff or commodities that can constitute a threat to health.

He also blamed the rise in cancer cases around the world on what he called 'commercial cheating', saying that those involved in such cheating should be punished as stated in the Holy Qur'an.

What is GM doing to our plants?

NON-GM SUCCES STORIES

from news@genet-info.org.

Subject: GMO-free products & seeds: Recent advances in non-GE breeding.
From: GENET - news&information <news@genet-info.org>
Date: 9 Oct 2007
Title: Pinoy Breeds new, drought-resistant corn.

Source: Minda News, Philippines Author: Allen V. Estabillo
http://www.mindanews.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3297&Itemid=50
Date: 05.10.2007 Fragment

BANGA, South Cotabato (MindaNews/3 Oct) - For an ordinary farmer, only a miracle can make a corn plant survive for almost a month under an unusually intense heat and without a single drop of water.

But a scientific breakthrough practically made that history after local farmers here witnessed for themselves how a new corn variety developed by a local biotechnology company was able to survive a drought for 29 straight days.
Title: Body blow to grain borer, Source: CIMMYT E-News Author: -
Url: http://www.cimmyt.org/english/wps/news/2007/sep/borers.htm

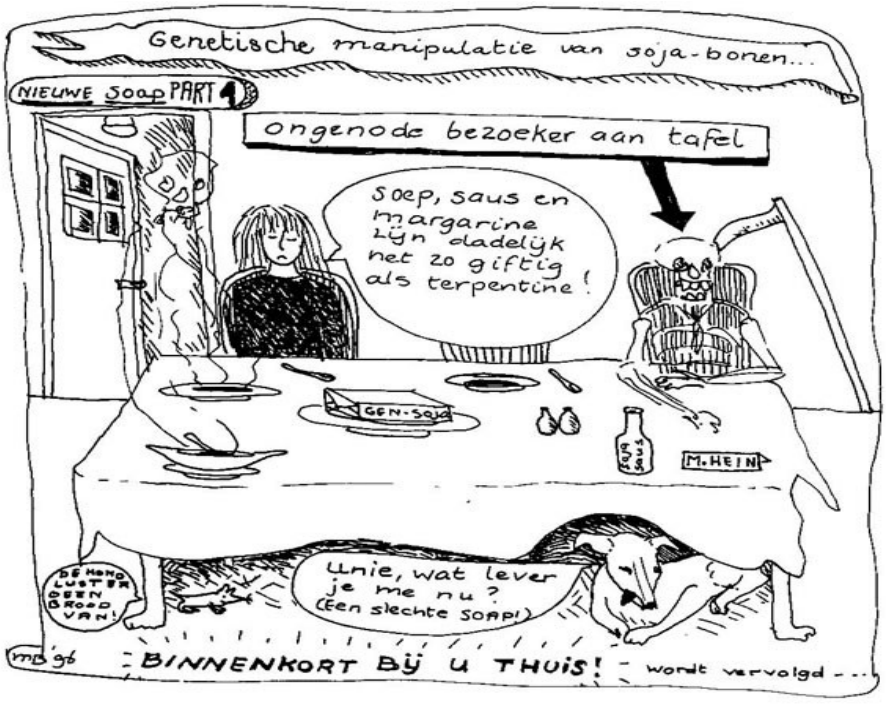
Date: 01.09.2007 Fragment
The larger grain borer is taking a beating from CIMMYT breeders in Kenya as new African maize withstands the onslaught of one of the most damaging pests.
Scientists from CIMMYT, working with the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI), have developed maize with significantly increased resistance to attack in storage bins from a pest called the larger grain borer.

More non-GM succes stories:

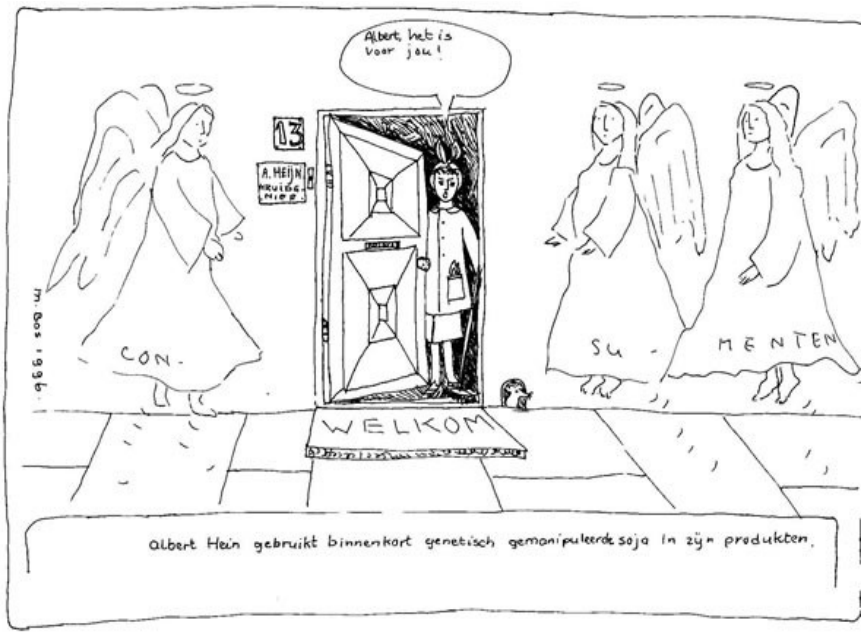
http://www.gmwatch.org/archive2.asp?arcid=8139

2007-10-05 GMO Case Brings Research Changes
OMAHA (DTN) -- Inadequate distances between plots and possible human error are likely to blame for the contamination of two popular commercial rice varieties with a genetic trait not yet cleared for commercial release, officials with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service said in a press conference Friday.
http://www.usfarmcredit.com/InformationCenter/DTNStory.asp?Storyid=19164

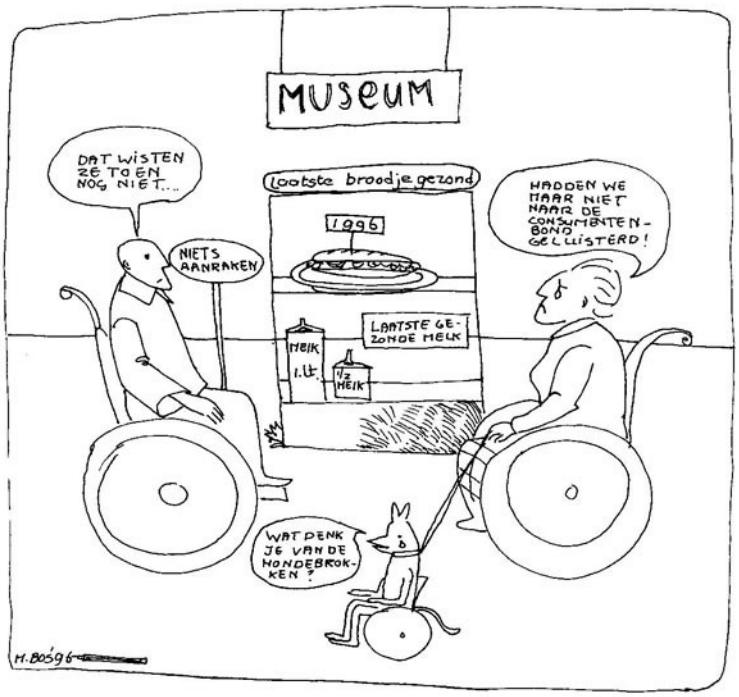
Noach;"No, no not you!"



Dutch multinational Unilever started using GMOs in their products in the Netherlands in 1996.



Consumers visit Mr. Heijn in 1996, owner of the Dutch supermarket Albert Heijn, they have become angels, they did eat their products, containing GMOs. The woman at the door says; "Albert, it's for you!"



Last food, that's healthy.

Multinational Monsanto was the first company who did sent GM-soy to` the harbour of Rotterdam in December 1996. The Dutch just did celebrate Santa Claus (Sinterklaas).

"Ban the Bean" .

A photo of Sjen was published in a newspaper. The message on his back says; "Mum, what are we eating today? GMO-free, child!"

Demonstration of about 50 people in 2000 during a GMO-forum, celebrating the start a Bio Science Park in Lelystad. Mrs. C. Schneider, former USA ambassador, was one of the people, who attended the forum. They did built the premises, but the Park never started. Photo: Wieteke van Dort.

The GMO-eaters

WORRIES OF A DUTCH HOUSEWIFE ABOUT GMOS

This is a little virtual book of Miep Bos, a Dutch housewife and artist.
In 1996 she came aware of the fact that manufacturers didn't want to tell her, if they use GMOs in their products, she wrote to them all.
Consumers pay for the products and so she thought that the customer should be treated like a king.
But now she knows, that we have nothing more to say about our own food.
Multinationals will decide what is good for us!
The only thing you can do is to shop organic.

Photo: Ineke Ludwig - van Leeuwen.

Old Dutch windmill from Aalburg painted by Miep Bos.