

Submission Cover Sheet

Review of the Moratorium on GM Canola

Submission Number: 97

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Attachments Submitted with this Submission:

- Gene splicing foods is imprecise and unpredictable
- Toxicity of the herbicide
- Genetically engineered crops may produce herbicide inside our intestines
- "Superweeds" GE crops causing agricultural crisis in Argentina
- Human deaths and disablement
- Death deformities allergy & sterility in pigs
- Genetically engineered food – safety problems
- Herbicide resistances genes from Roundup Ready soybeans have been found in the bacteria of human small intestines
- Death for dogs and cats – pet food
- Powerful fungus linked to GM crop weed killer
- Monsanto 2nd largest soybean seed customer bankrupt
- GM crops are an economic disaster
- Collapse of economic markets
- Removal of GE ingredients from brand name products
- How GM crops destroy the third world
- Millions of Indians farmers join lawsuit against Monsanto & biotech industry over GMO contamination

- GMO liabilities threat for farmers
- Canadian organic farmers sue Monsanto on GM crops
- Bee deaths
- The collapse of honeybees worldwide
- Indonesia: “Bt cotton planting has given us more harm than good”
- India: “Bt cotton unfit for cultivation and should be banned”
- Argentina & GM soy – Success at what cost?
- GM seeds destroy India’s rice economy
- Rice industry: keep genetically engineered varieties in the lab
- US Government deception about GMOs exposed
- GM crops destined to be banned in Europe
- Attachment – weeds and Australian conditions

To obtain copies of these attachments please call the Review Panel Secretariat on (03) 9658 4874 or (03) 9658 4871

Introduction

To form an opinion on the effects of trade in Australia on the growth of Genetically Modified crops, no matter whether it is canola, maize or cotton (the same bacterial genetic modifications apply) it is necessary to consider the outcomes in the countries across the world, United States of America, Argentina, Canada & India that have been growing GM Crops for more than a decade.

The Norfolk Genetic Information Network reported that "Monsanto announced, June 12, 2002 that its second largest customer for GE soybean seeds, Argentina, was bankrupt, and that its soybean farmers would no longer be able to receive seeds on credit..., Monsanto was also forced to admit to investors that its global profits would decline by as much as 20% this year. Over the past three years, Argentina has become the world's second largest producer of GE crops (their only crop being Roundup Ready soybeans), due to Monsanto selling GE soybeans on credit at bargain basement prices. Argentina's economic meltdown means that global acreage of GE crops will level off and start to decrease this year

The cause of the destruction to the economies of the countries using GM crops can only be studied by understanding the Genetic Modification of the plants. Professor David Schubert of the Salk Institute in California describes the introduction of foreign genes to be both crude and imprecise, the outcomes are random and can be toxic and carcinogenic. One plant may be deemed to have "acceptable" levels of glufosinate ammonium and aminopterin 'rat poison' which is supposed not to harm animals and their by products but the next plant or the others that invaded the neighbor's fields have uncontrollable outcomes.

To create a plant that has its own built in pest control there has been bacterial insertions. Glufosinate ammonium is structurally similar to a natural amino acid called glutamic acid, which can stimulate the central nervous system and, in excess levels, cause the death of nerve cells in the brain. The common reactions to glufosinate poisoning in humans include unconsciousness, respiratory distress and convulsions. Aminopterin "Rat Poison" is used as a genetic marker.

We have then plants that reproduce in random toxic or poisonous outcomes, the reported deaths of around 10,000 sheep and goats from grazing on GM crops is most alarming. Animal and human deaths are also a result of use of GM Crops.

In the US in what is described as the Showa Denko Tryptophan Disaster 37 people died and between 1500 & 2000 people were permanently disabled following the introduction of Genetically Modified plants into the production of a food supplement Tryptofan.

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Researchers found traces of rat poison in the remains of hundreds of dogs and cats died with kidney and liver complications, research into the source of the toxin lead back to Genetically Modified wheat used a filler in pet food. Sixty million packages and cans of pet food were recalled but demands to discontinue the usage of GM wheat crops have had little effect. Indeed the ability to remove GM crops once they have been planted appears to be almost impossible.

The development of GM *Roundup Ready* plants in an effort to use less insect sprays has proved to be disastrous. The Roundup ready plants have become *Superweeds*. Monsanto sue neighbouring farmers who have windblown or flood carried plants in their crops, claiming that they have stolen the seeds. In Argentina 300,000 small farmers and farm workers have been forced off their land. The costs of using older 24D-T or paraquat have bankrupted the farmers.

Filipinos in at least 5 villages fell sick when nearby GM corn was pollinating. And hundreds of laborers in India developed allergic reactions after handling GM cotton. Soy allergies skyrocketed by 50% in the UK soon after GM soy was introduced. If pollinating crops can have such an affect on nearby workers what hope has the humble bee of survival? Not only can the random GM plant have accelerated toxins but the neighboring farmers are using stronger sprays to try to keep the *Superweeds out*.

Governments are now being sued for the lack of research into GM crops before they were first introduced. The Supreme Court of India the Government faces litigation for granting permission for field trials, the Government of India has failed to protect the people's interest and health.

The farmers that now plant GM crops can expect to have court cases lodged against them. It is not possible to take Insurance cover against liability in the outcome. Without doubt farmers who desperately try to keep their farms in production believe that the introduction of Genetically Modified crops may give them better yield results in drought conditions. This doubtless is a driving factor in Victoria which leads our farming communities to be in favour of the removal of the Moratorium against GM Crops. One can only believe that the average busy farmer does not have the time to make extensive research into the consequences of GM farming a decade later for the major growers in the overseas markets.

When asbestos was widely used as a building material it offered the home owner a cheap reasonably fire proof alternative to timber constructions. The ultimate deaths from the carcinogenic substances within the asbestos meant that the asbestos was withdrawn from the market. This meant that the makers of the product moved onto "fibrelight" materials that filled much the same need but without the health hazards that lay within the use of asbestos.

Unfortunately the "Round UP Ready Superweed" has proven almost impossible to eradicate in millions of acres of overseas farmlands. The current desire to grow GM canola to be used as oil based fuels seems to be a move to reduce the

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effects of global warming. However in light of the overseas experience - a decade later- this is a very environmentally dangerous undertaking.

American Public interest attorney, Steven M Druker, JD, has been involved in a lawsuit against the Food and Drug Administration in 2000 over the approval of genetically modified crops in the United States by the FDA over the misrepresentation of the facts and a massive cover up of scientists' warnings.

To achieve scientific benefits from Genetic Engineering that are positively there we need first to remove the use of the current Roundup Ready - Insecticide based plants and start again with plants that are not going to destroy the environment or remain within the human system in presently undetermined toxic outcomes.

Please maintain the moratorium and ban any further use of the current strains of GM Crops and look to a safe evolution of plants in the future.

Beu Kibble