

Dear Madam or Sir,

Its the same multi national companies that brought us DDT, Agent Orange, Round Up and PCBs that have developed Genetic engineering. Genetic Modification of crops was introduced by multinational companies as a way of ultimately controlling the food chain. They own the GM seeds and stand to gain huge profits by hooking farmers into growing GM food. They advertise GM as a profit making panacea to world hunger, peak oil and climate change, but farmers in Canada, India and the US are finding that the exact **opposite** is true. There are no higher yields and the cost of seed royalties and stewardship fees skyrocket once farmers are under contract.

These foods have never been tested on humans. The Corporations tell us these foods are safe, like they told us Roundup and Tobacco and DDT were safe.

We have seen disturbing results in the limited GM feeding trials done so far on animals: Shrunken brains, shrunken testicles, atrophy of the liver, sluggish immune system All this after only 10 days on GM potatoes. .

We want proper labelling so people can avoid any food derived from GM crops until they are proven safe. (and to allow a hope of traceability if illness IS caused)

..If there was nothing to hide the Pro GM lobbyists would be all for independent health trials but instead they are doing everything possible to prevent them, They have sacked researchers for reporting adverse effects , halted studies abruptly , denigrated scientists who advise caution. You cannot access Monsanto's GM seed unless you sign a contract stating you will not do any research with it.

The government s in the US, and the UK were keen to promote GM crops .They ignored independent scientists warnings and appointed key industry players to high positions in the departments of environment, agriculture and health. They put alot of money into biotech research and commissioned reports designed to sell GM to the public and reassure them it was safe. They did not require safety testing of these foods because they deemed them "Substantially Equivalent" to natural foods. The Australian government and food safety regulators are doing the same thing here...accepting suspect company research as evidence of safety. FSANZ have ignored the results of trials where mice were fed the canola cake (by product of pressing the oil) which resulted in an increase in their liver weight of 17% after only a few weeks feeding. But FSANZ don't have jurisdiction on animal feedstuffs. This means that the meat, eggs, milk etc from GM fed animals is of no interest to FSANZ ! We demand that the decision to release GM canola in the form of trials in W.A. is reconsidered until independent , peer reviewed ,multi generational feeding trials are done in this country.

Farmers don't want to grow food that might harm people .

All through 2008 W.A.'s Non GM canola was getting good demand and premium prices.

Why jeopardize this? We have yet to meet a market that wants to buy GM.

. The global demand for non Gm food is only going to increase as the evidence mounts that this stuff should never have left the lab.. W.A. should remain GM Free.

At the moment we have a choice to avoid GMOs by growing our own food or buying organic. We will loose pretty well this last option if Gm Canola is released here even in the form of trials. Due to cross pollination by bees and wind all the brassica family could become contaminated with transgenes: plants such as broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, turnip, radish, bok choy, mizuna, rocket and weeds such as wild radish., Canadian experience shows that contamination of non GM canola crops is inevitable, and within 12 months , growing and selling NON GM canola in W.A. would also become impossible. Volunteers of gm canola in organic farmer's paddocks would cause either lots of vigilance and manual labour for organic farmers to remove the unwanted canola or the loss of their organic certification should gm seeds be found in their organic crop of say spelt ,wheat or oats.

Honey producers would be affected even by trials of GM canola, with honey becoming contaminated with GM pollen. This happened in the UK and the affected honey was deemed unsaleable. It is interesting to note that so far bees in Australia have escaped colony collapse disorder, a very serious problem in Europe and North America where GM crops are widespread.

A nightmare of additional secretarial work, paperwork, regular (expensive) DNA testing and litigation awaits food processing companies who wish to sell GM free food and advertise the fact. An accidental mixing of GM rice which wasn't approved for human consumption with traditional rice occurred in China, which left food outlets around the world testing madly for GM contamination in a whole range of food from rice cakes to noodles to rice flour.

Do we really need GM and its attendant imposition on our time and resources if we are:
local councils' health inspectors,
food business proprietors,
consumers trying to provide safe food for our families,
chefs trying to source GM free ingredients,
farmers wanting to sell to a public demanding GM free food?

It seems the only winners are the corporations selling the GM seed and RoundUp, and they have neatly avoided all responsibility for the health effects, environmental effects, and the financial impacts on thousands of non gm farmers .

In the last 10 to 15 years we have seen a 4 fold increase in the rate of asthma in our kids as noted by Dr Fiona Stanley, and a skyrocketing of numbers of children suffering allergies, anaphylactic shock, atopic eczema, autism and aspergers diseases in the last 10 to 15 years....GM foods appeared in supermarkets 10 to 15 years ago.

Please outlaw the growing of GM crops in Australia..Please allow Western Australia with its geographical isolation a chance to cater to the non GM food market both domestically and overseas.

Please can we turn to renewable sources of energy now , and stave off climate change which threatens agriculture in this country so gravely.

Please can we encourage organic farming and Permaculture as they are sustainable when fossil fuel dependent farming is not.

Please can we encourage very small families, as our environment is overpopulated, both here and overseas.

Raiding fossil water is not a good idea, leave the Yarragadee alone.

Thankyou for your attention,

Yours sincerely, Bee Winfield