

GM FREEZE



PROTECTING OUR FARMS OUR FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

GENETICALLY MANIPULATED (GM) CROPS AND FOODS ARE MADE WHEN GENES FROM PLANTS, ANIMALS OR BACTERIA ARE INSERTED INTO PLANTS OR ANIMALS IN A LABORATORY TO CREATE NEW ORGANISMS. GMOS DO NOT EXIST IN NATURE AND CANNOT BE CREATED USING TRADITIONAL BREEDING METHODS.

GM canola and cotton are the only GM crops grown in Australia and their oil enters our food supply in products such as margarine, breads, biscuits and packaged foods. Imported GM soy, corn, and canola is included unlabelled in stock feed for livestock. GM soy, corn, canola

and sugarbeet may be in imported packaged food products, especially from North America. If you avoid these products you can avoid eating GM food. GM crops such as rice and wheat have been "trialled" but are not commercially released - and we want to keep it that way. The food regulator, Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) has not refused one application for a GM food approval. FSANZ has approved over 50 GM varieties on the basis of data supplied by the GM companies. GM products remain unlabeled due to weak national labelling laws. Even GM products banned in other countries are allowed in Australia and New Zealand by FSANZ.

FREEZE APPROVALS OF GM CROPS AND FOOD

We are calling for a freeze on all GM crops and food approvals in Australia. This means no new crop approvals, no new areas to grow GM, no new approvals of GM foods into our food supply. The two crops that we grow in Australia, GM canola and cotton, should also be reviewed. Data showing crop yield, quantity of pesticides used per area and weed resistance should be made available to the public and reviewed by an independent panel including overseas experts.

There are numerous studies showing that GM feed causes harm to experimental animals, for example, Monsanto's canola Round Up Ready GT73 resulted in increased liver sizes of 15% when fed to rats in Monsanto's own feeding trial.

There is wide concern about the risks of GM harm to the environment - in the 15 years since the introduction of GM canola to Canada there is a pronounced increase in herbicide use and weed resistance problems. Farmers are forced to resort to 2,4-D to control the superweeds. Farmers are signing contracts which stop them saving seeds. UK Government trials over four years resulted in a halt to GM canola cultivation due to environmental concerns.

GM companies such as Monsanto and Bayer own the seed - the farmer no longer does. If GM canola grows on your property, even if you did not plant it, the chemical company can claim ownership of these plants. This is a great threat to farmers. Studies show the crops that thrive best are those that are adapted to their microclimates over many generations of local farmer knowledge.

GM CROPS IMPACT OUR HEALTH. THEY ARE A THREAT TO FARMER'S LIVELIHOODS, FOOD SECURITY, AND THE BIODIVERSITY OF THE PLANET. GM FOODS ARE MINIMALLY TESTED BY THE AGROCHEMICAL COMPANIES AND THE RESULTS ARE OFTEN NOT MADE PUBLIC.

The GM Freeze campaign brings together individuals, companies, organisations, and communities which represent society's wide ranging concerns about Genetically manipulated food and farming. We are calling for an immediate halt to GM approvals in Australia and New Zealand, to any expansion of growing of GM crops, and a review of the crops that are currently grown..

GM FREEZE IS A NATION-WIDE CAMPAIGN OF THE GM-FREE AUSTRALIA ALLIANCE - JOIN US!

GM-FREE FOOD AND CROPS - REAL SECURITY FOR AUSTRALIAN FOOD.

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