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From: NANCY ODEN [mailto:cleaneearth@myfairpoint.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2009 10:44 AM
To: Jennings, Henry
Subject: for Board re GMO corn

Henry - Please include this article (below) in Board's packets and bring it up for discussion as an Agenda item at the meeting where any GMO corn is a subject of discussion. Please make my point as follows:

The only entities supporting GMO corn or other genetically-tempered-with plants are those who want to make more money from these un-natural creations. There is NOTHING to be gained from producing them, nothing excepting money for the creators, who show NO care for nature or the health of earth's creatures, including human beings.

Notice that those supporting the ban, that is, opposing the planting of GMO crops, are accused of trying to make points with voters. Well, that tells us that voters in Germany (and elsewhere) do not want genetically modified crops planted in their countries. There is plenty of scientific evidence to support that common sense decision by the people, including the fact that sows fed exclusive GMO corn and/or soy frequently abort their litters or have fewer, smaller babies.

Why wouldn't this also be true of humans? Why are so many human females unable to conceive? Why is the human male sperm count down by half of what it was 70 years ago? Why so many miscarriages or premature babies with life-threatening anomalies? Why are there so very many children who need "special education?" These were all rare not that long ago.

The genetic combining of one species into another is not only dangerous, but it does NOT enhance productivity. The only ones to profit are Monsanto, Dow, Bayer, et al, when their sales people convince farmers that genetically-changed seed--poisoned with antibiotics and other life forms not intended for human consumption--is somehow "better" than natural food crops.

This is simply not true, merely a salesperson's lie. Many GMO crop trials have shown that they produce not more, but even LESS product than the natural forms of the same plants. Or they do strange things, like cotton balls falling off the plant before maturity, and so on.

No GMO's should be allowed in Maine or anywhere. They're dangerous and I, along with many others, believe their poison pollen, which lands everywhere including on flowers where bees gather nectar, is at least partly responsible for the sudden death of millions of honeybees, which are super-sensitive to poisons of all kinds, including pesticides.

If the Board had the best interests of Maine's PEOPLE uppermost, instead of raking in more money from the Monsanto's of the world, the Maine Pesticide Control Board would ban GMO crops right now, and vote to label "contains genetically modified materials" any food stuffs that come into Maine containing GMO plant material.

Thank you for your consideration..... - Nancy Oden, Jonesboro, Maine

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/LE218443.htm> (Reuters)

Germany to ban cultivation of Monsanto GMO maize

14 Apr 2009 16:07:23 GMT

Source: Reuters

* GMO maize banned for sowing for this year's crop

* Decision not fundamental obstacle to GMO crops

* Germany on conflict course with EU Commission

By Michael Hogan and Thorsten Severin

BERLIN/HAMBURG, April 14 (Reuters) - Germany will ban cultivation and sale of genetically modified (GMO) maize despite European Union rulings that the biotech grain is safe, its government said on Tuesday.

The ban affects U.S. biotech company Monsanto's <MON.N> MON 810 maize which may no longer be sown for this summer's harvest, German Agriculture and Consumer Protection Minister Ilse Aigner told a news conference.

The move puts Germany alongside France, Austria, Hungary, Greece and Luxembourg which have banned MON 810 maize despite its approval by the EU for commercial use throughout the bloc.

"I have come to the conclusion that there is a justifiable reason to believe that genetically modified maize of the type MON 810 presents a danger to the environment," Aigner said, stressing the five other EU states have taken the same action.

The decision to ban was based on scientific factors and was not a political one, Aigner said. It was an individual case and not a fundamental decision against GMO crops, she added.

The EU Commission, the bloc's executive arm, has tried without success to get the bans in other countries lifted and on Tuesday warned it would examine the German decision.

"The Commission will analyse the ban by Germany with the adequate scientific information support and the Commission will decide on the most appropriate follow-up toward this situation," Commission spokeswoman Nathalie Charbonneau told a regular briefing.

Monsanto spokesman Andreas Thierfelder said the decision was unjustified and no supportable scientific reasons for the ban had been given. Should the ban be confirmed, Monsanto would consider legal options with the goal of enabling GMO seeds to be planted for this year's harvest.

The MON 810 maize is resistant to corn borer, a butterfly whose caterpillars damage maize plants.

Aigner said her ministry would now prepare a report into Germany's strategy on GMO crops.

Aigner, who took office in October 2008, said previously she would review approval for cultivation of GMO maize in Germany before this year's sowing took place in late April.

Monsanto gave German authorities a report on compliance with cultivation rules at the end of March.

German authorities had given Aigner differing assessments of the report, the minister said. But the Environment Ministry also believed GMOs presented a threat to the environment.

DECISION WELCOMED

The south German state of Bavaria welcomed the decision and now planned to become a GMO-

free zone, Bavarian state Environment Minister Markus Soeder said.

Aigner's decision was also welcomed by German environmentalist association BUND.

"The suspicions that genetic maize damages nature and animals are so widespread that a ban is absolutely necessary," BUND chairman Hubert Weiger said.

Environmental group Greenpeace called on Aigner to work inside the EU to stop further approvals of GMO maize.

German farmers have registered intentions to cultivate some 3,600 hectares of maize for the 2009 harvest, up from 3,200 hectares in 2008.

But the total is an insignificant part of Germany's annual maize cultivation of around 1.8 to 2.0 million hectares. German farmers' association DBV did not support or criticise the decision in a short statement, saying it expected the decision to have been made according to scientific principles.

"As in the public there is a deep divide between those who favour and oppose (GMO crops)", the DBV said.

Ferdinand Schmitz, chief executive of the association of German seed producers, said the decision was arbitrary and would damage Germany as a location for research.

Schmitz accused Aigner of trying to score points with voters in the upcoming European parliamentary elections and said banning seeds already approved as safe could generate legal action for compensation.

(Additional reporting by Julie Lois in Brussels; editing by James Jukwey)