From: Arthur Tesla [arthurtesla@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, September 17, 2007 8:09 PM
To: AF-Pesticides Internet
Subject: No genetically engineered foods!! Stop the POISON!!!
The consumer is opposed to genetically engineered foods!!!! Stop forcing it on us!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

From: Arthur Tesla [arthurtesla@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, September 21, 2007 9:45 PM
To: Schlein, Paul B
Subject: Sierra Club genetic engineering website

I am opposed to genetically engineered crops!!!
US agronomist Dr Charles Benbrook warned last year: "Australia should avoid the problems and market losses that the US experienced with GM."

I am opposed to genetically engineered foods!! I personally know 300 people who are opposed to genetically engineered foods!! In California, four counties voted to ban growing genetically engineered foods.
The Sierra Club representing 750,000 members is opposed to genetically engineered foods! Greenpeace is opposed to genetically engineered foods!! Millions of Americans are opposed to genetically engineered foods. Europe is opposed to genetically engineered foods!! Japan is opposed to genetically engineered foods!! Other countries are opposed to genetically engineered foods!!!
Please do not use genetically engineered foods. Why force on people something they don't want?
One website calls Monsanto the most hated company on earth!!! Another website calls genetically engineered foods the largest food experiment in the history of the world!!
Genetically engineered foods are dangerous tampering with nature and we must stop genetically engineered foods!
Sincerely, Arthur Tesla

http://www.sierraclub.org/biotech/
http://www.greenpeace.org/international/campaigns/genetic-engineering
many countries are opposed to genetically engineered foods
http://www.thecampaign.org/international.php

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sierra club policies

Sierra Club Conservation Policies

Biotechnology

The following policies on Biotechnology have been adopted by the Sierra Club Board of Directors:

GENETIC ENGINEERING is a new technology which, unlike traditional breeding methods, allows the transfer of genetic material from one organism into a host organism of an unrelated species, thus bypassing the natural reproductive barriers between species. The genetic manipulation resulting from genes inserted by genetic engineering cannot be recalled; the altered characteristics will be passed on to future generations and continue to be reproduced in the environment.

Genetic engineering became possible with the advent of recombinant DNA technology, which for the first time allowed for the transfer, using laboratory procedures, of DNA from one species into the DNA of an unrelated species. For purposes of this policy, however, we define genetic engineering to include all direct molecular manipulation of the genetic structure of organisms or viruses, including additions of foreign genes (transgenes), gene alterations, duplications, or deletions.

Genetic engineering is not, as many of its supporters claim, merely a more efficient form of traditional plant and animal breeding. There is a clear boundary between traditional breeding methods and the radically new technology of genetic engineering.

A GENETICALLY ENGINEERED ORGANISM (GEO) is a single-celled or multicellular organism, the genetic structure of which has been altered by genetic engineering, resulting in genetic changes that could not be achieved using conventional breeding methods. (The terms "GEO," "genetically modified organism" and "genetically altered organism" all have the same meaning.)

The accidental outflow of transgenes or altered genes from a genetically engineered organism to a natural organism, by pollen transfer or by other means, results in the production of an organism which, although it has not intentionally been genetically engineered, must be classified as a genetically engineered organism.

GENERAL STATEMENTS OF PRINCIPLE (further expanded in the guidelines, to follow)

The Sierra Club urges full public disclosure, discussion and evaluation of the potential hazards, the potential benefits, and policy options for genetic engineering research and the development and use of products from that research. We urge the development of adequate regulatory, legislative, and other controls and that these decisions be based on a reverence for nature and life, as well as socioeconomic equity.

We call for acting in accordance with the Precautionary Principle, meaning that when an activity raises the possibility of serious or irreversible harm to the environment or living creatures, precautionary measures that prevent the possibility of harm shall be taken even if the causal line between the activity and the possible harm has not been proven.

In accordance with this Precautionary Principle, we call for a moratorium on the planting of all genetically engineered crops and the release of all GEOs into the environment, including those now approved. Releases should be delayed until extensive, rigorous research is done which determines the long-term environmental and health impacts of each GEO and there is public debate to ascertain the need for the use of each GEO intended for release into the environment.

We urge that where there are safer alternatives to the use of GEOs, these technologies should be given preference. For example, genetic engineering solutions should never be used to divert attention from the solutions to the problem of hunger that carry less biological risk (e.g., better distribution of food, land reform, sustainable soil conservation strategies, promotion of regional sustainability, reduced consumption of animal products, and stabilization of

population).

GUIDELINES

(1) TESTING OF GEOs. There are health and environmental risks inherent in the release of GEOs during field testing and/or commercial planting. Government agencies must develop and enforce policies that require stepwise testing, with strict controls to prevent accidental and premature releases. The stepwise testing must include (as appropriate) contained testing in the laboratory and greenhouse. The results of each step must be made publicly available when tests are subject to approval processes. No field testing should be done until all guidelines in this policy are met.

(2) REGULATION OF GEO RELEASES. Regulation of releases of genetically engineered organisms should ensure that potentially hazardous organisms are not released into the environment without sufficient safeguards and monitoring. Final evaluation should be made on the basis of the effects of genetic modifications, taking into account other factors, particularly the site where the organism will be released. Long-term as well as short-term impacts of GEOs must be evaluated, and a finding of environmental safety made before a release is approved. At a minimum, the evaluation must assess:

(a) the genetically engineered organism's role in the ecosystem (including its food and nutrients, its predators, parasites, and competitors, organisms with which it can exchange genetic material, and environmental limits to its growth);

(b) the impact of its release and potential use on ecosystems and genetic diversity;

(c) the effects of its potential use on sustainable agriculture, resource use, and cultural systems;

(d) the impacts of the organism and its products on human health; and

(e) the impacts of marker genes as well as genes of interest to producers. (Antibiotic resistance marker genes should not be used in GEOs released into the environment.)

All impacts from production to disposal should be assessed, as well as all paths of potential migration, and the scale of the release. Deleterious impacts on workers or on those living near production or release sites should also be considered. An emergency response plan must be in place in case of unforeseen outcomes.

If any government, organization or individual wishes to release, for any purpose, genetically engineered organisms into the environment of a foreign country, they should abide by the standards of the releasing party's home country as well as those of the host country. In the case of conflicting national standards, the standard more protective of the environment and human health should prevail.

Public agencies providing biosafety oversight must notify the public of proposed releases and provide a reasonable and timely opportunity for the public to comment on proposed releases. Notification should include, but not be limited to, the location of release sites. Public comment should be encouraged and receive response. Agencies should ensure public access to all information necessary to evaluate potential hazards even when such needed information otherwise qualifies as confidential business information. In addition, companies and institutions should not be permitted to withhold scientific testing data as trade secrets.

The Sierra Club supports the establishment of a repository for information on GEOs that have been approved for release. Such information must be available to the public.

(3) MONITORING OF GEOs. Both deliberate and unintentional releases of genetically engineered organisms should be monitored through coordinated efforts of agencies, companies, and academic institutions in order to test predictions about the organisms' behavior, numbers, dispersal and environmental impact. The public should be involved in the design of these monitoring programs. Data from such programs must be made available to the public and widely distributed and publicized.

(4) LABELING AND SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCE. Foods produced from or containing GEOs may contain new substances or have purposeful or inadvertent compositional changes. All foods containing or produced with genetically engineered material must be labeled as such. The federal government should carefully regulate food produced from or containing genetically engineered organisms to ensure safety. The use of the concept of "substantial equivalence" in order to waive the need for both pre- and post-marketing testing and surveillance should be prohibited.

(5) LIABILITY. Liability issues must be addressed and resolved prior to the release of every GEO. Manufacturers of GEOs should be fully liable for any environmental damage caused by the organisms they genetically engineer. The burden of proof of safety must be on the manufacturing company. At a minimum, these companies must be fully insured and able to reimburse:

(a) farmers whose crops are less saleable because of genetic contamination from GEOs;

(b) farmers using nonviable genetically engineered seeds; and

(c) for any human or animal suffering health dysfunction resulting from consumption of products that contain GEOs, where the conventional counterpart did not cause such health dysfunction.

(6) CONFLICT OF INTEREST. Regulations should require that there be full public disclosure when there is potential conflict of interest with individuals: (1) serving on biosafety committees; (2) working for or advising government regulatory or research agencies involved in genetic engineering research or regulatory oversight.

(7) REGULATION OF GEOs/TRADE RULES WITHIN THE USA. We support the right of states and localities to adopt regulations for genetically engineered organisms more stringent than federal regulations. We support efforts to ensure communication and, where appropriate, to coordinate oversight among federal, state, and local agencies. Federal and international trade policies and rules must not interfere with the right of states and localities to adopt more stringent measures.

(8) REGULATION OF GEOs / INTERNATIONAL TRADE RULES. All nations should develop and enforce regulations governing experimental release and commercialization of genetically engineered organisms. We oppose any release or agricultural/industrial commercialization of GEOs until appropriate procedures are in place to protect human health, biodiversity, and cultural systems. Trade rules must not be used to override the right of each country to establish regulations based on its own level of risk and based on precautionary action in the absence of scientific certainty.

GEOs may have transboundary impacts. They also may move in international trade. To address these international aspects, governments must complete and ratify the Convention on Biological Diversity negotiations and complete a biosafety protocol establishing adequate minimum standards for regulation of the risk of GEOs, in particular introductions through trade and possible transboundary effects. At a minimum, a biosafety protocol must:

(a) provide for assistance to developing countries to help them build regulatory capacity;

(b) support the implementation of the Precautionary Principle; and

(c) not be subordinated to trade rules.

Members of multilateral trade institutions such as the WTO must work to ensure that trade rules recognize and do not interfere with the implementation of the Precautionary Principle.

(9) INAPPROPRIATE USE OF GEOs. We oppose any development or use of biological weapons and agents used for agricultural bioterrorism, including any use of genetic engineering for these purposes.

We oppose the introduction of any GEOs onto public lands or other open spaces that are protected chiefly for their natural characteristics.

We oppose activities that have the potential to adversely affect the viability of biodiversity and food security. Genetically engineered seed meant to enhance monocropping is an example of such an activity. Others include:

(a) Systems which combine the development of herbicide-tolerant crops with reliance on the manufacturer's proprietary herbicides to control competing plant species should not be instituted;

(b) Technologies that encourage corporate control over seeds should not be employed. Genetic restrictive use technology (commonly known as "terminator technology") is an example of such corporate control; and

(c) Policies that encourage further consolidation or monopolistic control of the food production system should be avoided.

(10) PATENTING of GEOs. All humans, animals, plants, and microorganisms are products of nature.

No individual, institution or corporation should have the ability to claim ownership over species or varieties of living organisms. We oppose the granting of patent claims over organs, cells, genes, proteins, and other living matter whether naturally occurring, genetically engineered, or otherwise modified. The genetic code of humans, animals, plants and microorganisms has evolved over hundreds of millions of years and represents not only our natural world of today but also its past and future. We hold that respect for this natural treasure demands that no government should have power to grant patents or property rights over it. Just as civilized societies have decided that there can be no ownership of human beings (slaves), we believe that there should be no ownership of genetic code, which should continue to be the shared common heritage of all.

Indigenous peoples, their knowledge and resources are the primary target for the commodification of genetic resources. We recognize these peoples' sovereign rights to self-determination and territorial rights, and support their efforts to protect themselves, their lands and genetic resources from commodification and manipulation.

Patents over life forms are not necessary to conduct scientific and technological research, and, in fact, retard and limit access to benefits which may result from new information, treatments or products.

(11) BIOPROSPECTING. Our national park system was established to conserve its scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife in such a manner that will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations. This mandate protects all genetic resources within our national park system from commodification and manipulation. Accordingly, we oppose any individual, institution or corporation's ability to claim control and ownership over this diversity through the act of bioprospecting and/or through contractual agreements allowing access to such diversity for the purpose of commercial gain. We respect the rights of all peoples and governments to similarly designate and restrict exploitation of their own genetic resources.

Adopted by the Sierra Club Board of Directors, May 21, 2000, replaced the policy adopted September 18-19, 1993.

Special Guidelines Concerning Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Sierra Club's Biotechnology Policy, which, among other things, defines genetic engineering and genetically engineered organisms (GEOs), calls for the development of adequate regulatory, legislative and other controls, calls for a reverence for nature, and invokes the Precautionary Principle, is applicable in its entirety to genetically engineered (GE'd) fish, shellfish, and all other GE'd aquatic organisms, in freshwater or salt.

The Guidelines relating to agricultural crops are also broadly applicable. The major issue is very similar: the uncontrolled release of GEOs. Thus, the points in the Guidelines about testing and regulation, monitoring, labeling, liability, application of the Precautionary Principle and other topics mentioned in the Guidelines are equally as important for GE'd fish and aquatic organisms, except where the language specifically refers to "farmers," "crops," or "seeds." We embrace the extension of those Guidelines to all aquatic life, whether the GEOs are intended for food, feed, sport, environmental management, artistic statement or pet store trade.

(1) We believe that GE'd fish and aquatic organisms are an even greater hazard to natural stocks and are even more difficult to properly evaluate and to monitor than GE'd crops, and therefore our primary position is to oppose releases of transgenic aquatic organisms out of doors, or where there is any chance of the organisms or their genetic code escaping into the general environment.

(2) Genetically engineered fish intended for fish farming, whether intended as human food or for other uses such as mosquito control, feed for other fish, or pet store trade, can't be adequately contained. Fish in inland ponds are often swept into steams by storms and can be transported by birds. Fish constrained by nets (such as nearshore netpens for salmon and offshore pens for tuna) have a high rate of escape into the wild. The same is true of other aquatic organisms. Eggs, sperm, larval and planktonic forms of GEOs present additional problems making containment impracticable in out-of-doors environments. The possibility that new or altered genes could wreak havoc with natural ecosystems is therefore great, and this type of genetic adulteration of nature may be irreversible once it occurs. It may lead to extinction of species or to the creation of new bioinvasive varieties. Therefore, we oppose the cultivation of any genetically engineered fish or other aquatic organisms outside of laboratory confinement (or equivalent complete confinement during industrial processes).

(3) We are opposed to genetically engineered sport fish, and to "genetic enhancement" of natural populations.

(4) We are opposed to the production of aquatic GEOs for export, even though the laws or regulations of the importing country may not prohibit it, excepting small and rigorously contained shipments intended solely for research. All exports must be made known to the customs authorities of the importing country in advance of shipment.

(5) Notwithstanding our strong belief that all releases should be prohibited at the present time, it is important that good regulatory mechanisms be established which give government the authority to study and to regulate production or release of transgenic fish. The Sierra Club's existing Guidelines apply here.

(6) We are opposed to release of sterile GE'd fish or other aquatic organisms, much as we are opposed to "Terminator" technology in plant crops, because (a) it would deprive small fish farmers of the opportunity to breed their own fish, (b) escaping sterile fish would reduce the breeding efficiency of wild populations, and (c) it would tend to turn the traditional property of the poor and disadvantaged into the intellectual property of the rich and advantaged. We also do not believe that sterility and reproduction are adequately understood in fish. Prediction is further impaired by the ability of some fish to change sex during their life cycle.

(7) The concepts in the paragraphs above, where written with regard to fish, are embraced and extended to include all uses of any transgenic organisms in aquaculture. Unicellular organisms and plants are included.

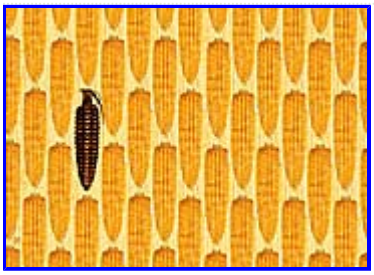
(8) Definitions and application. For the purposes of these Guidelines covering fish and aquatic life, amphibians and other life forms that are aquatic during part of their life cycle will be considered aquatic. We recognize that there may be difficulties in deciding whether some organisms such as brewer's yeast, a *Pseudomonas* bacterium, or a mosquito is to be considered aquatic. In such instances, the general principles of precaution, scientific evaluation of ecological and health risks, and ongoing surveillance will apply regardless of whether the GEO is aquatic or not. On a case-by-case basis, some exceptions to our broad policy may become acceptable (such as, possibly, the release of GE'd sterile mosquitoes as a means of malaria control), but that will not mean that these Guidelines are any less relevant to decisionmaking regarding any and all future releases.

Adopted by the Sustainable Planet Strategy Team, February 20, 2001.

Read more on our Genetic Engineering website.

Greenpeace

Say no to genetic engineering



Corn grenade: the winning image from the Greenpeace Seeds of Trouble competition

Enlarge Image

While scientific progress on molecular biology has a great potential to increase our understanding of nature and provide new medical tools, it should not be used as justification to turn the environment into a giant genetic experiment by commercial interests. The biodiversity and environmental integrity of the world's food supply is too important to our survival to be put at risk.

Genetic engineering enables scientists to create plants, animals and micro-organisms by manipulating genes in a way that does not occur naturally.

These genetically modified organisms (GMO) can spread through nature and interbreed with natural organisms, thereby contaminating non 'GE' environments and future generations in an unforeseeable and uncontrollable way.

Their release is 'genetic pollution' and is a major threat because GMOs cannot be recalled once released into the environment.

Because of commercial interests, the public is being denied the right to know about GE ingredients in the food chain, and therefore losing the right to avoid them despite the presence of labelling laws in certain countries.

Biological diversity must be protected and respected as the global heritage of humankind, and one of our world's fundamental keys to survival. Governments are attempting to address the threat of GE with international regulations such as the Biosafety Protocol.

We believe:

GMOs should not be released into the environment as there is not adequate scientific understanding of their impact on the environment and human health.

We advocate immediate interim measures such as labelling of GE ingredients, and the segregation of genetically engineered crops and seeds from conventional ones.

We also oppose all patents on plants, animals and humans, as well as patents on their genes. Life is not an industrial commodity. When we force life forms and our world's food supply to conform to human economic models rather than their natural ones, we do so at our own peril.

Find out more:

- Go to the Food section to find out about: labelling legislation for GE products in your country, how GE crops are used in animal feed and the corporate giants who are trying to control what you eat.

- Go to the Feeding the world - facts versus fiction section: to find out the truth about world hunger and why GE crops will not help.

- Go to the GE agriculture and genetic pollution section to find out about: the dangers of GE agriculture, which crops are currently being developed, genetic pollution and the dangers of patenting life.

- Go to the Biosafety Protocol section to find out about this important legislation that regulates the transboundary movements of GE and who is for and against it.

- Go to the Failings of GE section to find out about how the biotech industry is basing its products on crude and old-fashioned science.

Related Reports

Regulatory systems for GE crops a failure: the MON863 case

13 March 2007

New peer-reviewed evaluation of Monsanto's data shows MON863 should not have been approved in EU or elsewhere.

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MON 863: A chronicle of systematic deception

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An account of how Monsanto was granted licences for MON863 (a genetically-engineered maize variant) and of the campaign to unearth and evaluate data that demonstrates how MON863 is unfit for consumption.

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GM contamination Register Report - Executive Summary

19 February 2007

Annual review of cases of contamination, illegal planting and negative side effects of genetically modified organisms.

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GM Contamination Report Register

19 February 2007

Annual review of cases of contamination, illegal planting and negative side effects of genetically modified organisms.

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Rice Industry in Crisis

06 February 2007

Major rice markets close doors to genetically engineered rice after contamination of the global food supply chain

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--List by issue--

More reports

International

International Regulations, Legislation, Activities and Contacts

The Campaign to Label Genetically Engineered Foods is seeking activist contacts from around the globe who can keep us informed about the regulations, legislative efforts and activist activities in their countries. If you would like to serve as a contact, please **e-mail us**.

Algeria

Algeria has banned the import, distribution, commercialization and utilization of genetically engineered plant material, except in the cases of research.

Argentina

Argentinean farmers grew 16 million acres of corn in 1999 and 2000. Six percent was genetically engineered. An estimated 80 to 90 percent of Argentina's soybean crop is genetically enginerered. Only the United States and Brazil grow more soybeans.

Australia

In July, 2000, Australia and New Zealand jointly adopted one of the strictest labeling policies in the world. By the end of 2001, both countries will require the labeling of food and food ingredients when "novel DNA and/or protein" is present in the final food" or "where the food has altered characteristics."

The countries have set a tolerance level of 1 percent for food that has been contaminated accidentally or unintentionally. Foods, such as highly refined oils and sugars, which are produced from GM crops but which contain no novel DNA or proteins because they are eliminated during the manufacturing process will not require labeling.

Verification will consist of testing and paper-based audit trails.

Our Supporters

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Label Genetically Engineered Foods

Save Organic Food

Regulate PharmCrops

No GMO Rice

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Austria

Austria has banned three kinds of biotech corn, developed by Monsanto, Novartis and AgrEvo.

Brazil

In the summer of 1999, a Brazilian federal judge ruled that farmers there may not grow genetically altered crops -- at least until further scientific studies are completed.

A federal court in June, 2000 reaffirmed the ban by agreeing with environmental and consumer groups who argue that not enough is known about the crops to consider them safe.

However, Brazilian's Agriculture Minister said in June, 2000 that the country would gladly grow genetically modified grains and label them if market conditions dictated.
In July, 2001, the Agriculture Ministry said that Brazil will require all foods of 4 percent or more genetically modified material to be labeled, should the domestic sale of GE foods one day be legalized.

An internet opinion poll conducted by Brazil's leading business newspaper, Gazeta Mercantil, revealed that 60 percent of respondents oppose bioengineered crops, while 23 percent believe genetic engineering primarily benefits multinational corporations.

The states of Rio Grande do Sol and Mato Grasso do Sol have announced that they intend to remain GE-free. Eighteen states have called on the Brazilian government to prohibit the planting of commercial GE crops.

Canada

Surveys have shown that Canadians strongly support labeling of genetically engineered foods. Ninety-five percent of those polled said they support labeling, according to an August, 2000 press release from the Canadian Health Food Association. In December, 1999, the Montreal Gazette reported that Montrealers almost unanimously support mandatory labeling, and more than half support an all-out ban.

However, the United States' neighbor to the north has planted millions of acres of genetically engineered crops, and the government has resisted calls from the public for labeling. The Canadian government has worked closely with biotech companies to convince the public that genetic engineering is safe, but to little avail.

China

China, the most populous country in the world, is considered an enticing market for biotechnology companies. The Chinese government announced in June, 2000 that the country will begin to grow

genetically modified commercial crops on a limited scale in 2001.

At the same time, China Daily newspaper has reported that China quarantine officials want all genetically modified crops to be labeled, and have begun searching for unlabeled imports.

In June 2001, the country announced new regulations requiring registration and labeling of genetically engineered foods.

Agence France Presse reports that "China appears to be fertile ground for GM agrobusiness, judging by the rapid take-up rate of Monsanto's GM cotton seeds in northern Hebei province, where 90 percent of cotton farmers are using the seeds after their introduction only two years ago."

The country has banned the commercial planting of biotech rice, wheat, corn and soybeans.

Egypt

Egypt is the second largest grain-importing country in the world. In June, 2000, Egypt's minister of supply and internal trade, Hassan Khedr, made headlines when he complained about genetically altered food exports at the International Grains Council conference.

"The question is how to avoid using LDCs (less-developed countries) as guinea pigs for genetically-modified products," he said.

Egypt has also declared that it will not import genetically engineered wheat.

European Union

In 1998, the European Union mandated that all genetically engineered foods in member countries must be labeled. The European Union consists of the following nations: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

In June 2000, the European Commission drew up a discussion document for the EU Seeds Committee which proposes that seeds cannot contain more than 0.5 percent of GM material in order to be labeled GM-free.

In July 2000, the EU announced it would apply tougher rules for the marketing and production of GM foods, even though those rules have yet to be formally adopted. The new rules include stricter labeling and monitoring of GM foods, feeds, seeds and pharmaceutical products, as well as a ban on

antibiotic-resistant genes.

In February 2001, the EU ended a three-year de facto moratorium on granting licenses for the commercial development of GM foods. However, news reports indicate that enough EU member countries oppose the granting of new licenses to keep the moratorium in effect.

At the same time, the new laws would provide for tougher rules governing the planting of GM foods, including improved risk assessments and monitoring of crops.

In July 2001, the European Commission proposed labeling all genetically engineered food, including animal feed and derived products, in an attempt to improve their traceability and encourage consumer confidence.

A recent survey found that 66 percent of Europeans see GM foods as a health hazard, according to EU Health and Consumer Affairs Commissioner David Byrne.

France

France has taken a leading role against genetically modified crops. French ministers made several calls for tougher laws on genetically altered foods in 2000.

In June 2000, France said the European Union should not authorize new genetically modified crops even after new EU rules take effect--because the rules aren't strict enough.

In August 2000, French Farm Minister Jean Glavany pushed for European Union states to agree to a maximum threshold for GMO content in seeds. Glavany said the threshold is necessary because of the discovery earlier in the summer that soy, corn and rapeseed crops in Europe accidentally contain GMOs.

Germany

Germany has taken a hard line on genetically altered crops. In June 2000, Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder urged agribusinesses voluntarily not to grow GM crops until 2003, giving the government time to assess their safety.

Germany has banned genetically engineered corn developed by Novartis. Friends of the Earth Germany is pursuing GE-free resolutions in several German communities.

Greece

Greece has banned AgrEvo herbicide-resistant rapeseed, and has imposed a moratorium on biotech

crop trials.

India

Indian farmers have been vocal in their opposition to genetically altered foods, saying they exploit developing countries like India. The government, however, has taken several initiatives to promote genetic engineering.

In July 2000, India's environment ministry gave the go-ahead for the testing of genetically modified cotton. Environmentalists protested that decision.

In November 2000, Agriculture Minister Nitish Kumar announced that genetically engineered seeds and food would not be allowed into the country until their safety was scientifically proved.

In June 2001, India withheld environmental clearance for genetically engineered cotton.

According to a BBC report, "the government has defended its decision by saying it sympathizes with public concern about genetically modified crops and food, but that it also recognizes the significance of genetic engineering."

Italy

Italy has taken a strong stance against genetically modified foods. In August 2000, the Italian cabinet blocked the marketing of four kinds of genetically altered corn, citing concerns over possible health and environmental risks.

"The center-left government of Prime Minister Amato, which took office in April, opposes the sowing of GM crops in open fields because of health and environmental concerns," according to a Reuters report.

In November 2000, Agriculture Minister Alfonso Pecoraro Scanio announced that all Italian schools are to serve only organic foods.

A new right-wing government in 2001 took a softer line on genetically engineered foods.

Four Italian regions have banned biotech crops: Tuscany, Molise, Lazio and Marche. Rome, Milan, Turin and Genoa also have bans.

Japan

Japan, the largest importer of U.S. corn and soybeans, has approved mandatory labeling legislation. It went into effect in April 2001. Several Japanese food manufacturers have pulled GMO ingredients from their products in anticipation of the

new labeling rules.

Surveys reveal that Japanese citizens are wary of genetic engineering. In August, a poll conducted by Japanese newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun showed that 61 percent of Japanese consumers are concerned about biotech foods. Eighty-two percent "view the GMO food trend as negative."

Japan has banned the import of genetically engineered wheat, and recent legislation has set zero tolerance for imports that contain unapproved genetically engineered foods.

Korea

South Korea requires the labeling of genetically engineered corn, soybeans and bean sprouts for human consumption. In addition, all GE fish products must be labeled. Potatoes will have to be labeled by March 2002.

Luxembourg

Luxembourg has banned Novartis Bt corn.

Mexico

In March 2000, the Mexican Senate unanimously voted in favor of labeling legislation. The bill was to be considered by the lower house of congress, the Chamber of Deputies, before being considered by the president of the country.

"Under the Mexican measure," reports the Associated Press, "genetically modified foods would have to bear a label reading ``transgenic food.'' Those containing some genetically modified ingredients would need a label reading: 'Food made with transgenic products.'"

New Zealand

New Zealand agreed in July 2000 to a mandatory system of labeling of genetically engineered foods. The Australia New Zealand Food Standards Council announced that all foods containing "novel DNA" or proteins from genetic engineering will have to be labeled.

Foods prepared at the point of sale, such as restaurants, will be exempt, however.

"An overwhelming number of states and territories and the New Zealand government supported the final proposal," said South Australian Health Minister Dean Brown from Wellington.

"It's been agreed that where you have genetically modified food material then basically that food should be appropriately labeled.

"What has been achieved here is a consensus view that consumers will be very happy with."

The legislation was to take effect in mid-2001.

Norway

Norway has banned the importation of six biotech crops and products that contain antibiotic gene resistance: two genetically engineered vaccines, corn, tobacco, chicory and oil swede rape. The country so far has rejected 31 genetic engineering applications.

Paraguay

In November 2000, Paraguay adopted labeling of genetically engineered foods.

Philippines

The Philippine government recently announced a moratorium on research into genetically engineered crops. The community of Valencia has called for a five-year moratorium on the commercialization of biotech crops.

Portugal

Portugal has banned Novartis Bt corn.

Russia

Russian agricultural lawmakers, visiting the United States, said Russia would not import genetically altered crops from the U.S.
Valery Kechkin, who serves on the Federation Council, said the Russian Parliament would not approve purchases of genetically altered crops "unless there was such a desperate need to justify it."

"We are not poor enough to go that far," Kechkin said. "We give priority to ecologically pure products which is known on the basis of traditional technology."

Saudi Arabia

In August 2000, Saudi Arabia announced that it would not import genetically engineered foods.

South Africa

In January 2000, South African officials said they expected to introduce labeling regulations later in the year. The announcement followed a December 1999 move by Woolworths--one of the nation's prime retailers--to pull GM food products from its shelves.

Spain

The Basque government has imposed a five-year blanket moratorium on genetically modified crops.

The provinces of Castilla-La Mancha and Baleares have banned biotech foods.

Sri Lanka

In April 2000, Sri Lanka imposed a ban on genetically modified foods, until more research could be conducted on their effects on human health.

"However, Sri Lanka will depend on certificates issued by food importers to impose the ban in the absence of sophisticated techniques to test gene-modified (GM) food," Agence France Presse reports.

The ban, which affects all genetically modified foods--raw and processed--went into effect in May 2001.

The government temporarily lifted the ban in June 2001, but planned to reimpose it in September.

Thailand

Thai farmers have been outspoken in their opposition to genetic engineering. In March 2000, an alliance of 35 farmer groups and non-governmental organizations threatened to stage a mass rally unless government responded to their calls for a stop to the testing of genetically engineered foods.
In January, Monsanto Thailand ran into fierce opposition to the introduction of Bt cotton.

"It's one of the toughest tasks we have ever been through, attempting to convince the government on the safety standards of BT cotton. I think Thailand has set very tough rules on genetically modified organism (GMO) products," general manager for the agricultural sector, Sanya Bhumichitra, told Reuters.

Thailand has imposed a ban on field trials of genetically engineered crops, and has terminated field trials of Monsanto's biotech corn and cotton. Thailand also has banned all commercial planting of genetically engineered crops.

Thailand is expected, by the end of 2001, to draw up legislation that would require the labeling of genetically engineered foods.

United Kingdom

Perhaps the strongest opposition in the world to genetically engineered crops has come from the British public. However, the Tony Blair government has been slow to react to the public's will, and has come under considerable fire.

Numerous food manufacturers and grocery stores have banned GM ingredients.

In Scotland, 25 of 32 local school districts have banned GM foods from their menus, because of

parental concerns over health and environmental impacts.

Vietnam

The Saigon Times Daily reported in Sept. 2000 that the Vietnamese government is working on regulations for genetically engineered foods, and that imported GE foods likely would be labeled.

From: john@welles.net
Sent: Tuesday, September 25, 2007 9:31 AM
To: AF-Pesticides Internet
Subject: bt corn

this is a msg from an average food consumer-please don't allow the gm corn bt corn to be raised in Maine-there is no way to protect against and maine has a thriving local and organic farming community-nobody Needs this stuff-it's all about big agribusiness and their products and control-

John welles
john@welles.net