



GE Free New Zealand

In Food and Environment

Newsletter August 2010

* Please note that some articles have been abbreviated in order to meet size constraints *

GE - Anything goes anytime anywhere

Supreme Court reject GE Free NZ leave to appeal

GE Free New Zealand tried to go to the Supreme Court after last years high court decision in favour of GE Free NZ was overturned in the appeal court after an AgResearch appeal. The Supreme Court rejected any further appeal on the decision. The Supreme Court ruling says an application to create GMO's cannot be challenged at an early stage, except in the rarest of cases. GE Free considered that this was just such a case.

AgResearch applied to create unlimited GMO's, with modification techniques unknown today. GE applications with such a lack of information remove the opportunity for the public and concerned scientists to voice meaningful concerns. Due to the findings of the High Court, for the first time ever ERMA (Environmental Risk Management Authority) staff recommended the 4 GE applications from AgResearch be declined; since the unlimited range of genetic modifications, techniques and traits, meant ERMA staff were unable to assess the risks.

Another AgResearch application – ERMA 200223 to genetically modify cows, goats and sheep has now been approved for 20 years. This decision has also been appealed by GE Free NZ since it again fails to fully describe any intended GE organism.

Failing full description of any GE animal means there can be no liability if an unforeseen problem results since there will be no way of tracking the GE organism back to the company. We believe that any application where the GE organism is not described goes against the intent of the HSNO Act (continued Page 2)

AgResearch GE research to date

GMF 98009 – outdoor field trial (200 acres) 1999 –2006 extended Mar 2010 without public input for GE cattle.

GMD 02028 - approved 2002 for 7.5 years outdoor field trial of GE cattle with human genes extended as above.

GMC 07012, GMD 07074, GMF 07001, GMD 08012 – these are the applications we took to High court and the case was found in our favour then overturned after appeal by AgResearch
ERMA200223 - outdoor containment for GE goats, cattle and cattle with human therapeutic proteins. Approved 13 April 2010 for 20 years. (see P 2)
GMD 09011 approved Nov 2009 laboratory indoor containment of GE cats,dogs,sheep,goats,pigs,chickens, cattle, possums,guinea pigs,rabbits,rats mice, human cell lines and E.coli. GE Free NZ applied for a reassessment but was turned down.

GMD 09017 approved April 2009 Brassicas(broccoli,cabbage,cauli,kale, mustard,turnip, Grasses(ryegrass & other pasture species,barley & wheat), Oils (safflower,sunflower,soy,sesame), Solanum (potato,tomato,tobacco) Legume(peas,alfalfa,clovers, broom), Petunias. GE ryegrass field trial signaled for 2013

GE Free New Zealand asks that all members approach any organic businesses or individuals to help find funding for these important legal cases. The alternative is to accept a precedent that anything goes.

GE FREE NZ AGM
5th September 2010
61 Abel Smith Street Wellington

NZ Stand Alone EPA Gets Wide Powers 3 Jun 2010

www.gefree.org.nz/press/20100605.htm
A stand alone Environmental Protection Authority EPA with wide powers including responsibility for genetically modified organisms, the emissions trading scheme and protecting New Zealand oceans from oil spills, will swallow the functions and staff of ERMA. And consolidate related functions of the environment and economic development ministries. 90 ERMA staff will move to the EPA Government has budgeted \$26m this year to run it. GE-Free NZ is wary of the EPA taking over ERMA's work.

Councils push on over GMOs

27.5.10 Northern Advocate
Local government efforts to protect the region from Auckland north to Cape Reinga from risks associated with GMOs are expected to be stepped up soon. After lobbying Government for 7 years, the Inter Council Working Party on GMO Risk Evaluation and Options is now drafting submissions to be sent to ask Government to tighten rules covering the use of and release of GE plants and animals. A Colmar Brunton poll commissioned last year showed widespread community concern about GMOs. A primary concern was there was no compensation for landowners for damage caused by GMO users. "The cost of any damage falls on those affected," said Working Party coordinator Kerry Grundy. "Overseas experience has shown that if GMO plants are grown, neighbours are affected. You can't stop pollen crossing boundaries."

(continued from P1)
Most Northlanders and Aucklanders want strict controls over any GE plants and animals grown in their areas. Up to 55% of residents want councils to have the right to prohibit GM plants and animals, either by setting local rules or allowing communities, via their councils, the right to reject use of a particular GMO in its area. Mr Grundy said if Government failed to give a satisfactory response, the working party would consider providing protection under the Resource Management Act.

AgResearch GE research (continued)
www.ermanz.govt.nz/news-events/archives/media-releases/2010/mr-20100415.html

The approval **ERMA200223** is subject to stringent conditions, which include:

Imposing stringent containment measures, such as two-metre high, double fencing of outdoor containment facilities;

Preventing animal products from entering the food chain;

Limiting the approval to research only;

Restricting the research to AgResearch's Ruakura facility; and

Limiting the range of modifications and types of organisms, and excluding some organisms.

GE - Anything goes anytime anywhere(Continued from Page 1)

Unfortunately despite the Supreme Court's first decision to reject our request to hear an appeal against this decision based on the first part of the HSNO Act which covers Hazardous Substances for which we sought a recall their final decision remained the same. I quote "*While the Court accepts the reference to s29 of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 in its judgement of 29 June 2010 was strictly speaking in error, the first respondent (AgResearch) is plainly right that what is express in s29 is necessarily implicit in s45. Accordingly the application for recall is dismissed.*"

The Supreme Court also awarded costs to both AgResearch and ERMA of

\$2500 each. This despite a judgement that admits to being 'strictly speaking in error, is this fair?

GE Free New Zealand argued that ERMA was wrong to accept the application in the first instance. In the High Court Justice Clifford agreed that ERMA erred in its decision to accept the AgResearch application under the HSNO Act

This application if approved would allow any DNA from animals (including human and monkey), plants, fungi, microorganisms, viruses and/or synthetic sequences to be used in 9 livestock species. It could set a precedent for 'carte blanche' genetic engineering experiments of any duration in unidentified locations endangering our agricultural economy and environment.

A lack of specificity prevents expert or public comment on any risk. Expert witness Dr. Judith Carman, an epidemiologist told the ERMA committee that it was impossible to assess the millions of possible genetic transformations that could be engineered, without more specific information. Questions of human, environmental and agricultural safety were unable to be considered.

AgResearch's business partnership in these experiments is with Genzyme Transgenic Corporation – GTC – whose parent company Genzyme Corporation is facing a fine from the Food and Drugs Administration – FDA - of US\$175 million for "up front disgorgement" of past profits.

This comes alongside revelations of bad manufacturing processes from their GE recombinant cell manufacturing plant and an announcement of a first year quarter loss of US \$115 million.

GTC have revealed "*A significant portion of the funding for this program (GE animal production) is provided by the New Zealand government as part of our research collaboration with AgResearch.*"

The overseas company's financial woes could result in any liability or mitigation falling to NZ taxpayers; as well as the taxpayer subsidizing around 80% of research costs.

GE Plants And Animals Do Not Belong In Clean Green 100% Pure NZ.

Soil & Health PR 16.6.10

www.organicnz.org/soil-and-health-press/1221/ge-plants-and-animals-do-not-belong-in-clean-green-100-pure-nz/

Continuing effort towards GE pasture plants and developing herds of GE animals, AgResearch appears to miss the meaning of clean green 100% Pure. AgResearch is developing GE ryegrass and GE clover as a means of altering farming's greenhouse gas emissions.

Plant & Food, Lincoln University, MAF and MoRST risk brand NZ

1.8.10 Soil & Health PR.

www.organicnz.org/soil-and-health-press/risk-brand-nz/

GE cress plants (*Arabidopsis thaliana*) were discovered growing outside by a senior scientist, after extractor fan mesh was replaced at Plant & Food Research's supposedly secure containment glasshouse at Lincoln. They purportedly grew from seed washed through cracks at floor level during a Lincoln University and visiting US scientist's experiments. Other possibilities for the GE cress escape were lax maintenance or inadequate filters, or removal on clothing by personnel.

A Sunday Herald report said papers released under the OIA show scientists may have imported the initial GE cress seed illegally by not declaring its GE status and later blocked investigation inquiries.

"MAF, principal investigator, is conflicted in these investigations, as invariably its own MAF-Biosecurity NZ GE audit role is found to be wanting." said Mr Browning. ERMA and MAF also allow researchers to do their own approvals and inspections.

Lab errors leads to GE leak 1.8.10
http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10662711

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry documents describe a slew of failures and oversights by government agencies MAF and ERMA charged with overseeing NZ GE laws. Scientists refused to be interviewed by MAF staff, potential evidence was destroyed and paperwork showed the GE seeds used to grow the plants should never have been allowed into New Zealand.

GM soy linked to sterility

www.responsibletechnology.org/utility/showArticle/?objectID=4888#hair

Russian biologist Alexey V. Surov, i set out to discover if Monsanto's GM soy, grown on 91% of US soybean fields, leads to problems in growth or reproduction.

Feeding hamsters for 2 years over three generations, showed devastating results in those on GM diet, especially the group on the *maximum* GM soy diet. By the third generation, most GM soy-fed hamsters lost the ability to have babies. They also suffered slower growth, and a high mortality rate among the pups. Some in the third generation even had hair growing inside their mouths—a phenomenon rarely seen, but more prevalent among hamsters eating GM soy

UK Scientist Resigns 'GM Dialogue' Naked PR for Industry 01/06/10

www.isis.org.uk/GM_Dialogue_Naked_PR.php

UK regulator Food Standards Agency must be held to account for ignoring incontrovertible evidence of harm and persisting in promoting GM food to the nation at taxpayers' expense.

Dr. Helen Wallace, GeneWatch UK resigned from UK Food Standards Agency's Steering Group for GM Dialogue in a strong open letter to the chair exposing and condemning it as a naked "PR exercise on behalf of the GM industry" at taxpayers' expense of £500 000

Through the Freedom of Information Act she learned that the FSA met with industry group the Agricultural Biotechnology Council (ABC) in September 2009 to discuss a "GM public engagement programme", The ABC believes "GM must be presented as an option within the wider context of food security as part of a solution to feeding a growing population."

In a subsequent report, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the FSA supported the industry's line that 'zero tolerance' of unapproved GM crops in the EU threatens food supplies.

GE Food still unlabelled in NZ

Despite warnings from scientists about the effects of GE foods and consumer concerns food regulators Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) are still relying on GE companies to monitor their products after approving their release onto the market. The instability of variants and the unexpected toxins produced by genetic engineering still remain inadequately tested. Genes can transfer in the human gut and there is still inadequate follow up to ascertain any resulting conditions. GE food is now so widespread it is virtually impossible for scientists to check the health of those who have eaten GE foods with those who haven't.

Safety assessments favour approvals and there are now around 40 approved variants of corn, soy, canola, potatoes, cotton, sugar beet and rice with other assessments in progress Most are derived from GE crops resistant to herbicide or with built in insect protection from Bt thuringiensis See: www.foodstandards.gov.au/consumerinformation/gmfoods/gmcurrentapplication1030.cfm

There is no labelling since oils, sugars, starch, alcohol, additives and processing aids derived from GE remain unlabelled as do animal products from GE feeds—meat, butter, milk, fish honey and pollen. Also exempt are products using GE bacteria, fungi and enzymes and those containing less than 1% GE ingredients, restaurant food and takeaways.

GE Food or Not?

It appears that there may be several GE products reaching the shelves of New Zealand, some of them may not be labelled whereas other are but are the GE variants approved? We are trying to find out.



Download a GE Free 2010

Foodguide from

www.truefood.org.au/truefoodguide

The Greenpeace GE Free Food guide is at present being updated.

Some products made using GE This is not a complete list.

Oils:- Canola, Corn, Soya, Vegetable.

Corn products:- Corn syrup, flour & meal, gluten, starch, hydrogenated oil and vegetable fat.

Soy products:- Soy flour, protein, lecithin, TVP, Tofu.

Acids:- Citric, Lactic, Phytic, Stearic, Oleic

Amino Acids:- Glutamate, Glycine, Lysine, Phenylalanine

Sweeteners:- Aspartame, Nutrasweet

Flavourings:- Monosodium glutamate, hydrolysed vegetable protein, vanillin.

Additives Baking powder, caramel powder, cellulose, dextrin, gluten.

Vitamins/supplements:- Ascorbic Acid, B2, B6, B12, Vitamin E & A, Lecithin

Sweeteners made from corn:- dextrose, fructose, glucose maltose, glycerin, high fructose corn syrup, inverse sugar and syrup, maltodextrin, sorbitol

GE enzymes are also used in sugar, oils, dairy products, baked goods and beers, wines and fruit juices

FSANZ invites written submissions for the purpose of either approving, amending or rejecting the draft food regulatory measure by 6pm (Canberra time) 16 August 2010

[Application A1040](#) – Food derived from Insect-resistant & Herbicide-tolerant Cotton Line

GHB119 www.foodstandards.gov.au/foodstandards/changing-the-code/documentsforpublicco868.cfm

Something Smells At Scion's GE Tree Site. 12.7.10 Soil & Health PR www.organicnz.org/soil-and-health-press/1222/something-smells-at-scion-ge-tree-site/

Crown forest research institute Scion appears to be enlarging its GE field trial space prior to an application for an 4000 GE pine trees is publicly notified by ERMA. Scion, recently re-partnered with international GE tree giant ArborGen, "seems to have had illegal pre-notification approval from ERMA," said Steffan Browning. Simultaneously, Scion has been consulting with Maori ahead of formally applying to ERMA for approval to grow up to 4000 GE *Pinus radiata* trees in an outdoor containment facility at Rotorua.

Some GE trees are intended to flower and set seed, despite recent research showing wind drifted pine pollen viable for some distance. Scion has failed previous consent requirements and allowed GE tree cuttings to flower raising concerns with environmentalto field trial just 200 GE pine trees. See also :-

www.scionresearch.com/general/news-and-events/media-releases/2010-media-releases/scions-upcoming-field-trial-application-to-erma

USA GE trees approval will reflect negatively on NZ 13.5.10 Soil and Health PR www.organicnz.org/soil-and-health-press/ge-negative-for-nz/ The approval by the United States GE regulator for 260,000 New Zealand raised GE eucalyptus trees for 28 field trials through 7 US states is not something for New Zealand to be proud of. Jim Hightower, twice elected Texas Agriculture Commissioner and U.S. national commentator described the intended growing as "Irresponsible, Dangerous, and Stupid. He identified the trees as sourced from New Zealand (See P 4)

Dr Tom Richardson appointed AgResearch CEO 18.6.10

The current head of the Rotorua-based CRI, NZ Forest Research Institute Ltd, trading as Scion, Dr Tom Richardson, has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of AgResearch Ltd, after the resignation of Dr Andrew West.

Overseas news

Paper industry tests genetically altered trees

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20100607/ap_on_bi_ge/us_food_and_farm_bioengineered_eucalyptus

The paper industry's plans to plant forests of GE eucalyptus trees in 7 Southern states have critics worried that a large scale introduction of GE non-natives could destroy natural ecosystems. ArborGen's experiment marks the first large planting of GE trees in the US.

ArborGen, got approval from U.S. Dept of Agriculture for field trials of 250,000 trees planted at 29 sites. The test sites will cover a total of about 300 acres in Florida, South Carolina, Texas, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia and Louisiana.

Donald Rockwood, professor emeritus Univ of Florida's School of Forest Resources and Conservation, has worked for 30 years developing eucalyptus trees using traditional breeding techniques, not GE, which have not proven invasive, are relatively efficient users of water and no more flammable than other hardwoods. He was hired by ArborGen to report on eucalyptus invasiveness. He says introduction of any GE species poses risks.

Environmentalists worry that a new genetically-engineered tree could be bad for Georgia's forests.

www.globaljusticeecology.org/stopgetrees.php?ID=408&tabs=2

South Carolina based ArborGen uses received USDA approval to plant 28 plots of GE eucalyptus in a handful of southern states including Georgia. The tree will be planted in Evans County near Augusta. ArborGen is a joint venture of International Paper, MeadWestvaco and Rubicon Ltd.

From Page 3

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Groups Sue U.S. Government Over Field Trials of GMO Trees

<http://globaljusticeecology.org/pressroom.php?ID=417>

Global Justice Ecology Project joined the Center for Biological Diversity, the Center for Food Safety, the Sierra Club, Dogwood Alliance and the International Center for Technology Assessment to file a lawsuit against the US government for allowing the planting of over 250,000 GE eucalyptus trees across 7 southern U.S. states. These field trials are the next step toward ArborGen's plans to produce and sell up to half a billion GE eucalyptus trees annually in the U.S. primarily for the production of wood-based bioenergy, which they plan to sell as a "carbon-neutral" energy (According to the 2009 annual report of Rubicon--one of the joint owners of ArborGen). But ultimately, they plan to export these GE cold-tolerant eucalyptus around the world, threatening to expand the disaster of GE trees to new regions.

Monsanto fined \$2.5m 12.7.10

<http://theland.farmonline.com.au/news/nationalrural/agribusiness-and-general/general/monsanto-fined-25m/1882390.aspx?src=enews>

MONSANTO will pay a hefty \$2.5 million penalty for distributing GE cotton seed to areas of Texas that contained a restricted pesticide.

The company's Bollgard and Bollgard II contain the *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), which under US Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) was restricted in 10 Texas counties.

Monsanto was required to control the sale and distribution of the cotton seed by including information on the planting restrictions in labeling and grower guides, however in 2007 it disclosed that it had distributed misbranded seed to customers in the EPA restricted Texas counties. EPA restricted planting of GE cotton seed to protect against pests becoming resistant to Bt and other microbial products used in sprays and dusts. This is the largest civil administrative penalty settlement ever received under FIFRA.

"Impacts of Genetically-Engineered Crops on Pesticide Use in the United States: The First Thirteen Years"

An independent estimate of increase of herbicide use in the wake of resistant weeds. Full report:- www.organic-center.org/reportfiles/13Years20091126_FullReport.pdf

In the first 3 years of commercial use of Roundup Ready, GE crops, average per acre herbicide use did fall marginally, but by 2000, volumes started to rise. The average pounds of glyphosate sprayed on an acre of soybeans rose 97% from 1996 to 2006, and doubled on cotton acres between 1996 and 2007, according to USDA pesticide use data. Over the first 13 years of commercial use of GE crops, 383 million more pounds of herbicides have been applied as a result of the planting of herbicide-tolerant crops. Dramatic increases in the number of herbicide applications needed to deal with resistant weeds in 2007 and 2008 accounted for almost half this increase.

Glyphosate Tolerant Crops Bring Diseases and Death

ISIS 26/05/10 www.isis.org.uk/glyphosateTolerantCrops.php

New research reveals disastrous ecological impacts of the world's top herbicide and GM crops tolerant to it. Glyphosate tolerant (GT) crops and glyphosate herbicide (Roundup) poison nitrogen fixing and other beneficial soil bacteria, increase fungal pathogens, undermine plant immunity to diseases, and decrease plant micronutrients available in the soil. Research findings paint a damning picture of the cropping system that has taken over 85 percent of the 134 million hectares of global agricultural land now growing GE crops. There is mounting evidence of the herbicide's adverse impacts on human & animal health and superweeds becoming resistant to the herbicide.

Campaigners angry at EU's decision to keep consumers 'in the dark' over food from animals given genetically modified (GM) feed

7.7.10 Consumers will continue to be none the wiser about whether they are eating food from animals raised on GM feed after MEPs voted against introducing a compulsory label rule after lobbying from the food industry. There is

currently no requirement to label meat or dairy products produced using GM animal feed, usually GM soy or maize. A Friends of the Earth poll found that almost 90 % of those surveyed wanted these products to be clearly labelled. The vote against feed labelling comes as the EU commission prepares to approve the import of six new GM maize varieties after lobbying by biotech firms Syngenta and Monsanto. **Renewed calls for cloning ban** MEPs were in favour of a ban on meat and dairy products from cloned animals and a moratorium on foods using nanotechnology until potential health risks can be ruled out.

Supreme Court Case a Defeat for Monsanto's Ambitions

21.6.10 by Andrew Kimbrell, Center for Food Safety www.grist.org/article/food-supreme-court-ruling-on-monsanto-alfalfa

Monsanto is working hard to spin the truth after a Supreme Court decision on GE crops (Monsanto v. Geertson Seed Farms) that the planting and sale of GMO alfalfa remains illegal.

As the fourth most-planted U.S. crop behind corn, soybeans, and wheat, alfalfa is worth \$9 billion a year -- the dairy industry is the biggest consumer -- with annual seed sales valued at \$63 million. Monsanto's Roundup Ready alfalfa seed is tolerant of glyphosate, the active ingredient of Monsanto's herbicide Roundup.

GM Potatoes not Proven Safe for Release

ISIS Report 15/07/10 www.isis.org.uk/GM_potatoes_not_proven_safe.php UK and European regulators show disregard of safety Prof. Joe Cummins The Sainsbury Laboratory John Innes Centre has begun open field tests on GM potatoes resistant to late blight using resistance genes from South American potato relatives, other members of which were in BASF's GM blight resist potatoes field tested near Cambridge in 2007 and 2008, Permission for a three year field release study ending 30 November 2012 was granted by UK regulators.

EU's 'dangerous' move to nationalise GM decision-making

The Ecologist 14.7.10 Individual countries will be allowed to

ban GM crops in a move the EU hopes will stop them blocking new crops being grown by farmers in other member states

A wave of genetically-modified (GM) crops could soon be grown in Europe following an announcement by the European Commission promising to nationalise the decision-making process.

Only two GM-crops, one for potatoes and one for maize, are currently being cultivated in Europe

Genetically modified canola plants in the wild

6.10 www.esa.org/images/mailling_header_trees_PA0.jpg

Scientists currently performing field research in North Dakota have discovered the first evidence of established populations of GM plants in the wild.

Stop Global Food Security Act Promoting GMOs

ISIS Report 21/06/10 See ISIS website: www.isis.org.uk/theGlobalFoodSecurityAct.php

Biotech corporations and mega-charities are promoting the GMO agenda as US foreign policy.

The US Global Food Security Act of 2009 (S. 384) is "A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2010 through 2014 to provide assistance to foreign countries to promote food security, to stimulate rural economies, and to improve emergency response to food crises, to amend the Foreign Assistance Act (FAA) of 1961, and for other purposes."

An amendment to the (FAA) has proven controversial. It would "include research on biotechnological advances appropriate to local ecological conditions, including GM technology."

Widespread opposition urges the senate to remove the clause effectively earmarking an agricultural technology - genetic modification - for billions of dollars in federal funding from the Global Food Security Act.

The bill supported by 26 organizations including WWF, Oxfam, Bread for the World CARE, Save the Children is expected to be voted on in the Senate soon. US\$7.7 billion goes with the bill.

Plant and Food Research aim to prevent due process

Plant and Food Research (combination of former CRI HortResearch and Crop & Food Research) is currently trying to prevent (during the Kaipara District Council (KDC) Proposed District Plan process) KDC from putting in place rules to give effect to the strong precautionary GE policy that KDC already has in its 10 Year Community Plan (KDC operative LTCCP 2009/19)

Plant and Food Research cheekily made a cross submission at the 11th hour against Kaipara ratepayers and community groups (original submitters to the KDC Proposed District Plan) who want to protect the districts existing valuable GE free status. The original submitters are asking KDC to give effect to councils existing strong precautionary GE policy by placing rules (ensuring strict liability and requiring the posting of bonds in addition to whatever ERMA may require) in the Kaipara District Plan.

Be assured that GE Free Northland is actively challenging misleading information by Plant and Food Research, and that we are providing sound evidence to both the Kaipara councillors on the Hearing Panel and the Independent Commissioner involved in the KDC Proposed District Plan process.

A watching brief should be maintained- clearly Plant and Food Research (with "Crop and Food Research's" recent botched GE brassica experiment), and HortResearch's problematic GE tamarillo trial at Kerikeri in the late 90's) has designs on Northland at least.

Regional Policy Statement Reviews

Is your local regional council undertaking a review of its Regional Policy Statement (RPS)? If so, and if you would like to pressure your council to place strong provision prohibiting all GE experiments and releases, please contact GE Free Northland for more information and a handy fact sheet.

This is a great opportunity to put a good case for sound environmental and biosecurity outcomes in your RPS,

which then the territorial authorities in your region will have to give effect to through District plans.

In our view, Regional councils should place strong emphasis on prevention of incursions of new organisms, GMO and otherwise (not just "management /suppression" of existing problem organisms) and should specifically identify GMOs as a threat (due in part to the nature of these self replicating organisms containing controversial viral promoters etc, but also ongoing flaws/gaps in the HSNO legislation which include a lack of strict liability and the fact ERMA is not required under the Act to take a precautionary approach to GMOs). We note that Auckland Regional Council has already identified GMOs as a biosecurity threat and an issue of "Regional Significance".

Email: zlg@xnet.co.nz
09 4322155
<http://web.gefreenorthland.org.nz>

A new website has been set up to help companies and consumers:

www.gefreereepolicy.com

Support companies which are committed to a GE Free Policy.

We need to encourage them to include a statement or logo on the packaging so consumers know they have a GE-free policy.

An unprecedented anti-GE stance from Australasia's largest food company Goodman Fielder, the first time a major industry player has stepped so publicly into the wider GE debate and strong ongoing non-GE position from NZ food companies shows it can work. Vote GE FREE with your dollar- support the companies with GE FREE policies and Identity Preservation (IP) systems in place to ensure that

Stop Monsanto seeds to Haiti

www.isis.org.uk/US_farmers_oppose_big_ag.php.

Monsanto and U.S. Government agency USAID: is trying to offer Haiti 475 tons of hybrid seeds. Peasant organisations have spoken out clearly against this 'deadly gift'. To defend their food sovereignty, please go to: www.rainforest-rescue.org and sign a protest letter.

"The Future of Food"

Videos are available in NZ Price \$25 per DVD more info contact GE Free. A fantastic documentary, the film is an effective tool in educating people at all levels of awareness about GE food.

T Shirts natural unbleached cotton with rainbow GE Free NZ logo \$20.00 incl.P&P from Head office. Bumper stickers + GE Free corflute signs also available see website.

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