



Global Consultant



A QUEST TO FULFILL HUNGER OF THE BODY AND MIND POST-2015: IS GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD A SOLUTION?

65TH ANNUAL UN-DPI/NGO CONFERENCE (AUGUST 27-29, 2014)

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THE USE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY IN FOOD PRODUCTION IS ONE OF THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECTS IN MODERN AGRICULTURE.

A KEY PIECE OF INFORMATION NEEDED TO FULLY UNDERSTAND THE CONTROVERSY AND CREATE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC POLICY IS AN ESTIMATE OF CONSUMER DEMAND FOR GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD.

GM FOODS ARE DEFINED BY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION AS FOOD THAT IS PRODUCED BY "ORGANISMS IN WHICH THE GENETIC MATERIAL HAS BEEN ALTERED IN A WAY THAT DOES NOT OCCUR NATURALLY".

THERE ARE SOME REASONS TO PRODUCE GM FOODS:

1. THEY CAN BE CHEAPER
2. FASTER TO GROW
3. ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY...(IN THE VIEW OF SOME PEOPLE)
4. THEY MIGHT BE LESS SUSCEPTIBLE TO PESTS OR DISEASES.
5. SOME PLANTS HAVE EVEN BEEN ENGINEERED TO PROVIDE MORE NUTRITION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, SUCH AS GOLDEN RICE.

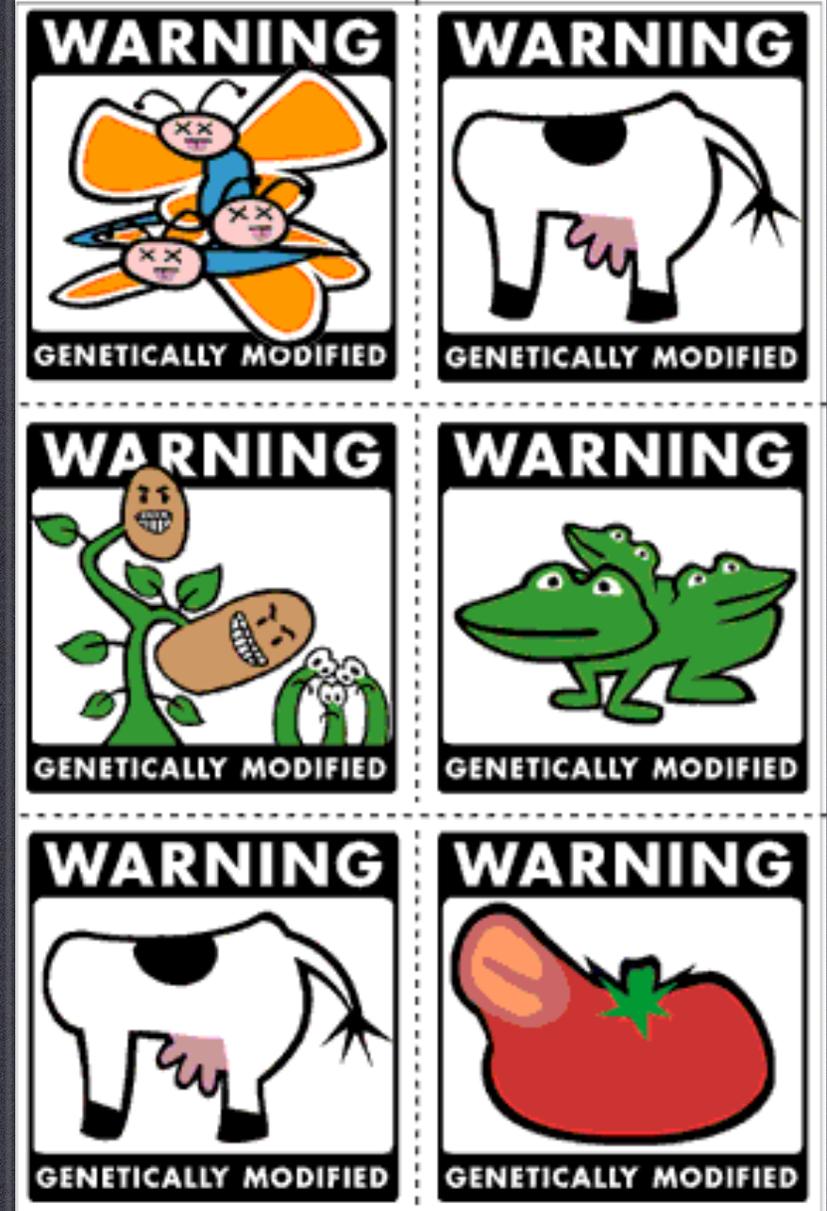
BUT...

WE NEED TO KEEP IN MIND THAT GM FOODS HAVE ONLY BEEN ON THE MARKET SINCE 1994.

EXPERTS THINK THAT MORE TIME AND BETTER METHODOLOGY SHOULD BE EMPLOYED TO ENSURE THAT GM FOODS ARE SAFE TO EAT.

CONSUMERS THEMSELVES ARE ALSO SKEPTICAL OF GM FOODS. THEY DO NOT ALWAYS TRUST MONETARILY INVOLVED PARTIES TO BE ETHICAL IN THEIR SCIENTIFIC STUDIES.

A MORE SERIOUS CONCERN IS THAT FOODS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO BE LABELED AS CONTAINING GM INGREDIENTS MAKING IT DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE WHETHER ONE IS EATING GM FOOD.



ADDITIONALLY, CONSUMERS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT GM FOOD ACCIDENTALLY MIXING WITH OTHER SPECIES OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS.

OUTCROSSING OR THE MOVEMENT OF GENES FROM GM PLANTS INTO CONVENTIONAL CROPS, AS WELL AS THE MIXING OF CROPS DERIVED FROM CONVENTIONAL SEEDS WITH THOSE GROWN USING GM CROPS, HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BRING CROPS THAT SHOULD NOT BE CONSUMED BY HUMANS, FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER, INTO SUPERMARKETS.

THESE ISSUES NEED TO BE ADDRESSSED BEFORE PEOPLE BECOME COMFORTABLE WITH GM FOOD.



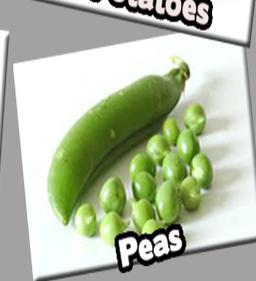
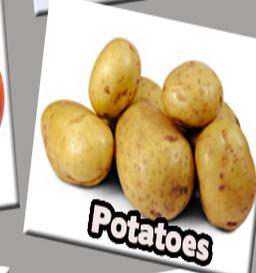
In effect, the introduction of modern American agricultural technology, chemical fertilizers and commercial hybrid seeds all made local farmers in developing countries, particularly the larger more established ones, dependent on foreign, mostly US agribusiness and oil-chemical company inputs. It was a first step in what was to be a decades-long, carefully planned process.

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SUBJECT

GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD IN EL SALVADOR

A BATTLE FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY, WE SUPPORT LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND AGROECOLOGICAL

DATE

2014

COUNTRY

EL SALVADOR

Background

Since colonial times, our people have not had a proper agricultural policy always has imposed alien to our culture farming; for example, the Spanish conquistadors, crop agro export: indigo, cacao and others, with the Americans in the 60 was introduced the green revolution: the large plantations that rely on planting hybrid seeds, use of large amounts of pesticides, herbicides and chemical fertilizers on sugarcane monoculture, cotton, banana, other as the large scale production of meat, eggs and milk. So the Salvadoran government to tax the planting of monocultures for biofuel production.

Today introduced the country, with the consent of the government administration, seeds produced through genetic engineering techniques, ie transgenic seeds that promise to be resistant to pests, drought and wrongly assume to give greater productivity.

Between the 60 and 70 the indiscriminate use of pesticides in the cotton plantations of the east of the country are promoted and still suffering the effects of the destruction of the salty forests, pollution of aquifers, soil and chronic problems health of the population.

The same speech that Norman Borlaug brought to the country by promoting the green revolution, is now used to promote genetic engineering, which is to fight hunger in the world; Now his granddaughter, Julie Borlaug is playing to 57 years the same speech of his grandfather in the fight against hunger, which is nevertheless predicts more hunger, destruction, increased pollution and stronger and resistant diseases and dependence the companies that own the seeds and their products.

The green revolution meant the concentration of land ownership and production of transgenic seed means the concentration of land in the hands of multinational corporations.

Transgenic involve replacement of peasant and indigenous agriculture by commercialized agriculture aimed at generating wealth, regardless of the population has a healthy, nutritious diet and that allows Salvadoran families comprehensive health care.



At present there is no comprehensive rural development policy, and agriculture continues to condemn to extinction, leading our country to a food dependency and delivery of agricultural lands to national and transnational capital and are granted certain agricultural areas for GMO testing, promotion of forest plantations and cultivation of sugarcane and jatropha for biofuels production. This type of farming has serious implications for natural resources and result in global warming and loss of native species diversity, and yet they are key elements in the government agricultural policy, which demonstrates that the authorities and companies are more concerned about producing food for vehicles for people, which is equivalent to choose "full tanks at the expense of empty stomachs."

Our indigenous and peasant communities, providing a great knowledge of thousands of years of experience and have improved all domesticated varieties that are suitable for power today. This contribution to the food security of the country, was made possible by the sharing of knowledge, biodiversity and traditional seed improvement. With the invasion of biotechnology and GMOs, all this wealth is in danger due to pollution by releasing genetically modified varieties foreign to the natural environment. Faced with the threat of managing the installation in the country's first agricultural biotechnology center in Latin America, and the introduction, utilization and marketing of genetically modified organisms into the country.

Many civil society organizations and citizens in El Salvador expresses its opposition to genetically modified organisms and continue turning our country into a testing ground for modern biotechnology.

The battle for Article 30 of the Seeds Act in 2008



The legislative right in El Salvador, despite boast of their democratic vocation, has made the "early mornings" one of its main tools to legislate.

With waiver of procedures, obviating the analysis in specialized parliamentary committees, without being subject to public scrutiny and drawing a simple parliamentary majority, have passed since the dollarization in 2000, through public borrowing, even the Free Trade Agreement in in the year 2005, the April 30, 2008, the turn to benefit from the "early mornings" will play two major importers of GM products, which after a surprise repeal of Article 30 of Law seed which prohibited the importation and distribution of seed genetically modified- now see the opportunity to expand into this area. The measure was approved by 49 votes out of 84 to ARENA, PCN (extreme right wing parties) and PDC (Christian Democratic Party).

The abolition of this article allowed companies like Crisitani Burkard and Fertica imported GM seeds. These two large national companies are grouped in another called "Importing SA de CV "is through which they import these seeds.

The repeal of section 30, also comes at a time when the international food crisis is ringing. They used this crisis to push for the repeal of this article and not so much to solve the problem of domestic agricultural production.

El Salvador has been a country where agricultural production was doomed from 24 years ago when they removed the external tariffs, unrestricted imports from Mexico and the United States by the FTAs are allowed, and went from being a country with sustainability agricultural production, an importing country. Today we import 65 percent of fruits and vegetables and 45 percent of the cereal we eat. We have a real crisis caused by government policies, but taking advantage of the situation they want to introduce GM supposed to solve the food crisis.

Really internationally it is known that the transgenic seed is not used to increase productivity, but is resistant seeds and herbicides used in field crops for different uses that will be the most benefit to large companies.

The two major companies that will benefit in El Salvador are minted with Monsanto.



As Network against GMOs; What has been focused activity have developed?

NGO's against GMOs were first focused on the creation of laws, Article 30 of the Seeds Act, and Art. 28th Consumer Law requiring the labeling of transgenic products and pressure for the ratification of the protocol known as protocol Biodiversity Cartagena. As the momentum of a proposing a Biosafety Law against genetically modified organisms is still in parliament and that has not been discussed.

Generate research on GM products sold in the country to inform the Salvadoran population about which products are circulating. Food found in supermarkets and also as part of the "food aid." This has been part of a process of educating the population to explain what GM products and have impacts. They are also coordinating an "Alternative Community Market" is offering organic and GMO-free products. This action is being coordinated with various initiatives of organic markets nationwide in Chalatenango, Sonsonate and another who will begin in San Vicente, these are clustered into Sustainable Production Platform and are watching also coordinate with CARITAS El Salvador, and CORDES. So one alternative they propose is to promote organic production and create network marketing in different parts of the country.

What is the risk of contamination of transgenic seed crops where this is used?

The genetic contamination is an imminent danger. The Cartagena Protocol, which is already a national law, requires importing companies to do a risk analysis on biodiversity. Not only because they abolished Article 30 of the Seeds Act, importers are hands free. They have to pass a series of mechanisms and one is the Cartagena Protocol.

GM maize is another of the experiments to get huge amounts of money by companies multinationals engaged in "agriculture" as Monsanto that their home was one of the major chemical companies in the world today are some of the companies world's most powerful and precursor of all types of products such as transgenic Maize and beef growth hormone.

Disadvantages of Transgenic Maize

For the moment there is no evidence to give a truthful sign its disadvantages in the human or animal consumption. However, the transgenic corn should be treated with chemicals that are extremely toxic to animals, humans and the earth.

Transgenic corn farmers suffer from kidney disease and all types of cancer, if not use a full chemical protection suit (something not done in 99% of cases by ignorance).

Transgenic corn causing cancer.

The only experiments to date have been laboratory rats, the results were that in all rats behavior change and cancer was one of the first in showing murderers face the reaction of transgenic in rats.

The problem is that the transgenic corn products are genetically modified so that nature can not recognize their benefits functions as with the organic corn, one of the main problems may be the mutation of pests, causing them to be more resilient and over time the transgenic corn only chance of survival would have them and not the organic is more likely to contract and die pests.

CURRENT STATUS ON GM FOODS IN EL SALVADOR

In El Salvador, since 2008, you can sell and import GM products after the repeal of Article 30 of the Seeds Act, which forbade it. Even has a supranational regulation thereof.

"Biotechnology in El Salvador is not prohibited because they have a law that regulates and certifies that it is feasible in El Salvador".

Although the country is legal planting of GMO, the producers of these products have faced obstacles to take-start the project.

One of them was the "bureaucratization" of the government to approve the permit. According to some people, in a first attempt met all the requirements demanded MARN on your application, but it was returned with comments.

"According to the application, the cultivation of GM crops should not affect plantations or the community, studies have already presented,"

"Now they are asking technical details that are not as present title to the land and the reference locations via GPS,"

The constraints imposed by the MARN, are due to the "demonization" that has made GM crops, arguing that they are harmful.

Many people recalled that most products from USA and entering the country are transgenic, such as yellow corn, cereals and oils.

"Currently, the country may import, sell and consume GM products, but not produce a government vision,"

Although the excuse for the development of such crops is to end hunger, poverty and malnutrition in the world, the reality is very different. Farmers are forced to buy seeds every season Transgenic (you can use the seeds of a genetically modified plant), and depend on both large multinationals that control this type of patented seeds, impoverishing them further. Obviously, they are also losing the local crop varieties that are adapted to local conditions for centuries. Diversification is absolutely essential to the survival of the species on this planet.



More Doctors Recommend a GMO Free Diet

Our
bodies
on

GMOs

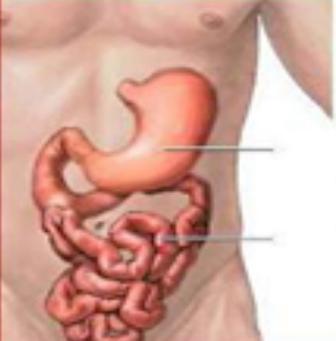
People with
Fibromyalgia,
CFS
and other diseases
benefit greatly from adopting
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- ~FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS
- ~LIVER DAMAGE
- ~GASTROINTESTINAL DISEASES
- ~COLITIS + CROHN'S DISEASE
- ~CHRONIC DIARRHEA
- ~INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE



- ~PREMATURE DELIVERIES
- ~SPONTANEOUS ABORTIONS
- ~INFERTILITY
- ~INFANT MORTALITY
- ~LOW BIRTH WEIGHT
- ~TESTICLE DAMAGE

IN THE POST-2015 AGENDA GM FOODS WOULD BE A REAL SOLUTION?

WE THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SHOULD HAVE THE LAST WORD, NO MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS, RIGHT?