

# FREEDOM OF INFORMATION IN THE GENETICALLY MODIFIED AGE: WATER, FOOD, HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT



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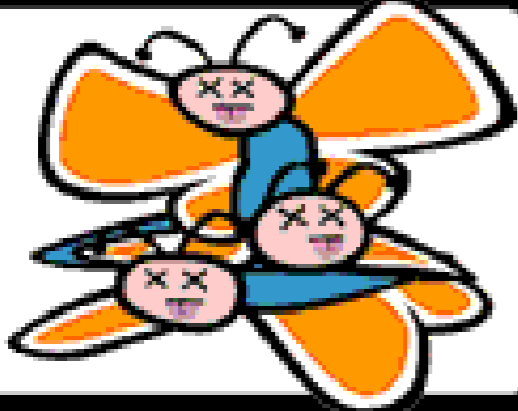
CG GLOBAL CONSULTANT

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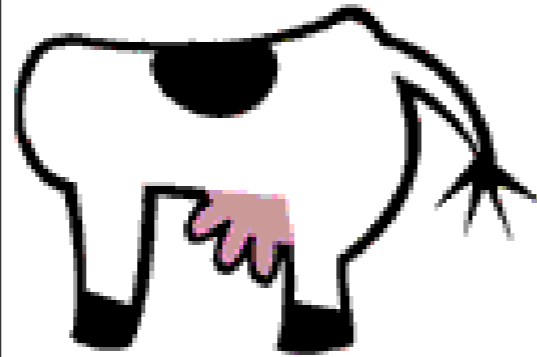
NEW YORK, 20 OCTOBER 2014

**WARNING**



**GENETICALLY MODIFIED**

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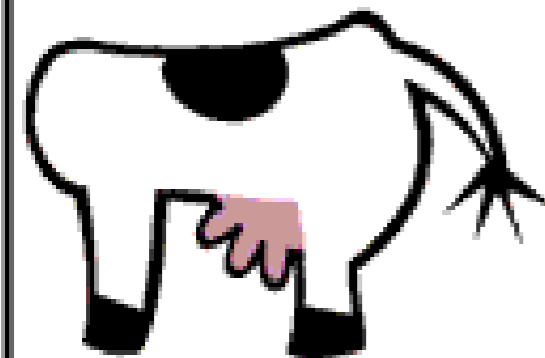
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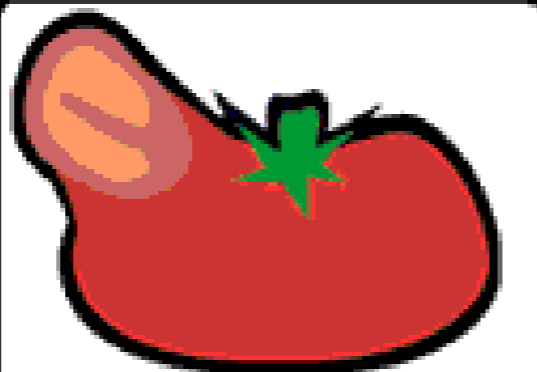
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THE USE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY IN FOOD PRODUCTION IS ONE OF THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECTS IN MODERN AGRICULTURE.

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 ADDRESSED BEFORE PEOPLE BECOME COMFORTABLE WITH GM FOOD.



 **ConAgra Foods**  
genetically modified Food you love



Indeed, 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.

# GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD IN EL SALVADOR

A BATTLE FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY, SUPPORT TO LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND

AGROECOLOGY

## TOP 10 GENETICALLY Modified Foods

RawForBeauty.com



Canola



Soy



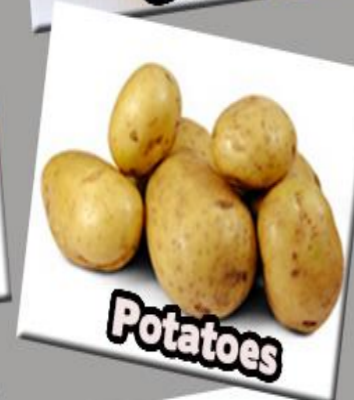
Corn



Rice



Tomatoes



Potatoes



Cottonseed



Papaya



Peas



Dairy Products

Since colonial times, our people have not had a proper agricultural policy. Always has imposed alien to our culture farming. For example, the Spanish brought the crop agro export: indigo, cacao and others. The Americans, in the 60's, 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, and other as the large scale production of meat, eggs and milk. So the Salvadoran government could be able to focus the planting of monocultures for biofuel production.

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

Between the 60's and 70's the indiscriminate use of pesticides in the cotton plantations, at the east side of the country, promoted and still suffering the effects of the destruction of the salty forests, aquifers pollution, soil and chronic health problems of the population, like kidney diseases.



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, as well as dependence to the companies that own the seeds and their products.





At present there is no comprehensive rural development policies and agriculture continues to be condemned to extinction, leading our country to a food dependency and delivery of agricultural lands to national and transnational capital. As today, some companies are granted certain agricultural areas for GMO testing, promotion of forest plantations and cultivation of sugarcane and jatropha for biofuels production.

Our indigenous and peasant communities are been left behind, besides their ancient knowledge of thousands of years and their experience with “Mother Earth”. This was an important contribution to the food security of the country, as well as the knowledge sharing, 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 bizarre to the natural environment. Salvadoran faces 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.



# The battle for Article 30 of the Seeds Act in 2008



The Legislative Assembly of El Salvador became one of the key battlefield for the GM seeds in Central America. In April 30, 2008, it decided to benefit two major importers of GM products, after a surprise repeal of Article 30 of Law Seed which prohibited the importation and distribution of seed genetically modified in the country. The measure was approved by 49 votes out of 84 parliamentarians.

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 " through which they import these seeds.

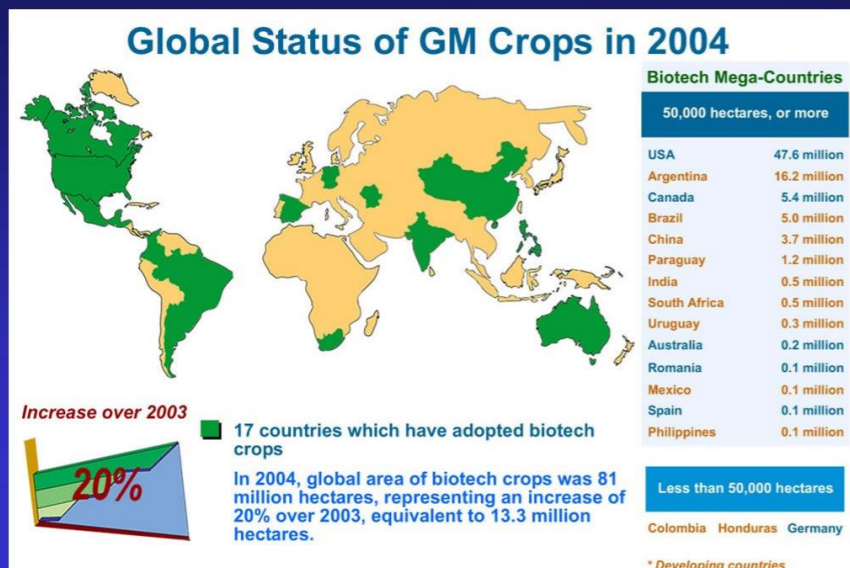
The repeal of Article 30 came at a time when the international food crisis was hitting the region. Both national companies, supported by its international allies, used this crisis to push for the repeal of this article and not so much to solve the problem of domestic agricultural production.

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 to an importing country. Today, El Salvador imports 65 percent of fruits and vegetables and 45 percent of the cereal we eat. We have a real crisis caused by governmental policies.

It is well known that the transgenic seed is not used to increase productivity, but its resistant seeds and herbicides are used in field crops for different purposes than benefiting vulnerable groups.

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

Global Area (Million Hectares) of Biotech Crops, 1996 to 2004, by Country



Source: Clive James, 2004

Although the excuse for the development of GM seeds is to end hunger, poverty and malnutrition in the world, the reality is very different. Farmers are forced to buy transgenic seeds every season (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.

## What to do?

NGO's against GMOs were first focused on the creation of laws, Article 30 of the Seeds Act and Art. 28 of the Consumer Law requiring the labeling of transgenic products and pressure for the ratification of the protocol known as The Cartagena Protocol on Biodiversity. As of today, a proposed draft on Biosafety Law against Genetically Modified Organisms is still in the Parliament and has not been discussed yet.

GM maize is another of the experiments to get huge amounts of money by multinationals companies engaged in "agriculture", as Monsanto, that is one of the major chemical companies in the world and precursor of all types of products such as transgenic Maize and beef growth hormone.



## More Doctors Recommend a GMO Free Diet

Our  
bodies  
on  
**GMOs**

People with  
Fibromyalgia,  
CFS  
and other diseases  
benefit greatly from adopting  
a **GMO** Free diet



## CURRENT STATUS ON GM FOODS IN EL SALVADOR

Since 2008, in El Salvador, you can legally sell and import GM products after the repeal of Article 30 of the Seeds Act. In addition, Biotechnology in El Salvador is not prohibited because they have a law that regulates and certifies that it is feasible in El Salvador.

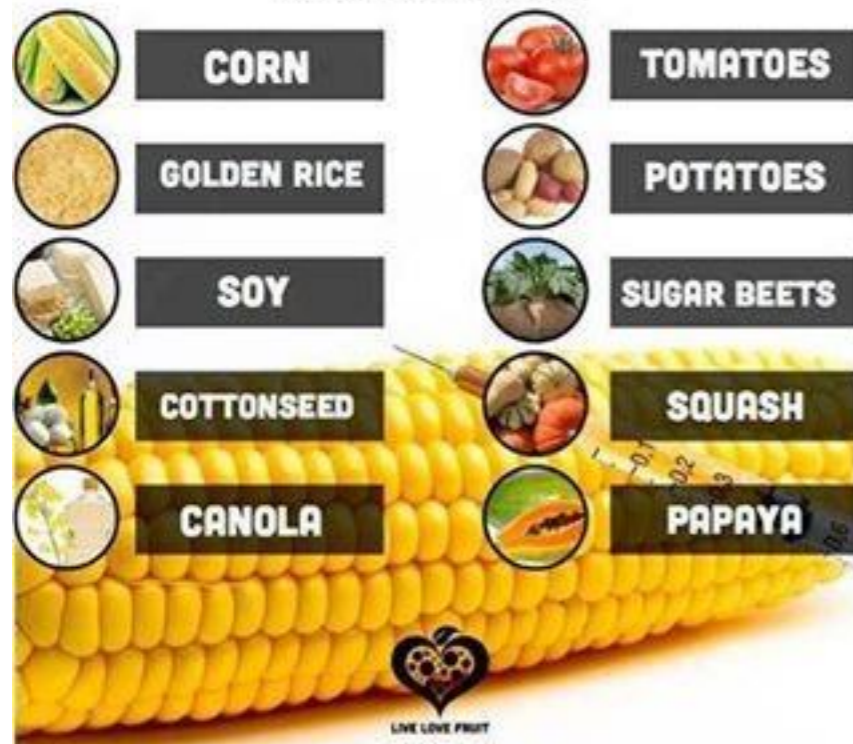
Although in the country is legal planting GMO, the producers of these products have faced some obstacles, such as:

1. Bureaucratization of the government to approve the legal permits.
2. Demonization of the GM crops has been extended to many people in the country, including public servants.

Many civil society organizations together with farmer cooperatives still oppose to GM Food, water privatization and mining in El Salvador....So, the struggle continues

## TOP 10 GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS

WWW.LIVELOVEFRUIT.COM



Thank you