



Monthly Bulletin  
on Genetic Engineering  
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*For details:*

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## Contents

### **National News**

1. NALSAR Declaration on genetic engineering in food and farming
2. Citizens Dialogues in multi-cities on health impacts and politics of GM foods

### **GE- World**

3. US farmers may switch from GM Seed
4. Concerns raised over non-browning apples
5. Chinese GM rice to hits market within two years
6. Scientists give all-clear for meat and milk from cloned cattle

### **GE and Food**

7. Genetically modified fish review flawed: economist
8. Food industry slams genetically engineered wheat
9. Scientists finding many negative impacts of Roundup Ready GM crops

### **GE and Agriculture**

10. Court Orders uprooting of GM beats
11. German legal victory a slap in the face to the genetic engineering industry
12. GM contamination of organic crop
13. Brazil launches GM Free Soy programme

### **Additional Links**

Leaked cables reveal GMO, agrofuel agendas Tuesday, 07 December 2010 <http://richardbrenneman.wordpress.com/2010/12/05/leaked-cables-reveal-u-s-gmo-agrofuel-agendas/>

Sharad Joshi blames Ramesh for no to GM crops PTI -<http://news.nabou.com/cgi-bin/newsframe>

GM trials: Centre asked to revoke permission Express News Service First Published 04 Dec 2010  
Pawar advocates GM crops for meeting food security plans, December 4 <http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/agriculture/article931436.ece>

Experts allay fear on genetically modified food, B K Mishra, TNN, Dec 9, 2010, 12.47am IST  
Read more <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/patna/Experts-allay-fear-on-genetically-modified-food/articleshow/7067812.cms#ixzz17ctj44Mq>

## National News

### 1. NALSAR Declaration on Genetic Engineering in Food and Farming 17th & 18th July, 2010

**Co organised By: SAGE, NALSAR & GRAIN**

During the two-day workshop more than 56 people who are farmers, lawyers, law teachers and law students, ex-bureaucrats, women's groups, civil society representatives, researchers, activists and NGOs deliberated over provisions of the Constitution of India, existing Central laws around GE in agriculture, the emerging regulatory regime and draft Bills proposed on GE, seeds, intellectual property rights (IPR) and food security. They also took serious note of the actual legal problems that our small farmers and local communities are facing, compounded by the fact of an inadequate regulatory regime and skewed law enforcement on these issues. They also felt that very introduction of GE agriculture is also leading to the "engineering" of our legal and regulatory system.

At the end of the two days the following declaration was made:

We, farmers, lawyers, law teachers and law students, ex-bureaucrats, women's groups, civil society representatives, researchers, activists and NGOs came together at the NALSAR Campus, Hyderabad, India for a two-day legal strategy workshop through 17-18 July 2010, to develop our collective understanding of the law and policy dimensions of Genetic Engineering (GE) vis-a-vis our food systems, seed sovereignty and farming cultures. During the two-day workshop we deliberated over provisions of the Constitution of India, existing Central laws around GE in agriculture, the emerging regulatory regime and draft Bills.  
<http://www.ddsindia.com/www/default.asp>.

### 2. Citizens Dialogues in Multi-cities on Health impacts and politics of GM Foods

**Dr Shiv Chopra** Eminent Genetic Scientist from Health Canada and his colleagues refused to approve various harmful drugs intended for meat and milk production. He

endured disciplinary actions, spoke out publicly, testified at Senate committees, and won federal court cases against Health Canada. Due to Dr. Chopra's work, Bovine Growth Hormone was barred in Canada in 1999 and in the EU. He has spoken out on BGH, dangerous antibiotics like Revalor-H Baytril, and the true causes of mad cow disease.

Dr Chopra's latest book is "Corrupt of the core" which details a full account of how government corruption endangers the public food supply. This book contains a blueprint for the establishment of food safety and security: Dr. Chopra's "Five Pillars of Food Safety," which was presented in April 2008 to the Canadian Parliament by MP (NDP) Paul Dewar.

#### Locating the GE Debate with Dr. Shiv S. Chopra

There is no one better equipped to help us to help us in this task than Dr Shiv Chopra who is known as the foremost whistleblower on the genetic engineering industry. Therefore South Against Genetic Engineering [SAGE] organized a series of public lectures across South India and Orissa to brighten up the present knowledge of the GE and to take forward the debate on GE to further mile stones, to exchange our ideas with Dr. Shiv Chopra on a common dais.

[www.ddsindia.com](http://www.ddsindia.com)

## **GE World**

### 3. US farmers may switch from GM Seed

<http://www.dailytech.com/US+Farmers+Reize+Disadvantages+of+Genetically+Engineered+Seed/article19802.htm>

[http://www.gmwatch.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=12549](http://www.gmwatch.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12549)

\*May slowly but surely switch from biotech seed to conventional seed

Seed farmers throughout the United States are complaining that biotech seeds (which are genetically altered seeds) are becoming much too expensive, resistant to weed killer, and can contaminate conventional seed crops. However, they still continue to use the seeds. But with

anticompetitive practices being investigated on biotech seed companies, seed farmers may change their minds.

But with rising costs and recent resistance to herbicides, biotech seed has become less favorable and farmers are taking notice. For instance, last year, the price of biotech soybean seeds rose 24 percent while corn seed rose 32 percent. The U.S. Justice Department is investigating the anticompetitive practices of Monsanto, and Monsanto is countering by saying it plans on offering more seed options at lower prices next year.

As far as genetic contamination of traditional crops that are grown near biotech crops goes, farmers have testified that biotech crops have lowered the value of their conventional crops.

"If you've got your conventional seed right next to your neighbor's [biotech] seeds, the pollen flies," said John Schmitt, a farmer from Quincy, Illinois who had to sell a third of his conventional corn for much lower prices due to genetic contamination. "It's nature."

While biotech seed is used more so than conventional, farmers are slowly getting the picture by realizing that there aren't many benefits to genetically altered seed as opposed to conventional seed. According to the latest statistics, the amount of farms using biotech seeds only rose one percent last year, from 85 percent to 86 percent. This is the smallest increase since 2001. In Illinois specifically, the percentage of acres using biotech corn seed decreased from 84 percent to 82 percent, where soybeans reduced as well from 90 percent to 89 percent.

#### 4. Concerns raised over non-browning apples

<http://www.bclocalnews.com/news/111560899.html>

A small Summerland company is making big news across North America with the development of an apple that doesn't turn brown after it is cut.

Okanagan Specialty Fruits is a privately owned biotech company which has been using "advanced molecular biology tools" to switch

off the gene that controls the enzyme that turns the white flesh of apples brown after being exposed to the air.

"We're having an executive meeting where we're going to be discussing this very issue," said Joe Sardinha, president of the B.C. Fruit Growers Association. He said the organization already has a policy not to support the introduction of genetically modified plants until they were sure there would be no market backlash or risks to the industry.

Sardinha said that browning is a natural process that doesn't affect the nutritional or flavour aspects of the fruit itself. "It's purely cosmetic," he said. "We've already got a variety, believe it or not, that didn't need genetic modification and has those attributes anyways. That's the Ambrosia — it is slow to brown, it doesn't even actually brown."

#### 5. Chinese GM rice to hits market within two years

[www.commodityonline.com/news/Chinese](http://www.commodityonline.com/news/Chinese)

**BEIJING (Commodity Online):** China announces its plan to start commercial production of genetically modified japonica rice within one to two years.

The announcement came from Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, China's foremost agriculture research body and is affiliated with the Ministry of Agriculture.

The forecast indicates the world's largest rice consumer may be closer than thought to producing modified grains, helping it to meet more of its food needs domestically while curbing inflation-stoking food price volatility.

There are estimates that (the GM rice) would be available in one, two years, said Lin Min, director of the academy's Biotechnology Research Institute.

While genetically modified crops have generated intense public controversy, Lin said this is largely based on misunderstandings. He noted that major competing producer countries haven't yet embraced the cultivation of GM rice the way they have for corn or soybeans." China could have the advantage in becoming the world's largest producer of GM rice, he said.

## 6. Scientists give all-clear for meat and milk from cloned cattle

[www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/nov/.../scientists-all-clear-cloned-meat](http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/nov/.../scientists-all-clear-cloned-meat)

The expert panel said there was no evidence of any difference between such meat and that from conventionally-bred cattle. Meat and milk from cloned cattle and their offspring is safe to eat, government advisers have determined. The conclusion by the Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes, an independent body that assesses whether food products are safe, increases the likelihood that authorities will approve the sale of foodstuffs from cloned animals.

### GE and Food

## 7. Genetically modified fish review flawed: economist

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/prince-edward-island/story/2010/12/02/pei-gm-salmon-review-duke-584.html#ixzz17cgVM5cK>

December 2, 2010

A review of the environmental impact of genetically-modified salmon by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is too narrow, say researchers at Duke University.

Aqua Bounty Technologies plans to hatch eggs for the salmon at a plant in Bay Fortune, P.E.I., and then ship the eggs to Panama for rearing. The fish are genetically modified to grow at twice the speed of regular salmon. The FDA released a statement earlier this year saying Aqua Bounty's product is as safe to eat as other Atlantic salmon. If the fish are approved for sale, it would be the first genetically modified food animal to be consumed in the world.

The Duke researchers say the FDA hasn't looked at all the potential impacts, including how the new development could affect the market for salmon.

## 8. Food industry slams genetically engineered wheat

<http://www.reportage-enviro.com/2010/11/food-industry-slams-genetically-engineered-wheat/>

The food industry will face widespread contamination and human health will be put at risk if trials for genetically engineered (GE) wheat are allowed out of laboratory conditions and into the field. Elise Dalley reports.

If GE goes ahead, your next slice might be a health risk. Sydney foodies have voiced their opinion firmly against engineered food products, after Greenpeace launched their [Spliced Bread](#) report about the threat of GE wheat in Australia.

## 9. Scientists finding many negative impacts of Roundup Ready GM crops

[www.non-gmoreport.com/.../scientists\\_find\\_negative\\_impacts\\_of\\_GM\\_crops.php](http://www.non-gmoreport.com/.../scientists_find_negative_impacts_of_GM_crops.php)

*Robert Kremer is a microbiologist with the US Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service and an adjunct professor in the Division of Plant Sciences at the University of Missouri.*

*The Organic & Non-GMO Report interviewed Mr. Kremer about his research and the reluctance of the USDA to publicize the findings of the five papers.*

### Please give me an overview of your research

**RK:** We started in 1997 wanting to see if this new system, Roundup Ready, would change the production of nematodes in soybean. We started looking at organisms in soybean roots and saw microorganisms colonizing the roots. We suspected that glyphosate was having an impact. There was a root fungi problem that seemed to be encouraging sudden death syndrome (SDS). We saw the increase of these fungi in the Roundup Ready (genetically modified) system, both soybeans and corn.

**The papers published in the European Journal of Agronomy received no publicity in the United States. Why is that?**

**RK:** I was working with USDA-ARS to publish a news release about these studies. I've gone all the way to the administrators, but they are

reluctant to put something out. Their thinking is that if farmers are using this (Roundup Ready) technology, ***USDA doesn't want negative information being released about it. This is how it is. I think the news release is still sitting on someone's desk.***

## GE and Agriculture

### 10. Court orders uprooting of GM beets

<http://www.gmwatch.org/latest-listing/1-news-items/12698-court-orders-uprooting-of-gm-beets>

**Court Orders Removal of Genetically Engineered Sugar Beet Seed Crop; Finds Government and Monsanto rushed to illegally plant herbicide resistant crop**

<http://bit.ly/h7ZPi3> Center for Food Safety, 30 November 2010

Today Federal District Judge Jeffrey S. White issued a preliminary injunction ordering the immediate destruction of hundreds of acres of genetically engineered (GE) sugar beet seedlings planted in September after finding the seedlings had been planted in violation of federal law.

<http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/SBII-ORDER-granting-preliminary-inj.pdf>

### 11. Germany legal victory a slap in the face to the genetic engineering industry

November 25, 2010

[www.greenpeace.org/.../german-legal-victory-a-slap-in-the-face.../28417](http://www.greenpeace.org/.../german-legal-victory-a-slap-in-the-face.../28417)

The genetic engineering (GE) free movement in Germany and all farmers, producers and consumers who don't want GE on the fields and in the food have a big reason to celebrate!. The Federal Constitutional Court in Germany reaffirmed that [the existing German GE law that handles the marketing and cultivation of GMOs in Germany is in line with their constitution](#). The Court also acknowledged the unknown long-term risks of GMOs.

We know that GE organisms (plants, animals, micro-organisms) are living organisms that can multiply and cross-breed and pose a threat of irreversible damage to biodiversity and ecosystems; furthermore their effects on human and animal health are unknown. Therefore, there is an urgent need to adopt the precautionary principle and stop this high risk experiment.

This decision of the German court should be taken very seriously from all the governments in Europe as well the European Commission that aims to authorise more GE crops in Europe without addressing the risks and the liability issue. The future of agriculture is about [ecological farming](#) aligned with nature and should not include GE crops.

### 12. GM contamination of organic crop

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/12/09/3089205.htm>

A Great Southern farmer is anxiously awaiting the result of tests to determine if his organic farm has been contaminated by a neighboring GM canola crop.

Kojonup grower Steve Marsh alerted authorities last week after he found seed pods from genetically modified canola in his organically certified paddocks. The Department of Agriculture has visited Mr. Marsh's property and taken tests for sampling. Mr Marsh says if the GM canola has indeed contaminated his farm it could have potentially dire consequences." In the worst case scenario on not only our business but on our customers' choice," he said. "We've built up a number of markets over the years and our customers want obviously a GM-free and a certified organic product for various reasons, either by choice or they may have some health reasons."

The State Government lifted a ban on growing GM canola in January

### 13. Brazil launches GM-Free Soy programme

[http://www.gmwatch.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=12678](http://www.gmwatch.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12678)

Brazilian soy producers who have been complaining of the limited availability of non-GM seeds on the Brazilian market are now counting on government help to solve the problem through the recently launched Soja Livre (Free Soya). The programme is the result of a partnership between Embrapa (the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation, led by the State), APROSOJA (Association of Soya Producers of Mato Grosso State) and ABRANGE (Brazilian Association of Non Genetically Modified Grain Producers). These crops are expected to be available for farmers in the 2011/2012 harvesting season.

Brazilian media reported earlier this year that seed distributors that had been acquired by biotech corporations like Monsanto had forced farmers into buying 85 percent of their soy seed in GM varieties.

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**This monthly bulletin is brought out by Southern Action on Genetic Engineering (SAGE), a coalition of civil society activists, farmers, scientists, academicians, and consumer groups of four Southern States of India, viz., Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. SAGE has been waging a concerted battle against genetic engineering through a series of activities that involve public protests, media actions, seminars, consultations and publication of a series of educational materials.**