



## Electronic GMO bulletin February 2009

### One more GMO free zone declared in Macedonia

GMO free zones family in Macedonia is growing. On 12th of February 2009 the Municipality of Vevcani signed the declaration for GMO free zone "Say No to Genetic Engineering in Our Fields". Now Macedonia is proud to have 5 GMO free municipalities: Veles, Ohrid, Caska, Mogila and Vevcani.

In the next period we expect more municipalities to declare themselves as GMO free zones and as environmentally clean zones. This will help them to promote organic farming and eco-tourism in their regions.

Eco-sense would like to thanks Krste Jon- Green Center from Struga for their support of Eco-sense's activities.

For more information visit: [www.ekosvest.com.mk](http://www.ekosvest.com.mk)

### Realized meeting with the President of the Commission for Agriculture, Forestry and water Economy within the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia

On 20<sup>th</sup> of February 2009 Eco-sense's members that work in the field of GMOs participated on the meeting with the President of the Commission for Agriculture, Forestry and water Economy within the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Nikola Kurciev. On the meeting it was discussed about the situation with GMOs in Macedonia and also about the missing the deadline for adopting the bylaws for GMO Law. Mr. Kurciev will pledge him self for fastening the process of adoption of the GMO bylaws and their implementation.

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### Genetically Modified Crops Feed Biotech Giants, Not the Poor

A new report released by the Center for Food Safety and Friends of the Earth International warned that genetically modified (GM) crops are benefiting biotech food giants instead of the world's hungry population, which is projected to increase to 1.2 billion by the year 2025 due to the global food crisis.

"U.S. farmers are facing dramatic increases in the price of GM seeds and the chemicals used with them," said Bill Freese, science policy analyst at the US-based Center for Food Safety and co-author of the report. "Farmers in any developing country that welcomes Monsanto and other biotech companies can expect the same fate - sharply rising seed and pesticide costs, and a radical decline in the availability of conventional seeds," he added.

GM seeds cost from two to over four times as much as conventional, non-GM seeds, and the price disparity is increasing. From 80% to over 90% of the soybean, corn and cotton seeds planted in the U.S. are GM varieties. Thanks to GM trait fee increases, average U.S. seed prices for these crops have risen by over 50% in just the past two to three years.

Exploitation of the food crisis has been extremely profitable for Monsanto, by far the dominant player in GM seeds. Goldman Sachs



recently projected that Monsanto's net income (after taxes) would triple from \$984 million to \$2.96 billion from 2007 to 2010.

The exorbitant cost of GM seeds is not the only problem. The vast majority of GM crops are not grown by or destined for the world's poor, but instead are soybeans and corn used to feed animals, generate biofuels, or produce highly processed food products consumed mostly in rich countries.

The report 'Who benefits from GM crops 2009' is available online at: <http://www.foei.org/en/publications/pdfs/gmcrops2009full.pdf>

### **Death by Multiple Poisoning, Glyphosate and Roundup**

Scientists pinpoint how very low concentrations of the herbicide and other chemicals in Roundup formulations kill human cells, strengthening the case for phasing them out, and banning all further releases of Roundup-tolerant GM crops.

Four different Roundup formulations of the herbicide glyphosate manufactured by Monsanto are highly toxic to human cells, and at concentrations far below the recommended agricultural use levels. Researchers at the Institute of Biology in Caen, France published their latest results in the current issue of Chemical Research in Toxicology.

Roundup formulations are lethal cocktails, mixtures of glyphosate with various adjuvants. (An adjuvant is 'helper' substance added to aid the effect of the active ingredient.) The Roundup formulations are currently the top non-selective herbicides worldwide and increasing, as more than 75 percent of genetically modified (GM) crops are Roundup tolerant.

Read the rest of this article here <http://www.i-sis.org.uk/DMPGR.php>



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