



## Electronic GMO bulletin Eco-sense June 2008

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### **INDIA: GOVT ADVISES AGAINST GROWING BT COTTON**

The government of the Indian state of Maharashtra has recommended that farmers in its cotton belt of Vidarbha stop growing Bt cotton and switch to an alternative crop. This is because Bt cotton cultivation has proven unviable due to its high costs and unsatisfactory output. The take up of Bt cotton has been greater in Maharashtra than in any other part of India, and the state government previously played a big role in hyping it to poor farmers. As a result, farmer suicides have gone through the roof.

<http://www.gmwatch.org/archive2.asp?arcid=8633>

### **JUST 10 CORPORATIONS CONTROL NEARLY HALF THE WORLD SEED MARKET**

Monsanto recently became the world's biggest seed company, trailed closely by DuPont. In the mid 1970's there were around 7,000 seed companies and not one of them had even 0.5% of the world market. Nowadays just 10 corporations control 49% of the world seed market.

<http://www.gmwatch.org/archive2.asp?arcid=8595>

### **SUBSIDIES FOR MONSANTO'S CORN IN THE U.S. ...**

The US Department of Agriculture has struck an unusual arrangement with Monsanto that gives farmers in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa and Minnesota a break on federal crop insurance premiums if they plant Monsanto-brand seed corn this spring.

<http://www.gmwatch.org/archive2.asp?arcid=8636>

### **... AND IN THE PHILIPPINES**

Organic farmers in Mindanao, Philippines have protested the department of agriculture's policy of providing financial support to those who will plant varieties of GM corn.

<http://www.gmwatch.org/archive2.asp?arcid=8636>

### **GM SOY IN BRAZIL: KILLING THE AMAZON AND BOOSTING GLOBAL WARMING**

Large-scale soy monocultures in Brazil have caused deforestation, soil degradation, and contamination, says an important article in Brazzil magazine.

<http://www.gmwatch.org/archive2.asp?arcid=8595>

### **MEXICANS CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT NATIVE VARIETIES OF CORN**

Mexican farmer and social organizations have kicked off a campaign to protect native corn which includes collecting one million signatures demanding a ban on GM corn.

<http://www.gmwatch.org/archive2.asp?arcid=8640>

<http://www.gmwatch.org/archive2.asp?arcid=8603>



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### **SHOWDOWN FOR EUROPE**

Last month, the European Commission's environment commissioner Stavros Dimas said that he plans to reject applications from Syngenta and Pioneer Hi-Bred International for approval to grow two strains of GM maize, on the grounds that the crops could adversely affect the environment. But other commissioners are trying to overturn Dimas's decision.

<http://www.gmwatch.org/archive2.asp?arcid=8599>

<http://www.gmwatch.org/archive2.asp?arcid=8635>

### **JOURNAL NATURE ATTACKS DIMAS**

<http://www.gmwatch.org/archive2.asp?arcid=8602>

<http://www.gmwatch.org/archive2.asp?arcid=8614>

### **FRANCE BANS USE OF GM SEEDS**

France has formally suspended the commercial use of GM seeds in the country until early February and ordered a biotech safety study.

<http://www.gmwatch.org/archive2.asp?arcid=8585>