

## **Electronic GMO bulletin Eco-sense August 2008**

### **GM CONTAMINATION IN SCOTLAND POSED SERIOUS RISK**

Genetically modified seeds were wrongly sown at three locations in Scotland, posing a "very serious risk" to the environment, the Scottish Government said. The new variety of supposedly non-GM oilseed rape contained unauthorised GM material, it emerged. Sowing of seeds from that batch has been halted and plants on the three trial sites will be destroyed. Scotland's Environment Minister Michael Russell said: "Had these plants been allowed to mature, the risk to the environment could have been very serious."

<http://ukpress.google.com/article/ALeqM5i7al2QGZqJOSFdB2rxrP2tEptS0Q>

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/09/12101348>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/7612262.stm>

### **EUROPEAN COMMISSION APPROVES GM SOYABEAN**

The European Commission has approved the import of Bayer's GM soybean A25704-12 for use in food and animal feed. The decision was arrived at by the pro-GM Commission after ministers from the EU member states could not come to an agreement on the subject.

<http://euobserver.com/9/26710>

### **TWO GOVERNMENTS CALL FOR IRELAND TO BECOME A GM-FREE ZONE**

Agriculture ministers from both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland have confirmed their plans for the island of Ireland to be declared a GM-free zone. This follows similar calls by the Assemblies of Scotland and Wales. In a section of his speech at the Terra Madre Ireland 2008 conference on food and farming policy, Minister, Trevor Sargent, drew rousing applause from the audience when he said: "The whole GM debate is ... at the heart of sustainability and the empowerment of people to grow food. If that power is taken away -- and the corporate spin is certainly very strong in the direction of some kind of silver bullet being available through GM -- we'll have gone beyond the point from which it's very difficult to come back."

<http://www.gmwatch.eu/archives/39-Two-governments-call-for-Ireland-to-become-a-GM-free-zone.html>

### **SCIENTIST WHO COINED TERM "GENETIC ENGINEERING" WARNS OF HEALTH RISKS**

Leading scientist Dr P M Bhargava, who first coined the term "genetic engineering" in 1973, warns against GM foods being pushed into the Indian market without appropriate safety assessment to ensure that they do not increase health risks, in an interesting interview at

<http://infochangeindia.org/200807077208/Agriculture/Features/Genetically-modified-crops-The-risk-factor.htm>





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### **DESPITE BAN, BT COTTON CULTIVATION WIDESPREAD IN ORISSA**

The recent death of 93 goats after grazing on Bt cotton fields in Orissa has put the authorities on alert for illegal cotton seeds. Planting GM cotton is banned, but illegal Bt cotton seeds have flooded the market and there are hardly any non-GM seeds available to buy. [http://www.downtoearth.org.in/full6.asp?foldername=20080915&filename=news&sec\\_id=4&sid=4](http://www.downtoearth.org.in/full6.asp?foldername=20080915&filename=news&sec_id=4&sid=4)

### **HAZARDS OF GENETIC ENGINEERING**

Superb editorial from a Sri Lankan newspaper: [http://www.dailymirror.lk/DM\\_BLOG/Sections/frmNewsDetailView.aspx?ARTID=25777](http://www.dailymirror.lk/DM_BLOG/Sections/frmNewsDetailView.aspx?ARTID=25777)

### **SCHOOLS MUST REMOVE GM-TAINTED FOODS FROM CAFETERIAS**

The US Institute for Responsible Technology is calling for a junk food ban in school canteens. They say not only does it remove most of the GM food but doing so leads to better behaviour by the students. <http://www.comanchecountychronicle.com/viewarticle.php?id=397>

### **PRAWNS, GM CANOLA AND ALLERGIES?**

The Australian group MADGE has produced a report on how GM food may be causing allergies. <http://www.madge.org.au/Docs/allergy-report.pdf>