



Electronic GMO bulletin Eco-sense November 2008

The Municipality of Mogila declare as a GMO free zone

On 28th of November 2008 on the initiative of Eco-sense, the Council of the Municipality of Mogila on the regular council meeting declares the Municipality of Mogila as a GMO free zone with signing the declaration "NO for genetic engineering on our fields". The content of declaration and potential risks of GMOs were presented in front of the councilors by Eco-sense's member. The municipality of Mogila is middle-large rural municipality with area of 250 km², with 23 villages and 6710 citizens. The main economic branches in this municipality are agriculture, livestock breeding, trade and others. With signing this declaration the Municipality of Mogila accompanies the Municipalities of Veles, Ohrid and Caska in declaring as a GMO free zones.

Eco-sense is working in the field of GMOs, trying to raise public awareness through projects and campaigns, for the potential risks of GMOs on environment and human health. On the other side Eco-sense's activities are in direction of harmonizing of Macedonian GMO Legislation with EU Legislation through lobbying for adoption of bylaws, so the GMO Law could be implemented.

One of the main activities of Eco-sense in this field is promoting the idea of declaring the GMO free zones in Macedonia and educating the farmers for the risks of using GM seeds.

For more information on: www.ekosvest.com.mk

The Problem with Nutritionally Enhanced Plants¹

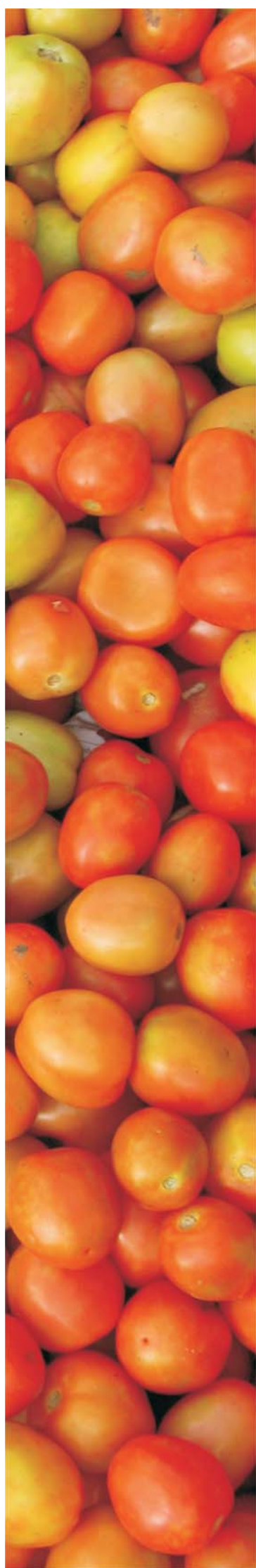
Among the next generation of genetically modified (GM) plants are those that are engineered to produce elevated levels of nutritional molecules such as vitamins, omega-3 fatty acids, and amino acids. Based upon the U.S. current regulatory scheme, the plants and their products may enter our food supply without any required safety testing. The potential risks of this type of GM plant are discussed in the context of human health, and it is argued that there should be very careful safety testing of plants designed to produce biologically active molecules before they are commercially grown and consumed. This will require a mandatory, scientifically rigorous review process.

What are genetically modified organisms?

Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are organisms in which genetic material is changed in a way that doesn't occur naturally with process of reproduction and/or natural recombination, including the microorganisms.

Genetic engineering

is a new technology, involving the manipulation of genes. Scientists can transfer genes from one species to other non-related species. This is possible because of the universal "gene language" – the genetic code



Genetically modified ingredients in bread

It takes more than just flour to make bread. Many ingredients found in bread and baked goods are sometimes made with the help of genetic engineering.

- Several ingredients often found in baked goods are derived from soybeans: oils, lecithin and other emulsifiers, and even soy flour, which is sometimes mixed with wheat flour in small quantities (up to 1 percent) due to its physical properties.
- Maize is the basis for various starches and other ingredients like glucose syrup (corn syrup), which is produced by starch saccharification.
- Other flour additives may also be produced with the help of genetic engineering, for example: ascorbic acid (E300) or cysteine (E921)
- Enzymes are often added to baked goods. They can make dough easier to process, make it expand, or provide for an ideal crust. Many of the enzymes used today (e.g. amylase) are made with the help of genetically modified microorganisms.

No GM yeast. At this point, no baked goods are made with genetically modified baker's yeast. A few years ago, a genetically modified strain of baker's yeast was tested in Great Britain. This new strain had enhanced carbon dioxide production. It was hoped that it could help make bread rise more quickly, but in practice, the yeast was unsuccessful. Genetically modified yeast would have to be approved by the EU for use, and as of now, no applications have been submitted.

For more information: www.gmo-compass.org

A critical look at Golden Rice

The first generation of Golden Rice was developed nearly 10 years ago. Golden Rice is genetically modified so that it generates carotenoids which the human body synthesizes into vitamin A. This variety of rice is supposed to combat vitamin A deficiency in developing countries. Current research has shown that most questions about the quality and safety of this product are unanswered even today.

For more information on:

http://www.foodwatch.de/english/golden_rice/index_ger.html

Extensive GM contamination of honey

NOTE: A German magazine has had honey tested and found extensive GM contamination.

This is a summary in English of the most relevant parts of the article reporting their findings.

The original article in German is here

<http://www.oekotest.de/cgi/ot/otgs.cgi?doc=92008>

Thanks to the GMWatch translators for this

http://web.archive.org/web/20071225180614rn_1/www.gmwatch.org/p1temp.asp?pid=2&page=1



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