



Quote of the Week

Monsanto Subsidiary Admits the Truth, Sixteen Years Ago

"If you put a label on genetically engineered food you might as well put a skull and crossbones on it."

- Norman Braksick, president of Asgrow Seed Co., a subsidiary of Monsanto, quoted in the *Kansas City Star*, March 7, 1994

Monsanto Says, "Buy Organic to Avoid GMOs" (!)

Ever wonder what Monsanto's executives feed their kids? The following quote, taken directly from Monsanto's Web site, shows that Monsanto's savvy employees understand that if they want to avoid genetically engineered foods, all they have to do is buy organic:

"Individuals who make a personal decision not to consume food containing GM [genetically modified] ingredients can easily avoid such products. In the US, they can purchase products that are certified as organic under the National Organic Program. They can also buy products which companies have voluntarily labeled as not containing GM ingredients. The law allows for voluntary labeling so long as the information is accurate, truthful and avoids misleading consumers about the food. Monsanto supports both options."

GMO?
NO!

Of course, Monsanto's bottom line business model relies on misleading consumers, monopolizing seeds, buying off scientists and politicians, and strong-arming farmers. They're not afraid of organic, so long as certified organic crops and foods remain a small niche market. Unfortunately Monsanto's business model seems to be working, at least in North America. The overwhelming majority of corn, soybeans, cotton, canola, and sugar beets grown in the US and Canada are Monsanto's patented GMO varieties, despite mounting evidence that these "Frankencrops" are bad for the environment and hazardous to animal and human health. While nearly everyone in North America has eaten genetically modified foods, only 26% believe that they have. The only way to turn this around is to label genetically engineered foods, which Monsanto, of course, opposes. They understand that health and environmentally conscious consumers are increasingly becoming aware of the dangers of GMOs, and that if given the choice through mandatory labeling, as in the European Union, they will avoid them or boycott them.

We need to help consumers defend themselves from Monsanto and the biotech bullies. The most effective way to do this is to pass a law requiring labels on genetically engineered foods. Please send a letter to your Senators, Members of Congress and candidates for federal office, asking them to support the pending bill in Congress, the Genetically Engineered Food Right to Know Act. www.is.gd/dcJPP

Haiti: The Aid Dilemma

In the aftermath of January's devastating earthquake in Haiti, post-disaster relief is creating a new kind of problem for small farmers and consumers. The massive influx of food aid has altered the price of rice, throwing the delicate balance in Haiti's food supply chain out of whack and threatening to collapse the country's rice market. It's the kind of problem that can turn a one-time disaster into a crisis that lasts years. www.is.gd/dcSD9

Stop Frankenfish!

Obama's Food & Drug Administration is considering an application from AquaBounty to commercialize genetically engineered salmon. This would be the first genetically engineered animal to enter the food supply.

The FDA doesn't have a special process for reviewing genetically engineered animals. It treats genetically engineered animals like veterinary drugs, and keeps the information the companies submit secret, on the basis that it's proprietary. There's no opportunity for the public to see the data, let alone offer evidence to rebut it.

There are serious concerns about the safety of genetically engineered salmon.

According to an expert panel from the Royal Society of Canada, scientists have documented "deleterious consequences to fish morphology, respiratory capacity, and locomotion associated with the introduction of growth hormone (GH) gene constructs in some transgenic variants of salmonids, notably Pacific and Atlantic salmon." The panel concluded that this "is the rule rather than the exception in fish... [and] has been manifested by changes to enzyme activity, gross anatomy, behaviour and, in all likelihood, hormonal activity."

The human health impacts of consuming food from salmon that are deformed by genetically engineered growth hormones is unknown and are not being discovered and made available to the public through the FDA process.

Don't let Obama's Food & Drug Administration approve genetically engineered salmon! www.is.gd/dcSFE

Join OCA at the COP 16 Climate Conference

In 1999 and 2003, the OCA helped organize protests and teach-ins against the World Trade Organization in Seattle and Cancun. The "Battle of Seattle", as it came to be known, and subsequent mobilizations were the coming of age of the global grassroots. Now you have the opportunity to join OCA staff on an escorted delegation to the historic teach-ins and rallies for climate justice and organic agriculture at COP 16 in Cancun, Mexico.

Over 100,000 concerned citizens from North and South America, Europe, Africa and Asia are expected to converge on Cancun, including leading farm, food, Fair Trade, climate justice, and anti-GE activists. They'll attend a wide range of workshops, forums, and cultural events. Following up on the theme of the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil, "Another World is Possible," the emphasis in Cancun will be on presenting solutions and alternatives to the climate crisis.

The OCA delegation, limited to 100 people, will include international experts on organic agriculture and climate justice. During the week of teach-ins and protests, Nov. 29 - Dec 10, the OCA delegation will be housed in Cancun. Costs for a shared double room, meals, seminars, and transport will be \$1000 (airfare not included). Private rooms are available for an additional \$200. Call OCA at 218-226-4164 or reserve your place on the delegation online: (select "Campaign Manager"). www.is.gd/cO49x

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