



This is Big

One of the biggest scams Monsanto perpetrated against consumers was getting its GMO crops declared “substantially equivalent” to non-GMO crops—a coup that allowed the biotech industry to unleash GMOs into the food system with no independent pre-market safety testing. First, a little history on substantial equivalence: The concept of ‘Substantial Equivalence’ was first introduced in 1993 by the Organisation for Economic Development, an international economic and trade organisation, not a public health body.

The principle states that if a new food is found to be substantially equivalent to an already existing food product, it can be treated the same way as the existing product with respect to safety. This concept has greatly benefited the trade of GM produce, allowing it to effectively bypass regulatory requirements that would apply to novel food and other products including novel chemical compounds, pharmaceuticals, pesticides and food additives, all of which require a range of toxicological tests and can be subject to legal limitations on safe consumption/intake.

Independent (as in not on the biotech industry’s payroll) scientists who have previously argued that GMO foods are not substantially equivalent to non-GMO foods have been discredited by Monsanto.

Now there’s a new peer-reviewed study led by Dr. Michael Antoniou at King’s College London, that once again suggests that GMO foods—at least a specific variety of Monsanto’s Roundup-Ready GMO corn—are nowhere near to being “equivalent” to non-GMO foods.

And what makes this Roundup-Ready corn “different,” say the authors of the most recent study, has serious implications for your health. orgcns.org/2j7J4t2

New (Fake) Scientist

A popular science and technology magazine recently published an article and video aimed at convincing consumers that buying local and organic food is bad for the climate.

Given what we know—that industrial agriculture is the biggest contributor to global warming, and that organic and regenerative agriculture practices not only reduce emissions, but also draw down carbon from the atmosphere and sequester it in the soil—it’s hard to fathom how this article got the OK from the editors at *New Scientist*.

That is, until you find out that Syngenta and Merck are big advertisers in *New Scientist* magazine.

Take Action: orgcns.org/2icEWUr

Call *New Scientist* and tell them what you think: 888-822-3242

Tweet your comments to Sumit Paul-Choudhury, editor-in-chief @sumit and Rowan Hooper, managing editor @rowhoop

Post on *New Scientist* Facebook page: fb.com/newscientist



High Drama, High Stakes

Raised voices, accusations, drama and controversy marked last week’s four-day meetings, convened by the EPA to determine whether or not regulators should re-approve glyphosate, the key ingredient in Monsanto’s Roundup herbicide, for use in the U.S.

Reporting for *Huffington Post*, us Right to Know’s Carey Gillam wrote:

The EPA’s determination is crucial on many fronts - Monsanto is currently defending itself against more than three dozen lawsuits claiming glyphosate-based

Roundup gave people non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL), a type of blood cancer; both the EPA and the European Union are assessing re-registrations of glyphosate to determine if limits should be placed on the chemical; and Monsanto is attempting a \$66 billion merger with German-based Bayer.

Below are a few reports from the meetings last week. But the bottom line is this: Is there anyone in the EPA who has the will to do what we, the taxpayers, pay them to do? Which is to place a higher priority on the health and rights of the people, than on the profits of Monsanto?

We won’t know for at least another three months. But this we do know: The stakes are high. orgcns.org/2j7FdMK

Tiny and Wise

Legend has it that Green Man, a tiny and wise Guatemalan folk character, spun stories aimed at teaching people to respect the natural world.

Borrowing from that legend, Reginaldo Haslett-Marroquin has written a book about his quest in revolution-torn Guatemala to build his vision for a regenerative farming model that would both respect the laws of nature and uplift people and communities.

Haslett-Marroquin, chief strategy officer for the Main Street Project, has developed a regenerative poultry project that pairs egg and meat production with other region- and climate-appropriate crops, such as hazelnut trees (northern climates) and olive trees (southern climates). OCA is working with Haslett-Marroquin on a pilot project at our *Vía Orgánica* teaching ranch in San Miguel de Allende.

On his book, Haslett-Marroquin says: *In The Shadow of Green Man* is a story telling project ... a book about my life. I hope this book will serve as a platform to embark on a conversation about hope and power in a new way, one that emerges from each of us and empowers us to take action to do good even in the midst of so much evil happening around the world.

Wise words for all of us, as we work together in the coming year to promote regenerative farming practices that work in harmony with nature, rather than destroy it. orgcns.org/29POhRt

Order *In the Shadow of Green Man*: orgcns.org/2iG2xO3

More about ¡Granjas Regenerativas! orgcns.org/2j7Y6ij