



For Immediate Release: 16 October 2010

Is Monsanto scared of their own GM canola?

Today is World Food Day, and MADGE is speaking at a celebration organised by the Port Phillip Urban Food Network at the EcoCentre in St Kilda at 11:30amⁱ.

But yesterday, International Rural Women's Dayⁱⁱ, was a different story in Melbourne food as MADGE tried to return GM canola weeds to their patent owners, Monsanto. Monsanto is the owner of 25% of world seed and 90% of the world's GM seed.

"We were told that everyone at Monsanto was out for the day as we tried to return their GM canola weeds" said Jessica Harrison from MADGE. "It was farcical."

"We collected the weeds from the roadside where they were growing next to a farmer's non-GM canola crop. The farmer was concerned that they would contaminate her fields and reduce her income as GM canola is worth \$15 a tonne less than non-GM. We want Monsanto to clean up their contamination and compensate any farmers who are polluted by GM canola."

MADGE spokesperson Fran Murrell said "Wyeth's S26 soy infant formula was recently found to be contaminated by GM soy and corn. Wyeth said the contamination was unavoidable as GM crops contaminate non-GM cropsⁱⁱⁱ. Our labelling laws need tightening as the formula was not labelled and mothers had no idea they were feeding their babies GM food."

MADGE and Gene Ethics waited patiently in the lobby but no one from Monsanto was brave enough to collect their GM canola. Ms Harrison said "We had no idea they would be so scared of a few bags of GM canola weeds. Do they know something we don't?" Last year Monsanto also failed to receive their GM canola weeds.^{iv}

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ⁱ World Food Day 16/10 "United Against Hunger" 11am EcoCentre, Blessington St, St Kilda. Music, stalls, local food & cooking displays. EcoCentre, Port Phillip Urban Fresh Food Network
<http://www.ecocentre.com/node/174>

ⁱⁱ <http://www.un.org.au/International-Day-of-Rural-Women-news70.aspx>

"Rural women do most of the agricultural work in developing countries, but endure the worst working conditions, with low pay and little or no social protection. Rural women produce most of the world's food, yet they are often excluded from land tenure and the credit and business services they need to

prosper. They are the primary users and custodians of local natural resources, but are seldom given a voice on national and local bodies that decide how these resources are managed. They are the caregivers and managers of households, but rarely share these responsibilities equally with men or have a say in major household decisions.”

ⁱⁱⁱ [https://www.wyethnutrition.com.au/\\$1\\$S-26_Soy_GMO_Statement.html?menu_id=8&menu_item_id=23](https://www.wyethnutrition.com.au/1S-26_Soy_GMO_Statement.html?menu_id=8&menu_item_id=23)

^{iv} <http://www.madge.org.au/Docs/MR-Monsanto-Masters-Dark-Arts-111109.pdf>