



For Immediate Release: 9 December 2010

Organic Farms need strict protection from GM contamination

MADGE is calling for Australian Governments to institute strict protection of organic farms from contaminating GM crops, after an organic farmer in Western Australia found GM canola seeds blown in from a neighbouring property.

Industry is allowing “non-GM” crops to carry low level GM contamination. This contamination tolerance allows GM crops to be grown although they contaminate non-GM crops, removing choice for farmers and consumers. Certified organic crops have a zero GM tolerance.

“Organic food offers consumers a guaranteed protection from GM contamination and a real choice” said MADGE spokesperson Fran Murrell, “However nothing is protecting organic farmers.”

“Organic farms are readily contaminated by wind and insect pollination from GM crops, and in this case, by GM material blown in from a neighbouring farm.”

“MADGE has conducted a careful science-based analysis of GM company data that has revealed too many avenues of health risk. We see no necessity for taking a risk with this experimental material on behalf of our children. There are no safe levels of GM.”

“We need to rely on foods that have a traditional history of safety. We want these simple choices protected.”

“GM crops are often promoted as high yielding and a salvation for a range of problems, but the realities simply don’t stack up.”

"As the gloss wears off for the farmers trying it as a novelty, we send our sympathy to Steve Marsh, an organic farmer who should be able to peacefully grow our food rather than worrying what the wind will bring over his fence"

Steve Marsh is considering suing if he suffers financial loss as a result of this contamination.

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