



For Immediate Release 14 July 2011

STOP the GM EXPERIMENT WITH OUR BREAD

Greenpeace, including one mum wanting to protect her family, has taken whippersnippers to a GM wheat trial in Canberra. Mothers are rallying at midday today at Julia Gillard's electorate office to demand a halt to risky GM wheat and barley trials and inadequate human feeding studies.

"Why is the CSIRO allowing wheat, the staff of life, to become part of the GM experiment" said Fran Murrell, MADGE spokesperson.

"There is no demand for GM wheat anywhere in the world. North American farmers rejected it in 2004. Why are we risking our health and our markets with this research?"

"GM chemical companies fund and influence the direction of research. They appear to have decided that Australia is the place for their flawed GM project."

"Due to our lax regulations, we are already forced to become detectives to avoid GM products when we shop. GM wheat is the last straw."

"Greenpeace's action is only the beginning of the rejection of GM wheat. We refuse to feed GM to our families. This whole debacle has to stop."

The CSIRO, the Grains Research and Development Council and a group of GM research companies are backing nine 'trials of GM wheat and barley in 5 states and territories this season under the 'Food Futures Flagship'. CSIRO documents state that GM wheat could be available as early as 2015. [1]

"What is being trialled is our acceptance of GM organisms in our food" said Jessica Harrison of MADGE.

"Overseas, so-called 'trials' are the thin edge of the wedge. Then come 'farm-scale trials' or 'co-existence' which is a sham. Before long, GM contamination occurs, our industry pays the price with loss of markets and our GM-free choices are limited once again."

GM wheat will only be tested on animals and then humans in short-term trials, according to the CSIRO.

"The token gesture testing of GM foods is an act of neglect" said Madeleine Love of MADGE.

"Allergy scientists freely admit to large gaps in the knowledge of how to assess the safety of GM crops [2]. The latest statistics on hospital admissions for food anaphylaxis and other adverse food reactions are frightening. The rates of 5-9 year olds being admitted to hospital on these diagnoses have gone up 85% in just two years [3]."

“The last thing Australian children need is more experimental material in their school lunch.”

MADGE mothers and others will be rallying on Thursday 14th July at midday at Julia Gillard’s electorate office, 2/36 Synnot St, Werribee.

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[1] <http://www.csiro.au/files/files/pr3v.pdf>

[2] Scientific Opinion on the allergenic assessment of GM plants and micro-organisms and derived food and feed <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/de/scdocs/doc/1700.pdf>

[3] Separations data source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.
<http://www.aihw.gov.au/principal-diagnosis-data-cubes/>

Rates were evaluated using Australian Bureau of Statistics Estimated resident Population: ABS 3201.0
Table 9. <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/3201.0Jun%202010?OpenDocument>

