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GM "pregnancy test" in parliament house – Consumers insist Minister Burke contain rogue genes

Consumer group MADGE Australia met with the advisor of The Hon Tony Burke, Minister for Agriculture, in Parliament House yesterday to discuss GM contamination, science, and world hunger.

Jessica Harrison of MADGE demonstrated an in-house test of roadside GM canola weeds collected from NSW a week earlier.

"The test works like a strip pregnancy test - two red stripes mean the plant is GM. These tests are used commercially in the USA and Canada for growers to prove the status of their crop."

"No regulatory body has offered to clean up the patented GM weeds, which will soon dry, split their seed pods and spread seeds further.

MADGE spokesperson Fran Murrell said "It appears that no one is taking active measures to stop the contamination of Australia's food and environment."

"This GM pollen is flying around Australia, contaminating our food, and yesterday we insisted that DAFF get control of it."

"Since GM patent holder, Monsanto, was successfully sued for the removal of GM canola weeds last year, are members of the public going to have to pull up GM weeds and bill Monsanto for the costs?" asked Fran Murrell <http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=9494>

"Once contamination takes hold where is the choice we were promised?"

Weed GM canola is growing unmanaged on Australian roadsides because the crop was approved for release by the previous Gene Technology Regulator Dr Sue Meek.

Dr Meek did not conduct or commission any independent tests on behalf of the Australian people.

Dr Meek released it on the basis that the oil had been approved for human consumption by FSANZ, but FSANZ did not conduct or commission any independent tests, neither on the oil, nor on the genetic material and products.

These inadequately tested GM products are now flying around with the pollen and escaping from trucks.

FSANZ approved the oil on the basis of material supplied by the patent-holding GM company, Monsanto. Last year FSANZ supplied this material to Madeleine Love for the payment of \$186.

Yesterday MADGE researcher Madeleine Love supplied a section of this material (with study guide) for The Hon Tony Burke [[available to media](#)], declaring the material to be shoddy commercial advocacy, not resembling Science.

She said "Monsanto was not able to identify GM products of the plant, and without identification there is no reason to believe it will be safe to consume in whole food as a contaminating product."

MADGE also discussed the issue of feeding the world with Tony Burke's office, and passed on IAASTD material describing the world's bottom up approach to solving hunger, in contrast to GM industry's top down approach. <http://www.agassessment.org/>

The IAASTD report was put together from the works of 400 scientists from 80 countries over 4 years, and was signed off unconditionally in May 2008 by 60 countries.

MADGE also passed on information about the worldwide La Via Campesina small farmer movement, with organisations in every country except Australia. http://viacampesina.org/main_en/

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