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**MADGE to Tony Burke: We need Research, Sharing, Goodwill;
Not patented GM technology looking for a market to exploit**

At the National Press Club today Federal Agricultural Minister Tony Burke indicated once again that GM crop technology shouldn't be overlooked as a possible solution to potential future environmental and land changes.

But MADGE spokesperson Fran Murrell said "What is needed to cope with future challenges is research, the sharing of information and goodwill. The last thing we need is patented technology looking for a market to exploit."

MADGE says that despite three decades of public and private financing, most commercial GM crops are pesticide related products, for the profit a handful of agri-chemical multinationals.

A new report by Dr Charles Benbrook has shown that the adoption of GM crops has increased pesticide use by 318 million pounds over the past 13 years. The report is based on data from the United States Department of Agriculture (NASS, AMS and ERS), Monsanto and the Weed Science Society of America.

http://www.organic-center.org/science.pest.php?action=view&report_id=159

<http://www.organic-center.org/reportfiles/SupplementalTables2.pdf> (supplemental tables)

MADGE says that GM techniques for forcing DNA change are still random, as they were three decades ago. No scientist can accurately predict the range of DNA changes in the plant or their range of new genetic products. Precautionary testing of GM food remains economically impractical. Our children are on the front line of experimentation.

Doctors specialising in environmental medicine say there is a link between GM foods and illness. They state "several animal studies indicate serious health risks associated with GM food consumption". They include: allergy; gastrointestinal, liver and kidney changes; immune dysregulation; dysregulation of insulin and cholesterol response; accelerated ageing and reduced fertility.

<http://www.aemonline.org/gmopost.html> (American Academy of Environmental Medicine)

MADGE supports pure unpatented research into the continually amazing characteristics of plant DNA. However, since it is impossible to determine whether

GM crops for food and environmental are safe, MADGE asks that research not only be in the public interest and unpatented, but remain in the labs.

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