

A MADGE Release: Wednesday 18 June 2007

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GM Wheat, GM Label, No Buyers

Mothers against GM crops and food (MADGE) said that flour products derived from GM wheat[1] will have to be labelled "Genetically Modified", and that the consumer response will not support investment interests.

Madeleine Love, mother and researcher of the MADGE network said there was a disconnection between transgenic investors and consumers.

"Some investors feel excited about GM food but there's no economic sense to it - biotechnologists should make food we'd *like* to eat."

"Mothers won't allow their children to be used as guinea pigs in transgenic trials."

MADGE regards the past safety assessments of GM food by Australian regulators as completely inadequate, and sees the 493% increase in childhood anaphylactic hospital admissions and 12-fold increase in food allergies [2] as one of the likely outcomes.

Ms Love said, "We expect the haste to return dollars to GM wheat investors will result in similar failures of due scientific process."

"It would be an unprecedented step for Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) to feed this GM wheat to a rat before they feed it to our children."

MADGE supports development of drought tolerant crops through non-transgenic technologies, and is actively informing consumers on how to identify unlabelled GM ingredients in processed food, with the expectation that childhood nutrition will improve as a result. Organic products are GM-free.

The first of many Consumer Forums on GM crops and food will be taking place at the Mulwala Civic Centre, Wednesday June 25, 7pm, followed by supper.

[1] <http://www.theage.com.au/national/gm-wheat-yields-hope-for-big-dry-20080617-2s93.html>

[2] Paediatric food allergy trends in a community-based specialist allergy practice, 1995-2006, Mullins RJ, MJA Vol 186, No 12, 18 June 2007, pp 618-621;
http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/186_12_180607/mul11320_fm.html