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No safe canola now - GM and non-GM to be mixed Shoppers entitled to know

MADGE (Mothers are Demystifying Genetic Engineering) are outraged about GrainCorp's plans to mix GM (genetically modified) canola with non-GM canola in grain storage [1].

Madeleine Love of MADGE said "The complete lie of GM segregation has now played out."

"There will be no Victorian or NSW stored canola which has a non-GM guarantee. It signals the end of extensive ranges of Australian produced GM-free food."

MADGE's Jessica Harrison said "MADGE members will be contacting our trusted GM free food companies to alert them to the immediate problem of sourcing GM free canola grain."

"South Australian and Tasmanian governments, which have kept their GM bans, are likely to be the only places where GM free grain can be bought. They will benefit, while Victorian and NSW will become known as GM states."

Madeleine Love said "Food containing whole canola seed, such as Noble Rise's 'Outback Spices and Grains' bread will become GM products unless they can find GM free canola."

"Food Standards ANZ has only approved this seed to be safe for consumption as oil, but this itself was a rubber stamp exercise. No-one who has read the Monsanto data could find evidence of food safety. There was no evidence that Monsanto exercised a duty of care."

"Shoppers are entitled to know that the safety of the GM proteins and DNA in canola has never been tested. Monsanto couldn't even isolate the expected GM proteins in the plant so they could be tested."

"The safety of the GM DNA in the canola, comprised of differently patterned bacterial, viral and plant DNA, has not been tested. There is a concern that our bodies have been responding to GM DNA as though it belongs to a strange parasite. The progressive introduction of GM DNA into our diets has seen a parallel rise in gastro-intestinal disorders, altered immune responses, and allergies, as expected."

"In a signal to the world President Obama has requested that the Whitehouse kitchen gardens be organic. How are Australian authorities being influenced?"

There will be non-GM storage provided for customers wanting the non-GM product, but GM contamination of this bin is allowed up to 0.9%, and farmers are to be charged for testing. This adds an extra layer of cost onto the entire food production chain.

Despite these extra charges farmers should still make benefit from growing non-GM canola, since it yielded 17% more than Monsanto's GM canola in last year's trials.

"Our usual food will suddenly become more expensive as a result of the introduction of this GM crop, exposing the further lies of 'cheaper food' and 'food to feed the world'" finished Ms Love.

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