

From: swkidder@mindspring.com
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2009 3:00 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Genetically Modified Food

Dear DOJ decision maker:

I am a consumer and not a farmer. I am blessed to live in Marin County, California in which organically grown produce is the default. My work lies in Integrative/Environmental medicine.

I think the core issues with regard to genetically modified foods can be summed up in two (fairly) short sentences/paragraphs:

#1: Monsanto really hasn't done the Science. They have not demonstrated safety - to other farmers, to consumers, to wildlife, etc. Unless and until they do, the Precautionary Principle should prevail.

#2: Everything we're now learning about the role of genetics in causing and curing disease seems to revolve around Epigenetics, or the effects of internal and external biochemical/biophysical environments on the expression of genetic possibilities. The up-regulation/down-regulation of specific genes is highly dependent upon factors we are only beginning to realize might even exist, and are light years away from being able to predict or control.

The process of rendering a plant "Round-up Ready" requires 2 steps. Step #1 is the insertion of the foreign gene, and Step #2 is the insertion of a fragment from the Califlower Mosaic Virus. This began to be done when Monsanto found that the ungrateful recipients of the genetic material that made them resistant to the pesticide, were being turned off by the plants who appeared not to believe they required such protection. So in order to prevent the plant from EVER turning off the expression of that foreign genetic information, Monsanto inserted the viral fragment. In a normal, healthy organism genes are turned on and off as need requires. Only in a tumor does a gene stay on 24/7.

I don't know about you, but this phenomenon suggests to me that further study might be warranted before flooding our entire food supply with this technology? And, at a minimum, protecting the rights of those who wish to farm in other ways.

Thank you for your consideration.

Suzie Kidder