

From: Eric Varela <ejgvarela@yahoo.ca>
Sent: Saturday, December 26, 2009 4:53 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments

I am writing because I am worried about the future of our own species on this beautiful planet that we take too often as granted.

The OGM issue is one of the major problem of all human history. Why you would say ? It's very simple : because it concerns our own survival. We need good food quality to be in good health and avoid diseases.

Unfortunately, certain scientists closed all day in their laboratories or their research centers think that they can control Nature with their theories. Nature has billions of year of age and took a lot of time to create what we are today. They live in a world of illusions and lies. This is a legacy that we can't morally wipe out.

I've study in Biology in university and unemployed because we give too much importance on biotechnology, thinking, honestly or not, that we can solve humanity problems with this very young technology. Let me remind you that DNA was discovered just in the 1950's. In the 1980's, and even still today, a lot of scientist, technocrats and people think that one gene can only express one character. We know today that is totally untrue. The reality is much more complex, as one gene can express more than one character or one character can be express by the junction of several genes at the same time or, even more complicated still, the environment can influence the expression of those characters. It would be too long to enumerate all the possibilities...

What are we expecting ? During million and million of years, Nature had time to create all structures and the rules that make them work. We are a very recent species in this planet. We are the new born baby of Earth.

Also, we've learn a lot of things, even if it took a lot of years and determination from certain people to break the false ideas of people or group of influence. We've learn that the Earth is not the center of The Universe, populated of billion of stars and galaxies. We've learn that humans we're not created by any gods, but after million of years of evolution from other animals, sharing a fascinating story with other living beings in this planet. So, we are not superior neither inferior to other creatures of Earth. We are part of Nature. That is why we should be more humble and not exaggerate in our tendencies of trying to control or dominate everything. We have to understand our World like it is and follow the laws created by Nature. If we don't follow those laws we are risking our own survival. Because we were made by Nature and we are part of Nature itself. We are binded for ever. If we don't understand that we are going to a global suicide.

But what is most outrageous about the OGM issue and other environmental problems is that the people that didn't decide to create OGM are the one who suffer the most : farmers who suicide themselves because they can't pay companies that are increasing the price of products and force them to use their seeds or pesticides, GM crops that are invading farmers' lands and that make them "criminals" in the blinded eyes of justice.

OGM is a major problem for consumers also. We can't choose the quality of the food we buy. Why ? Well because life can not be confine to a small area. It always spread all around. Understand this very well : Nature doesn't like emptiness. In those days, consumers do not have a lot of choice of fruits and vegetables. The agro-industry is just interested in producing the more they can, continuing the same policy as after second World war. Most of the time, the fruits and vegetables that we buy in the supermarket are absolutely tasteless. They are more interested in the appearance than on the inner quality of things.

OGM's bring also the important issue of health. Let's be honest : do we really think that, let's say as an example, a vegetable that produces its own pesticide will be harmless for consumers ? I don't we need to be a scientist to know that this is totally false. The specialist of plants know very well that plants accumulate a lot of products inside, specially inside roots and leaves. Plants do not excrete like us animals. They tend to accumulate toxins, that's why this pesticide producing plant turns to be worst than simply applying pesticides. Those OGM companies think that we are fools. But we are not !

I've kept this for the end, because I think this concerns the justice system. I am also worried about this mania of employing people that worked for OGM companies as control staff in governmental administrations (the FDA for example). Justice should open their eyes to this preoccupating problem.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment. Sorry if this letter is so long and disorganizing.

Sincerely,
Eric Varela
vora, Portugal

Eric Varela

, 7000-906