3rd Nov 2011

Select Committee on Australia's Food Processing Sector
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Dear Committee Secretary,

I would like to have a say into Australia's food processing sector.

Within your committee, would you please look into the genetically modified wheat commercialisation program currently under way in Australia. This program is being carried out by biotechnology corporations, in partnership with Government bodies including the CSIRO, to develop and commercialise genetically modified wheat, as early as 2015.

I, as an Australian, have a large concern with this possibility. It may be a threat to the health of all wheat-based products in Australia, a possibility of huge failure of crops with GM seeds and losing export markets that have been successful in the past from non-GM wheat sales overseas. Why would Australia want to lose an already $4.7 billion export wheat market?

GM crops cannot be kept segregated from conventional crops anywhere in the world. We have already had test GM canola move into organic growing farm areas in Western Australia. We also lost a huge market of non-GM canola oil to Japan a couple of years ago.

You must be well aware that consumers, (I am one!) do not want to eat GM foods. I have seen and read research which shows the negative results (for farming practices, health decline, lack of diversity of this type of commercial farming) which are being thrust upon us. Overseas GM wheat has been rejected by other major wheat growing nations, like Canada ($3.5 billion industry), Europe and parts of India. We must review this acceptance of GM food sources and, in the meantime, strengthen the labeling laws in Australia. We cannot allow the testing of commercial trials of GM wheat in Australia at this point in time.

I would like a response to this email.

Sincerely

Carroll Knudson

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