



The World Foundation for Natural Science

The New World Franciscan Scientific Endeavour of The New World Church

Restoring and Healing the World through Responsibility and Commitment in accord with Natural and Divine Law!

European Headquarters ✦ PO Box 7995 ✦ 6000 Lucerne 7, Switzerland ☎-Tel: 41(41)798 0398 ☎-Fax: 41(41)798 0399
World Headquarters ✦ PO Drawer 16900 ✦ Washington DC, 20041, USA ☎-Tel: 1(703)631-1408 ☎-Fax: 1(703)631-1919 ✦ www.naturalscience.org

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Genetically modified organisms (GMO) cause deadly harm to mankind and nature: we call for a full and permanent ban in the UK.

Dear Minister,

In 1999 The Lancet published a study showing that genetically modified potatoes caused stomach and intestinal lesions in rats¹. In the early 2000s, the UK government ran farm-scale trials of GM crops to assess their impact on weeds and farm biodiversity. The outcome for GMO was negative; no GM crop was approved². A study recently published in Nature's Scientific Reports shows that GMO corn is not substantially equivalent to natural corn³. The study found that, under molecular profiling, 117 proteins and 91 metabolites were found to be significantly altered in Monsanto's NK603 corn by the GM transformation process. The health and nutritional effects of these mutations are negative. Indeed, there are many published studies showing harm caused by GMOs and of altered, poorer nutritional content. It is clear the genetically modified crops are not the same as, or even substantially equivalent to, natural, non-GMO crops. This is because the process of genetic engineering simply cannot happen in nature⁴. Please refer to the enclosed Fact Sheet for further information.

GM crops are grown using industrial farming methods that destroy biodiversity, poison our environment and our lives. In March 2015, the World Health Organization declared glyphosate, the most used pesticide in GMO and industrial farming, as a Class 2A probable human carcinogen. Neonicotinoids, widely used in GMO farming, still under an EU legal moratorium on use, are even worse. They are the most toxic pesticide created by man, and are killing the bees which mankind needs to survive on this planet⁵.

Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales have requested an opt-out⁶ to the commercial cultivation of GMO crops where under EU law member states now have the right to refuse, one-by-one, any EU-approved GMO crop being cultivated in their soils. The majority of the EU's nations have also chosen to exercise this opt-out, because they recognize the real science on GMOs. Isn't it time England did the same, irrespective of whether the UK leaves the EU or not?

As such, we write to you to demand an immediate **full and permanent ban under law** in the United Kingdom of any cultivation of genetically modified, engineered or edited crops (made by e.g. CRISPR technology or cisgenesis), animals or insects for commercial or experimental use in animal feed or human consumption, including importation of any food stuffs, plants or livestock that contain any genetically modified, edited or cloned DNA, RNA, particles or microbes.

Furthermore, all imported foodstuffs containing ANY genetically altered material (GM) must be CLEARLY LABELLED. We demand that ALL foodstuffs be tested for GM content. (The laboratories carrying out the testing must have no GM industry ties.) We include all meat, eggs, fruits, vegetables, processed foods and all dairy products – in short - ALL food – NO EXCEPTIONS. The labelling must be in clear and precisely written English (NO CODING, free phone numbers or website look-up references). Only foods with zero per cent (0%) GM content can be labelled as GM free.

This may seem extreme but the published scientific evidence shows this is necessary if we are to lead a natural, healthy life; our soils, animals, birds and insects also. For we do not only poison ourselves but we poison nature too, which in turn poisons us. There is a way out of this vicious cycle and that is a complete and outright, permanent ban on all genetically modified, engineered or edited organisms, micro-organisms and DNA, all organisms created by cisgenesis and RTDS, and a ban on the all pesticides, glyphosate and all neonicotinoids especially.

We thank you for reading this letter and look forward to your response.

Laima Cox-Lipskis



Representative of
The World Foundation
for Natural Science UK Office

Karl Cox, PhD



The World Foundation for
Natural Science (UK) GMO Department

¹ Ewen, S.W.B, and Pusztai, A., "Effects of diets containing genetically modified potatoes expressing Galanthus nivalis lectin on rat small intestine," The Lancet 354 (1999) 1353-54.

² DEFRA, "Managing GM crops with herbicides: Effects on farmland wildlife." Farmscale Evaluations Research Consortium and the Scientific Steering Committee, 2005. <http://bit.ly/P8ocOW>

³ Mesnage R., et al. "An integrated multi-omics analysis of the NK603 Roundup-tolerant GM maize reveals metabolism disturbances caused by the transformation process" Scientific Reports 6, Article number: 37855, 2016. doi:10.1038/srep37855.

⁴ Robinson, C., et al., GMO Myths and Truths, EarthOpenSource Publishing, 2015.

⁵ The World Foundation for Natural Science, "The World Wide Disappearance of the Bees", October 2014, <http://www.naturalscience.org/publications/the-worldwide-disappearance-of-the-bees/>

⁶ Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland opt-out of cultivation of GMO crops in their territories: http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/gmo/authorisation/cultivation/geographical_scope_en#uk2

