

GENETIX UPDATE

newsletter of the genetic engineering network; INFORMATION FOR ACTION

Spring 2000

"direct action is not only justified...it's also very effective"

Number 15

Calling all Grassroots activists!

THE FARM SCALE TRIALS - WE'VE GOTTA DO SOMETHING!

"This is a potential tragedy for the environment. Britain will be bombarded with GM pollen with no regard to wildlife, the public or GM-free farmers. The whole process has been nothing short of genetic tyranny."

Comrade Melchett, Director, Greenpeace UK



The Proposed & Opposed Farm scale Trials

Unbelievable as it may seem, the Government has actually decided to go ahead with the scaling up of their irrelevant, poorly designed and polluting farm-scale trials, to a possible eighty this summer. The only way we are going to stop them is full-scale local campaigns. This is an amazing opportunity to radicalize and empower people all over Britain and give us a taste of real democracy in action. So get planning. Whether it's tractor diving, tunnelling (but watch out for that horizontal gene transfer in the soil bacteria!) or lobbying your local councillors, get those community campaigns going and have a good one!

Here's some inspiration from the campaigns run against the three winter oilseed rape farm-scale trials. The **Hemel Hempstead GM Action Group** have been extremely active eliciting local support in Hemel Hempstead and Berkhamsted against the farm-scale trials on their doorstep, taking a huge petition to the farmer growing the crop at Piccotts End.

The campaign was to culminate in a rally at the site on Sunday 9th April, however there is now hardly any crop to see BECAUSE IT FAILED TO COME UP. This was possibly due to some troublesome WOOD PIGEONS he! he! Instead there will be a gathering to celebrate and scheme for the summer. **Get to Gaddesden Row near the field at 1pm on**

the 9th of April for the "Crop's A Flop Party". Bring an organic picnic - there will be costumes, music, poetry, performance and speakers. The farmer is likely to grow further GM crops soon and its the perfect opportunity to put our heads together and sort out strategy for the trials nationwide. Shuttles will be arranged from Hemel station and coaches will run from London and Oxford, ring GEN for more details. 7000 signatures have already been handed in to sympathetic Labour MP, Tony McWalter, in protest at the new planting.

The Lincolnshire GE group persuaded the District Council of West Lindsay, which had the other two winter oilseed rape trials in the area, to pass a motion that included the following sentence *"Our district is becoming the focal point for these experiments, without local consultation or debate, even though the potential repercussions are not fully understood. It is essential to ensure that we consolidate maximum protection of our wildlife and the wider environment and maintain the integrity of non-GM crops"*. They have stated that they do not want trials in their district. West Lindsay also has two proposed maize trials.

Lincolnshire has five of the farm-scale trials announced so far. The Lincolnshire GE group has already worked with local people to stop a GM sugar beet site from being planted in Friskney

Tofts. The site was right next to a salt marsh that has several special designations as a nature reserve of international importance. There were also organic allotments less than a mile away.

The GM farmer pulled out less than a week after the announcement, mainly due to pressure from local farmers and businesses and also because public feeling was running very high. The local agricultural suppliers said they would refuse to lend the farmer their farm machinery for fear of cross-contamination. The planned public meeting went ahead anyway with Lincolnshire farmers up in arms at the lack of local consultation and the general crisis in British farming. Two other farmers have since pulled out due to intense local pressure.

How many farmers will have to pull out before the Government will call a halt to this farce? Why not ask them! There will be public 'information' meetings at locations around the country. 4th April- Lincoln; 6th April- Worcester; 11th April- Norwich and 13th April- Ipswich. There will be a break until after Easter when there will be meetings in York, Luton, Leicester, Hull, Cambridge, Taunton, Crewe and Basingstoke. Tickets available from hotline numbers in local newspapers or try DETR 0171 944 5277.

DO YOU HAVE A FARM SCALE TRIAL NEAR YOU? (see inside)

State still refuses to give GE a fair trial

Smashing Stuff On 31st July 1999 a mass action, "Smash Genetix" took place at Home Farm, Lincolnshire, to decontaminate a farm-scale trial of GM maize (see GenetiX Update Autumn 99). People attended from all over the country, it was well organised, and since described as "a very sexy action". Unfortunately 46 people were arrested and charged with "conspiracy to commit criminal damage". Half later had their charges dropped. All arrested were detained for over 40 hours and were granted severe bail conditions. Three people were remanded for a week.

Over the next six months the remaining 23 defendants had their charges lessened to "aggravated trespass" and "criminal damage". Building up to what was going to be a lengthy trial by a specially selected magistrate (trial by jury was denied), and allegations from the farmer that the maize targeted was non-GM, the defendants, split between six solicitors and different defences, faced a very messy case.

On the first day of the trial it became apparent that the state was reluctant to press ahead, and a plea bargain was offered. In the end, it was agreed that those without previous convictions would accept a bind over to "keep the peace", and the other defendants who accepted "disorderly behaviour" were sentenced with conditional discharges, fines up to £200 and costs of £45.

The CPS must be thanked for the good times had and new friends made. The networking will definitely be useful to GM campaigners in this year's summer of action. Lesson from Smash Genetix - if you do a lab test, take samples from 4 corners of the supposed GM field.

The Trolley Two Noah Tucker and Simon Hindmarsh were charged with theft and handling stolen goods respectively after taking 96 items of food from Sainsbury's Camden Town branch, London, last February without paying and put them on display as a bio-hazard waste dump. After submitting their defence, and pleading not guilty, the Crown notified the judge and defence that they did not propose to offer any evidence. They were found not guilty and awarded costs.

Two men were questioned, released and have now been charged with the charge of 'aggravated trespass' after pulling up a field of GM oil seed rape last November. **The Northern Self-Appointed Guardians of the Environment** targeted the field outside the village of Hutton Magna, near Darlington, County Durham. The group claimed the field was being used for GM trials. A spokesman said:

"We are a group of friends who have never got involved in a GM protest before. I hope that our action will inspire others to do the same".

THE SUMMER FARM SCALE TRIALS AND GRID REFERENCES SO FAR. CHECK THE MEDIA AND WITH FRIENDS OF THE EARTH FOR MORE AS THEY ARE ANNOUNCED.



Oil seed rape

- * Chipping Campden, Glos, SP 154 403
- * Kempley, Glos, SO 675 313
- * Laverton, Worcs, SP 069 360
- * Alderminster, Warks, SP 241 486
- * Upper Tysoe, Warks, SP 327 437
- * Piccotts End, Herts, TL 068 115
- * St Osyth/Seawick, Essex, TM 119 138
- * Brockford Green, Suffolk, TM 125 650
- * Horningtoft, Norfolk, TF 932 243
- * Boothby Graffoe, Lincs, SK 959 592
- * North Kelsey, Lincs, TA 012 006
- * East Newton, Humberside, TA 265 382
- * Hutton Magna, North Yorks, NZ 137 115

Forage maize

- * Harpenden, Herts, TL 118 130
- * Winfarthing, Norfolk, TM 100 879
- * Boothby Graffoe, Lincs, SK 971 586
- * Spital-in-the-street, Lincs, SK 979 907
- * East Newton, Humberside, TA 263 382

Sugar Beet

- * East Bradenham, Norfolk, TF 946 087
- Bramham, Yorkshire SE 439 415
- Chaddesley Corbett, Worcs SO 887 752
- Beckbury, Shropshire SJ 770 018

Fodder Beet

- Down Heterley, Glos SO 859 226
- Burgh on Bain, Lincs, TF 225 878
- *Kersey, Suffolk, TL 986 424
- * Nawton, Yorkshire, SE 649 841
- * Coney Weston, Suffolk, TL 964 785
- * Horningtoft, Norfolk, TF 932 238
- * Tittleshall, Norfolk, TF 896 208
- * Stow Bedon, Norfolk, TL 964 965
- * Burston, Norfolk, TM 128 828
- * Abbots Ripton, Cambs, TL 221 773
- * Ramsey Mereside, Cambs, TL 308 902

Armthorpe, Yorks SE 632 038

PRACTICAL THINGS TO DO ABOUT THE FARM SCALE TRIALS

Get on to your local authority "Now, of course, if local authorities all over the country declared they didn't want it, then it probably would not be possible to go ahead." Let's see if Meacher will uphold the above comment he made on the Today programme last week. Until now no local authorities have been consulted by the Government on the location of farm-scale trials, even those that have endorsed the Five Year Freeze campaign. The Five Year Freeze has a list of 45 local authorities, town and district councils who have signed to them. The Women's Institute writing to every Parish Council in the country to persuade them to have a local referendum on whether GM crops should be grown in their area. The following local councils have acted to try and stop their tenant farmers from growing GM crops -Cambridgeshire, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Norfolk, Somerset, Warwickshire, Oxfordshire and the Isle of Man. **Declare GM-Free Zones** GM-free zones are appearing worldwide: Switerland, Brazil, Italy and the Isle of Wight. There may well be a constitutional crisis as Wales also wants to be GM-free. The first one in the UK was launched in Norfolk at the new Greenpeace Campaign Centre. Pictures of 'GM-free zone' signs and the campaign logo are available from Greenpeace. **Set up a local group** Contact GEN for advice, support and a box of resources from a range of campaigning organisations. Farm-scale trial briefings are available from Friends of the Earth, Genewatch and Greenpeace.



Comment

Three years of campaigning and what do we have? Probably 80 farm-scale trials this year, Aventis maize about to be available for farmers to grow commercially in the UK; weekly pro-GM documentaries, an anti-terrorism bill threatening to proscribe environmentalist groups; cover-ups, fudges, spin and hypocrisy from that self-styled voice of 'neutrality' formerly known as Tony Blair, and an "adequate" Bio-safety Protocol.

OK this is all a bit depressing, but hold on, just look at what we have achieved. We have labelling legislation on food, we have possibly provoked a constitutional crisis in Wales, we have country pubs and fast-food joints proudly declaring themselves GM-free right down to their enzymes and derivatives, we have Jack 'boot' Cunningham hounded out of office, we have the average bod on the street able to tell you that GM will not save the planet, we have GM seed sales down 25% this year in the US, Canada and Argentina, and the biotech corporations changing their names faster than rats leaving the sinking island of Aventis!

These are YOUR successes. Those endless stalls, outings dressed as mutant vegetables, fliers, poems, midnight raids, naked protests, crop squats, open and accountable actions, hunger strikes, letters to the editor, letters to the Government, letters to the corporations, letters to the supermarkets, letters to farmers, etc etc. Our energy and enthusiasm in this campaign has inspired and mobilised people worldwide. Vladimir Lay, from Croatia's Green Action has been quoted as saying that the 'genetiX snowball' handbook he downloaded from the internet has become his campaigning 'bible'.

A note for jaded activists who think that everything is now safely in the hands of the more established environmental campaigns groups. Come on guys, here is a campaign that we can finally win and there is still an amazing opportunity to push a radical agenda that is not being pushed, as well as lots of fun to be had and new avenues of activism to explore! Get hold of your decontamination suits and your seedlings, there is no room for apathy. The next few months could well decide the fate of GE in this country. Happy gardening!

Pants to GM cotton!!

Our quest: to raise the profile of GM cotton, to wake people up to the problem with their knickers. Our target: Marks and Spencer's - Britain's most famous supplier of intimate apparels (thats technical speak for your undies). Our problem: We'd chosen the opening of a new flagship store in Manchester, on the site of the IRA Bombing (June 1996). This event signified Manchester's ability to overcome terrorism and keep on shopping - civic pride and celebration abounded. Our only way forward was to call in the 'Superheroes Against Genetic Engineering' - a light-hearted voice with a serious mission. The store was 50% security but the superheroes managed to overcome this and present themselves to the 'intimate apparels' department, where they shocked customers by explaining the true contents of their underpants. Meanwhile, the world's largest pairs of frilly briefs were being unveiled outside with the slogan - 'PANTS TO GM COTTON'. By the end of the day we had the security guards half laughing and half crying and had narrowly avoided giving an elderly lady a heart attack.

On a serious note the superheroes had managed to bring some life to what could have been a fairly dead action at best or an aggressive one at worst. The leaflets were happily taken by shoppers and very few were thrown on the floor. The superhero costumes, knickers and banner are in storage in Manchester and can be used by anyone wanting to do a similar action - ring 0161 224 4846.



Important Dates

3rd-20th March "ARE CORPORATE BODIES REALLY ALIVE? And are they now Earth's dominant species? On-line conference www.nancho.net/bigmed2000/bbonline

24th-30th March Biodevastation 2000 Grassroots anti-GE Activists from around the world meet & march in Boston, USA.

24th March GM Tampon action day. Contact the Women's Environmental Network. 0171 281-1546.

29th March Welsh Assembly vote to be GE-free.

1- 11th April Global week of action against Genetic Engineering and celebrating local diversity. Contact: info@resistanceisfertile.com Tel +44 870 122 1403 (UK: 0870 122 1403)

2nd April Human Genetics: Information & Action Day. Newcastle upon Tyne. Contact GeneNo!

3rd April Norwich Crown Court- **Greenpeace** in court As well as 60 plus farm scale trials, the state is sponsoring a major trial in Norwich Crown Court. 28 activists arrested on the Greenpeace decontamination of the Lyng farm - scale trial in Norfolk last July go on trial possibly for up to a month. The 28, charged with theft and criminal damage, will be mounting a defence of lawful excuse. After an attempt by the prosecution to disqualify defence expert witnesses failed this March, it looks like this may be the first case where GE itself may be placed on trial. An acquittal based on this defence has profound implications for future actions undertaken to protect our countryside, agriculture and health from open-air genetic pollution.

5th April The Countryside In A Biotechnological Britain Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge. Further details 01248 382 441.

8th April Unison Food Conference, Nottingham. Contact 0115 9567200.

9th April Crops a Flop party, Hemel Hempstead. Contact Martin Humphrey Tel: 01442 264766.

April 16th-17th Massive Rally and Non-Violent Direct Action at IMF HQ, Washington DC. AND GUERRILLA GARDENING!

30th April- Stop the Terrorism Bill demonstration in London (see article).

MAYDAY 2000 11am, Parliament Sq, London, Armed with trowels, seeds and imagination. Look out for local actions in Bristol, Sheffield and Manchester or do your own (see article).

9th May challenge to the Neem Patent in Europe. See Five Year Freeze briefing on this important challenge to patents on life in Europe.

12-17th May Hope and Resistance Gathering. Exploring issues around nonviolent direct action for peace with each other and the Earth. 01273 625 173 rowantilly@gn.apc.org. Please reserve.

26-29th May Women Speak Out. A weekend gathering for all women involved or interested in being part of the solution. London location to be announced nearer the time. Tel: 0181 374 9885 womenspeakout@hotmail.com.

7-11th June EF! Summer Gathering in Wales. Wot, so early! Norwich EF! PO Box 487, Norwich NR2.summergathering@yahoo.co.uk

12th June Snowball trial at Cambridge Magistrate Court. Contact rowantilly@gn.apc.org. Tel 01273 625 173. This court date could change.

Newcastle animal feed action

BOCM Pauls, a company that manufactures more animal feed than any other company in the UK, and uses GM ingredients in most of its products, was the target for Newcastle-based genetics group GeneNo! The company's cattle feed mill at Chilton Industrial Estate, County Durham, was visited last December by three cows who scaled two large grain silos and suspended a banner with the words "NO GM Animal Feeds". The rest of the herd remained on the ground holding banners reading "We don't need - GM animal feed!" Having made their point, the herd soon decided it was time to leave, but found themselves unable to get out of the gates which had been padlocked. The police arrived and there was some confusion when the cows claimed to have shut the factory down. However the gates were quickly unlocked by security guards and the animals have returned to their organic pastures green.



Greenpeace Stops Ship Gm Soya ship

Greenpeace have been up to their old tricks again!! At 7.40am on 24th February, Greenpeace intercepted the bulk carrier Iolcos Grace believed to be carrying up to sixty thousand tonnes of GM soya into Britain. The vessel was boarded by Greenpeace volunteers off the coast of Anglesey in North Wales with Greenpeace activists hanging off the anchor, preventing further movement. This action is part of a campaign to prevent GM crops from being imported into the UK. The GM soya will mostly be used for animal feed, which will end up in meat and dairy products for human consumption. The owners of the cargo, Cargill, operate the only GM soya mill in the UK, which is the largest source of GM contamination in the country. Turning this mill GM-free would affect the growing of GM soya worldwide.

The ship docked again conveniently after the OECD conference, but Greenpeace folk were

arrested before they got anywhere near the docks.

Oxford Supermarket Action

Anti-GM protesters donning Tony Blair masks offering genetically modified cooked breakfasts to Tesco's mid-morning customers to highlight the issue of GM-animal feed. Other protesters, dressed as cows, chickens and pigs lined the front entrance of Tesco, offering information on GM animal feed and urging shoppers to ask, "Where's our choice Mr Tesco?" Letters signed by the general public were presented to the store manager, Mr Tilsley, who promised to arrange a proper reply to each letter. There were no takers for the Blair GM breakfast.

Dolly creator meets sticky-end!

Monday, 24th January 2000 Keith Campbell, creator of Dolly the cloned sheep, leading biotechnician and co-author of the modestly titled book 'The Second Creation' became the latest to be targeted by a cell of the Biotic Baking Brigade (BBB). Campbell was attempting to promote himself, his technologies and his new publication with an illustrated talk at the University of Sussex. We, the Sussex cell of the BBB said, "Keith Campbell: Fuck Your Sheep!" As 'Special Agent Apple' of the BBB declared, from somewhere in the mountains of North Western California, "The technocrats who dominate industrial society may call us radical and unrealistic, but the dream of a bio-diverse future is one for which we will fight until the day we pie."

UK Agriculture Minister eclaired

Controversy has surrounded Nick Brown's eclairing at the NFU AGM, as the eclairer's life in Hollywood became the subject of press interest. Basically, an eclair is an eclair is an eclair and should be recognised as such in the annals of pie-rect action. The whole conference sounds as though it was a government propaganda mission to allieviate the crisis in British farming by persuading them to go GM, and try selling their products on the internet.

OECD Conference on GM food safety in Edinburgh, 28th February.

A giant chimera and a banquet of Fat Cats met the delegates arriving at this international gathering of 'experts' to discuss the 'safety of GM foods'. The chimera, a creature with a calf's head, sheep and pig's body and chicken and goat's legs highlighted the concerns of Compassion in World Farming about genetic experiments and the genetic engineering of farm animals, to become living factories for the Corporations. Cows have been genetically engineered to produce human milk protein which can be made into baby milk and sold to the babies in Africa. (The Mark Thomas Comedy Product exposed this as being ready for commercialisation in less than 30 months with deals already struck with baby milk powder producers). Goats have been engineered by pharmaceuticals companies to express a protein

in their milk that plays a vital role in regulating blood clotting.

20 anti-GM activists wearing fat cat suits, ties and pig masks held a 'banquet' to represent corporate greed. Shackled at their feet, activists in white suits and wearing skeleton masks were chained to each other with map of third world countries. A large banner behind read STOP THE THIRD WORLD WAR".

Super busy Scarborough have persuaded local frozen food giants McCain to stop using GM potatoes as well as drawing a huge apple-shaped maze on the local beach to draw attention to the ma(i)ze that the biotech companies have created to mislead people into accepting GM food and farming. The apple represented the threat from GE to bio-diversity.

Its about where we begin and end...

Notes from a human GE workshop.

What better way to spend a sunny morning in Glastonbury than discussing something other than ecological breakdown? Until now eugenics, and the applications and implications of human GE, have been the Cinderella of the GE campaign. This is probably because they open up the most fundamental philosophical territory many shy away from.

But not the brave Theo and Shannon, who guided us through a brief (!) synopsis of the situation so far and provided co-counselling on our responses to it. The counselling focused on our reservations about disability and how many of them stem from our own sense of shame and guilt, rather than what it's actually like to be different. We then skimmed through biowarfare, insurance ramifications, gene therapy, bio-piracy and cloning before tackling the really chunky topics: * That society had taken death out of the life cycle and now views it as some kind of avoidable failure. * That the commodification of the body is capitalism's knight in shining lab coat offering whole new realms of exploitation through patents long after material resources have been consumed. *That again we must ask the most basic questions about who is pushing this technology forward. Why are Corporations investing millions into investigating cancer genes when the EU won't even grant £1million to research on suspect carcinogens being regularly pumped into the environment? *What will prevent a magnification of the class system to brave new world proportions? * Who will define suffering and desirability? Ultimately, as with agricultural GE, this is a reductionist science, a powerful tool in an irresponsible world, where the risks outweigh the benefits. Potentially it offers much but currently presents the solution to suffering as an end to 'sufferers'. As an issue it provides a remarkable opportunity to reveal the twisted values at the heart of the system, scrutinise our own prejudices and celebrate the glory of life and death. Start talking....

International Actions

From our activist in Seattle

After the success of the global protests during the G8 summit in 1998 and again on June 18th 1999, the call went out to shut down the World Trade Organisation meeting in Seattle on November 30th (N30). No one dreamed that it would be so successful! A 10-day convergence took place beforehand where activists from around the world met to share inspiration and ideas for N30. Many were inspired by the recent protests against GE in Britain. The atmosphere in the US is much like it was here a few years ago, with the stakes being raised, hostility towards biotech growing and the public becoming more aware of what's going on. With this in mind, GE was placed high on the Seattle agenda.

On N30, we marched on the Conference Centre, and affinity groups (groups of 5-15 people working together for a common purpose) blockaded the roads. The WTO was shut down! Only 200 of the 5000 delegates got in, and the opening ceremony was cancelled. The protests continued, with almost 600 arrests. People's strength and bravery was incredible. On December 3rd, the WTO meeting was abandoned with nothing agreed due to disruption both in and out of the Conference. Victory! We learned so much over those few days about effective consensus decision-making, about organising non-hierarchically, what pepper gas tastes like and much else. Seattle was one of the most significant points in my life, and indeed, in the life of this growing global community of resistance.

More on protest in the USA

Along with 21 decontaminations, there have been some hardcore actions (see press release below). Other recent actions include a strawberry decontamination and a shut down of Cargill's HQ in Minnesota. There were also amazing scenes at the Biodevastation Conference in Boston with over 3000 people marching on BIO2000, the industry conference, and challenging them to come out and debate.

As the US public slowly awakens from its 'consume more, trust the Government' trance, there have been placard-waving demos, especially outside the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) hearings [www.biointegrity.org], and tales of local campaigns springing up.

Earth Liberation Front target Michigan State University

"On the eve of the new millennium, the Earth Liberation Front struck back at one of the many threats to the natural world as we know it. On December 31, 1999 at approximately 9:00pm, the ELF entered the Agricultural Hall at Michigan State University in Lansing, Michigan. Our destination was room 324, the offices of Catherine Ives et al.

The project being conducted through this office is funded by Monsanto and USAID and was designed to not only pursue research concerning genetically engineered sweet potatoes, corn and other crop vegetables, but to lobby developing countries to abandon their current agricultural practices and to rely on genetically engineered plants and thus corporations like Monsanto. Local newspapers have put the damage done to the building at \$400,000, with documents and equipment totally destroyed. Cremate Monsanto! End G.E.!"

Protests in Australia

On World Consumer Rights Day (15 March), there were protests in most capital cities and regional centres with an information leaflet launched to mark World Consumer Rights Day and to counter government-funded disinformation. Crop pulling has also hit Oz as activists from the Free Seed Liberation Front (FSLF) up-ended and trampled more than 200 genetically engineered pineapples in a field trial near Brisbane (Queensland). We noticed this quote at the bottom of their press release. "DIRECT ACTION IS NOT ONLY JUSTIFIED, IT'S ALSO VERY EFFECTIVE". Hmm, nice to know the Update reaches a wide audience!!

Indian Farmers' Verdict on GM

A citizens jury of Indian farmers voted overwhelmingly against the introduction of GM crops. The jury of 14 farmers, ranging from a landless labourer to a prosperous cultivator of Monsanto's GM-seeds, cast nine votes to four against sowing GM seed on their land. The jury heard evidence from expert witnesses including Monsanto, top Indian scientists and Indian Government officials on the pros and cons of GM crops. The four-day trial was held under a tamarind tree in BG Kere village, Karnataka, India. See Splice for more info.

ASEED strategy session on GE: Consolidating 'No' in Europe!

Last November, 37 campaigners from all over Europe, the CIS, the US and Canada came together in an obscure, but beautiful city in Russia with the modest task of working out where next for the GE campaign in Europe. Representatives came from groups as diverse as the Finnish Seed-Savers association; Genetic Concern, Ireland; Green Library, Latvia; Genetic Snowball; Active Consumers Denmark; the Edmonds Institute, USA and the Russian group No Corporations!

The week was fascinating, wonderful and overwhelming. It was 'genetic engineering' over breakfast, lunch, dinner and vodka as people passionate about challenging the threats that GE poses to the planet came together under one roof to inspire and alarm each other with their experiences and predictions on the upcoming research agendas and corporate strategies.

From Ed on Biowarfare to Fernando from the Spanish group 'Ecologistas enaccion' talking about his campaign 'Under the Asphalt is the Garden' to bring guerrilla gardening to Spanish cities and to reinvigorate abandoned villages as ecovillages. From Vera who almost single-handedly stopped GM trial sites in Hungary to Beth and Christina with the inside gossip on the Biosafety Protocol negotiations. We also heard about the situation in Eastern Europe and the CIS where, but for the vigilance of a few amazing people, the Corporations would be getting away unnoticed with courting the directors of bankrupt research institutions, illegally dumping cheap GE grains rejected by Western Europe and generally waging a war of contamination on these unsuspecting and unregulated countries through illegal field trials and commercial growing.

The experience truly broadened all our perspectives on the anti-GM campaign and why we must fight this battle globally whilst recognising the diverse political and cultural landscapes that we face in our own countries. This was the thinking behind the Global Week of Action (see article). We also recognised the similarities of our vision, which resulted in the 'Bryansk Declaration'.

We may have new issues to worry about and tough campaigns to run, but we know that we have a network of wonderful dedicated people around the world that share our common vision. Thanks to Ludmilla, Igor and all the folks at the environmental NGO, "Viola" who offered us kind hospitality in the true Russian style! The recent news that Russian PM, Blair's buddy Vladimir Putin has banned Greenpeace and other eco-groups, has disturbed all of us who know how hard the Russian NGO's are working to raise awareness of the dangers of GM technology.



Genetically Modified Organisms
Bravo! We can all play that game!

Please send a Genetically Modified image on a postcard to: Alan Turner, 10 Rathcoole Gardens,
London N8 9NB

Your card will be recorded and passed into the mail system for ever, like real GMOs. Maybe your own and others will pass you in the Post from time to time.





Resistance is Fertile

The idea of an Action Week grew from a meeting of many people from many countries and many organisations and non-organisations in Bryansk, Russia. It is being coordinated by a decentralised collective world wide.

Across the world people are waking up to the realisation that genetic engineering is taking over every aspect of life: from the food we eat, the clothes we wear to the medicines we swallow. We are realising that beyond the ethical, environmental and health implications, there is a global system of production and trade that is forcing this untested, unwanted and unnecessary technology on us. The concerns have highlighted the choices we can all make about our lifestyles and the products we consume.

This has become clear in agriculture. Should we accept a system of food production controlled by a few profit-driven multinationals, who enforce a monoculture of food and mind? Or can we find ways to support and nurture local food systems that are not only environmentally sustainable, but also strengthen and empower local communities? Similarly in health and medicine, shouldn't we consider carefully whether we want to adopt a technology that favours the return of eugenics and genetic discrimination, and which inflicts endless suffering on transgenic animals, designed to produce medicines and organs for human health? Should we not instead investigate holistic approaches to health and medicine?



Viva Varieties! This global week of activities is not just against genetic engineering, but to celebrate the diversity of our local agricultural systems, of alternative approaches to health, and of our communities. It is also for our diversity as activists from our different cultural and social backgrounds. It will be an opportunity to strengthen the international network of anti-GE-activists and show the solidarity between groups that have diverse political and social backgrounds to their campaigning. Together we can challenge the corporate monoculture.

We intend the week of action to grow as our movement does: at the beginning of the week we will protest against industrial agriculture, Genetic Engineering and world trade systems. Towards the end of the week we will set up positive alternatives to this institutionalized madness. There will also be some global actions to participate in. Spread the word and set the agenda. RESISTANCE IS FERTILE !

It's down to us to make this happen, start getting organised and creating inspiration. See 'Upcoming dates list' for info on UK national actions. But you also can make things happen locally: anything from organising a farmer's market outside Biotech Corporate HQ's to a day of planting local seed varieties. See the website or contact the coordinators for more positive action ideas. Events are planned all over the world from Europe, Eastern Europe and the CIS to the Philippines, New Zealand, Canada and the USA.



During the Week, the **e-hippies** will be running e-resistance is fertile * A special 'April fool' action on Sat 1st April relating to the portrayal of science and public opinion aims to grab the Sunday media. * A low-key email lobbying event running from Monday to Friday on general issues relating to GM crops. * Over the weekend, a low-key 'server log rant' to put the public in touch with genetics webmasters. * Mon10th - 12th April, **THE BIG EVENTS**: an email and client-side denial of service extravaganza. We had 450,000 people for the WTO action. We need 2 million to make this work. These events will be operated via email. Initial details can be found at www.gn.apc.org/pmhp/ehippies/action/index.htm

Tel +44 870 122 1403 (UK: 0870 122 1403) info@RESISTANCEisFERTILE.com fax: UK: 0870 137 4155

Five minute activism

Aberystwyth Action Against GMO's is currently putting the pressure on a local research station, the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research (IGER) and we need your help!! IGER is one of the homes of GE. Their production and development of transgenic herbage and forage grasses, legumes, white clover and maize is contained in glasshouses and labs. These are not regarded as crops, so we can't get our hands on them. Interestingly the director of research - Chris Pollock - is also employed as an independent advisor to overview the farm scale trials this year. We paid him a visit and asked about his jobs and if he felt that the fact that IGER is engaged in contractual and financial relationships with such companies as AstraZeneca and Aventis in any way conflicted with his position on the advisory committee. He was very smiley and non-committal. So, we've been drawing local public attention to what they are up to IGER, with newspaper articles, letters, a demo and banner drops. We're requesting a site visit along with other local environmental groups and guess what?! No joy. Prof. Pollock is definitely getting less smiley in his response to us and we would like to spread this localised itch into a great big rash.

2) Please ask the following companies to use only non-GM feed for their meat and dairy products.

Mr Stephen Ridge Quality Assurance Manager Somerfield Stores Ltd Whitchurch Lane, Bristol, BS14 0TJ Tel: 0117 935 6441 Fax: 0117 935 6015 "... we are looking to see what options may be available..." "...we believe it will be easier to make changes in some areas than others...the poultry industry is vertically integrated and controlled by 6 or 7 large companies ...and it would be possible, with the agreement of our competitors, to make changes to animal feedstuffs to avoid non genetically modified materials..." (4th Nov. 99)

*Mr D.J. Joll Bernard Matthews Foods Ltd Managing Director Great Witchingham Hall Norwich, Norfolk, NR9 5QD Tel: 01603 871 118 Fax: 01603 872 421 "Our policy on GM soya is that technically we keep an open mind. From a market point of view however, ..we believe the tonnages of guaranteed GM soya free material at the moment are very limited"..."We are therefore of the opinion that we are unable to offer our customers guaranteed non-GM soya feed at this time. We are optimistic that this will change..." (29th Oct 99)

Mr Jon Banks - Quality Assurance Manager Burger King Ltd Charter Place, Vine Street, Uxbridge Middlesex, UB8 1BZ Tel: 01895 206 000 Fax: 01895 206 026 "There is currently no segregation of GM and non-GM soya and maize in the raw material supply chain for animal feeds world-wide, therefore Burger King are currently unable to specify the use of GM free animal feeds". (7th Dec 99)

Ms Alison Ross Kentucky Fried Chicken 32 Goldsworth Rd, Woking, Surrey, GU21 1JT Tel: 01483 717 000 No reply to a number of enquiries!

3) Equinox 'The Modified Truth'. C4 Monday 20 March 21:00 to 22:30. Described as "Documentary which goes in search of the truth behind the propaganda' From the maker of rabid anti-environmentalist documentary 'Against Nature' comes this new deceitful corporate libertarian piece of rubbish. "I feel

completely betrayed and misled", reports Dr Mae -Wan Ho, a geneticist whom Durkin interviewed. "They did not tell me it was going to be an attack on my position." If you were in any doubt about the Third World's position on GM refer to the statement of the African UN reps 'Let Nature's Harvest Continue' <www.oneworld.org/panos/news/biodoc5.htm or ask your nearest friendly GM-cotton burning Indian peasant. Complaints and pies to Martin Durkin and C4: viewer_enqs@channel4.co.uk.

New Resources

GM-ACTION LIST - how to subscribe. This is 'where its at' for internet campaigning and communicating on GE issues in the UK. Send a message to <majordomo@foe.co.uk>. Leave the subject line blank and write in the email: `subscribe gm-action yourname@your.email.address`

New Edition of Luke Anderson's Book 'Genetic Engineering, Food and the Environment'. Updated to February 2000. 50% discount for anti-GM activists. Contact Green Books.

Make your area a GM free zone with stickers, window stickers, T-shirts and leaflets from **Greenpeace**.

Great articles on the truth perverters behind the 'organic backlash' as well as many others on **Prof Bullsh*t's** website.<http://members.tripod.com/~ngin/> New website for **Blatant Incitement project** for workshops, talks, courses offered by activists with a radical agenda. <http://www.eco-action.org/blinc>

New **WWF** report: GE crops cannot be depended on to reduce pesticide use. <http://www.wwfcanada.org/news-room/>

New **Corporate Watch** briefing: From test tube to tummy - the GMO supply chain. Contact Corporate Watch (see Contacts List)

PRIMAL SEEDS Need a large dose of inspiration? Check out the excellent new website which we keep plugging <www.primalseeds.org>.

Genewatch UK Review of GE developments in 1999 and report on Nutritional Foods. Genewatch On-line Database coming soon.

Tiki the Penguin's GE guide for kids (and adults). What's it like to be a guinea pig? Well you should know because you are one in the great power-and-profit game of the agbiotech corporations and governments. Guide to GE with 27 popup 'mini-guides' www.oneworld.net/penguin/genetics/home.html

'Subvertising' goes global- 300+ subversive online images, targeting adverts and corporate brands in a global web database against consumerism and environmental destruction <www.subvertise.org>

Visit the **Five Year Freeze** website to mark the first anniversary of its launch. New briefing on the revision of the EU deliberate release directive with sample letters. Also - we are presenting our petition in the week of action in April with approx 70,000 sigs. If you can distribute any leaflets - which have the petition in it - to healthfood stores, restaurants, libraries etc that would be excellent. See contacts list for email and website.

www.webackbiotech.com- To protect and defend Frankenfoods, Novartis has launched a new website, where, among other things, you can get the screen-saver or send off for a bumper sticker and inscribed auto license plate holder.

Resistance is Fertile Website- especially for ace anti-GM illustrations which you could pinch for your fliers <www.resistanceisfertile.com>

GM cotton tampons. Contact the Women's Environmental Network for more info. bal_muswell@hotmail.com. 0207 481 9004.

Huntingdon Life Sciences are responsible for the pain, misery and inevitable death of 500 animals a day. Amongst their current clients for xenotransplantation and GM experimentation are Aventis and Monsanto. For more details contact SHAC, PO Box 381, Cheltenham, Glos, GL50 1YN. Email:info@shac.u-net.com. <http://www.welcome.to/shac>.



The Biosafety Protocol: Hope for a GM-free world at last?

On 24th - 28th January, 134 countries met in Montreal, Canada, to establish

a system of international regulation for the safe handling, transfer and use of GMOs over national boundaries. With the failure of the WTO talks in Seattle last November, there was much anticipation that despite opposition from the 6 major GM-exporting nations known as 'the Miami Group', a strong Biosafety Protocol could be established to ensure that environmental and health concerns could take precedence over free trade.

Around 1000 protestors braved temperatures of -20 to show support for a strong Protocol. There was chanting and a 23 foot genetically altered corn cob eating butterflies and a banner reading 'Stop genetic pollution. Biosafety Now!' Les Entartistes (Pie-Oners) of Montreal had a veritable banquet with both the pro-GM Canadian Health Minister and biotech industry's top lobbyist in Canada, who is also the president of the World Coalition of the Biotechnology Industry getting their just desserts!

Gene Dictators the World is Watching In solidarity with our Canadian friends, demonstrations took place outside Canada House in Traf Square, London. Banners bearing the slogan 'Gene dictators - the world is watching' were dropped from the roof, as the entrance was symbolically sealed with biohazard tape by protesters in decontamination suits. A huge caricature of an evil Uncle Sam holding puppet figures of the other members of the Miami Group filled the doorway, and 'trans-genic' cows invaded the building. The protest focused on the Miami Group (the US, Canada, Australia, Chile, Argentina and Uruguay) who were blocking progress in the talks. Later in the day, calling cards and letters were delivered to their respective embassies. Protests also took place in Australia and South Korea. [Remember: occupying an embassy is a 'criminal' rather than a 'civil' offense and diplomatic police and Embassy security guards carry guns. But also, whatever happens in an Embassy must be reported back to that country's government and usually makes it onto their media.]

Attempts at international regulation on GMOs The Biosafety Protocol, as part of the UN Convention on bio-diversity, was proposed to enshrine in international law two basic rights: a country's right to know what it is importing, and a government's right to say no to an import if it considers it unsafe for human consumption and the environment. The lack of such regulation on GE until now has made tracking imports of GM seeds, food, feed and fibres across international boundaries a difficult task, and left those countries wishing to impose a ban at risk of punitive action in the WTO for creating a barrier to free trade. Agreement has been a long time coming. Talks last year in Cartagena, Colombia failed due to the machinations of the Miami Group. It has consistently been the Southern countries who have pushed for strict regulation, led by Africa's FAO representative, Dr Tewolde Egziabher.

Now we have a Biosafety Protocol, we've won, haven't we? The Protocol does have the 'Precautionary Principle' enshrined in its text, which states that we shouldn't unleash potentially dangerous technology on the world until there is adequate scientific proof that it is safe (rather than a lack of scientific proof that it isn't). This is a MAJOR victory as it can be invoked by a country to reject GMOs. On the other hand, the Miami group insisted that GM commodities should only be labelled as 'may contain GMOs'.

Whilst this technically does not force GM-exporting countries to segregate GM and non-GM commodities, pressure from non-GM farmers and consumers, is likely to ensure segregation. Also whilst a regime for corporate liability is supposed to be put in place within 4 years, it could well take much longer to actually put it in to practice. Furthermore, despite the agreement speaking of the Protocol and other international agreements being 'mutually supportive', this vagueness has leaves it open for those so inclined to interpret this as the Protocol cannot override the right to trade under WTO rules on the right to free trade. The Codex Alimentarius Commission that decides the international standards for food safety for the WTO, has already attempted to do this.

Lets hope that countries party to both agreements accept the Biosafety Protocol as the superior instrument for deciding a future based on ecological justice and reining in corporate power. It must be ratified by 50 countries by the Nairobi meeting of the Convention on Bio-diversity in May. Start lobbying Ministers now!

The 'anti-organic' backlash

"Tell me what company thou keepest, and I'll tell thee what thou art" The current industry tack to force GM foods down our throats is to attack organic farming claiming that there is a high risk from E coli poisoning, that it will never feed the world because of low yields and that 'in conventional farming the total amount of pesticide residues that a person will consume in a year is equivalent in toxicity to one cup of coffee'. Hmm, what about Lindane and Organophosphates. For facts and figures that blow apart these myths, see the Soil Association website. More interesting is to explore where this patent nonsense is coming from:

Julian Morris, Roger Bate, Prof Philip Stott and Richard North (also seen strutting his stuff on the Equinox Programme) were all contributors on the BBC Horizons rant against organics and are all associated with the right-wing pro-free trade, pro-Corporate think tank, the Institute of Economic Affairs. The Institute is vague about its funding sources, though, founded in the 1950s by a leading light in the broiler chicken industry, it has good reason to have the interests of industrial agriculture close to its heart.

The Granddaddy of them all is Dennis E coli is eight times more likely in organic food Avery, Director of the Global Centre for Food Issues at the Hudson Institute and well-known author of 'Saving the World with Pesticides and Plastics'. The Hudson Institute is funded by all the big names in the biotech industry including Monsanto, Aventis and AstraZeneca. "Operation: Avery's Savory" delivered Dennis his well-deserved pie last year, but we say MORE!

Pro-Vitamin A rice? The real and preventable problem of Vitamin A deficiency will not be solved by the Developed World's typical magic bullet approach. What is needed is a holistic approach to nutrition such as the UN and FAO 10-year programme to educate people about their diet and how to grow their own nutritious vegetables. It is, after all, industrial agriculture in the South that is denying people a proper diet as fields that used to be full of nutritious edible 'weeds', small fish and frogs have now all been killed off by heavy duty herbicides. Higher yields= poorer diets.

Farming is currently facing a major crisis caused by over production and a succession of food scares (all related to intensive farming). The ray of hope in this bleak landscape is organic farming, based on a production system avoiding the use of artificial fertilisers and pesticides and based on crop rotations, sound husbandry and good management to promote health in crops and livestock. Organic farming has the support of the overwhelming majority of the British public and was mentioned a mere three times in the Prime Minister's address to the NFU AGM!!!

Useful Anti-GE Contacts - Spring 2000

<p>LOCAL GROUPS AYLESBURY SHOPPERS CONCERNED ABOUT FOOD (SCOF) 01296 484535</p> <p>ABERYSTWYTH ACTION AGAINST GEMOs 01970 617912</p> <p>BRIGHTON GENETIX SNOWBALL 01273 625173 rowantilly@gn.apc.org</p> <p>BRISTOL GE GROUP 0117 977 5601</p> <p>CARMARTHEN GENE CARE 01267 234729</p> <p>CAMBRIDGE CONCERNS. 01223 562364 juliecrick@home.cam.net.uk</p> <p>CAMBRIDGE SNOWBALL 01223 331629 luzbug@hotmail.com</p> <p>CARDIFF 01222 226861 DaviesN7@cardiff.ac.uk</p> <p>CASTLE CARY Somerset louise@ukonline.co.uk k.01749 860 689</p> <p>CHINNOR GM CAMPAIGN Oxfordshire 01844 353748 mwestby@swinternet.co.uk</p>	<p>COALITION OPPOSING GENETICS (COG) 01672 513950</p> <p>CORNWALL GENETICALLY ALTERED FOOD FLASCO (GAFF) 01326 250056 gaffal@gaff73.freeserve.co.uk</p> <p>S.E. CORNWALL REAL FOOD CAMPAIGN 01579 340215</p> <p>COVENTRY GE GROUP 01203 663031 covpeace@gn.apc.org</p> <p>DORSET GENETICS NETWORK 01308 482548</p> <p>(NORTH) DORSET GENE CONCERN, Blandford 01258 817518 Nick@fifehead.demon.co.uk</p> <p>EXETER GENETIX GROUP 01392 676942 cehannah@hotmail.com</p> <p>GENETIX SNOWBALL 0161 834 0295 genetixsnowball@onet.co.uk www.gn.apc.org/pmhp/gs</p> <p>GLASTONBURY GE GROUP 01458 834787</p>	<p>GREENWICH GREEN PARTY 0181 856 8553 Delish@breathemail.net</p> <p>HARTLAND (N. DEVON) 01237 441780 hescott2000@net.scapeonline.co.uk</p> <p>HEMEL HEMPSTEAD 01442 255341 she-d@hotmail.com</p> <p>HOLSWORTHY 01409 254450 cft-dlee@supanet.com</p> <p>KINGSBRIDGE ACTION on GE 01548 856286 jessica@lobby-globalnet.co.uk</p> <p>N. LANCASHIRE REAL FOOD GROUP 01524 811066 cherith@which.net</p> <p>LEEDS EF! 0113 262 9365 noellynch@lineone.net</p> <p>LINCOLNSHIRE AGAINST GE 01507 490112 gaiatrust@x-stream.co.uk</p> <p>N.LONDON CAMPAIGN FOR SAFE FOOD 0181 446 0131 raveon19@leeman-uk.co.uk</p> <p>MANCHESTER AGAINST GE</p>	<p>(M.A.G.E.) 0161 226 6814 mage@nematode.freeserve.co.uk</p> <p>NEWCASTLE GENENO& TAPP 0930 741052 tapp@newcastle54.freeserve.co.uk & geneno99@yahoo.com</p> <p>NORFOLK GENETIC INFO NETWORK 01603 624021-day 01603 625188- other mail@icsenglish.com http://members.tripod.com/~ngin/ Also 01328 738390</p> <p>NORTHAMPTON GE GROUP 01604 647916 john@neng-gen.freeserve.co.uk</p> <p>NOTTINGHAM 0115 958 5666 info@veggies.org.uk</p> <p>OXFORD GENETICS ACTION & OXY-GENE holly@gn.apc.org</p> <p>PLYMOUTH GENETICS GROUP 01752 892676 Wendyhalsam@talk21.com</p> <p>RADSTOCK AGAINST GE 01761 435563</p> <p>READING GE GROUP 0118 954 6430 Roadbusters@clara.net</p>	<p>RYEDALE AGAINST GMOs (RAGMO) 01653 696748 wild@care4free.net (fao Josie Down)</p> <p>SCOTTISH GENETIX ACTION sga35@hotmail.com</p> <p>Strathclyde - 07970 391620</p> <p>Aberdeenshire 01224 622 389 grampianearthfirst@hotmail.com</p> <p>Fife & Central 01334 477 411 seh5@st_and.ac.uk</p> <p>SCARBOROUGH AGAINST GE 01723 370046 or 375533 sage@envoy.dircon.co.uk</p> <p>SHEFFIELD AGAINST GE 0114 273 1978 gaz_guzzler@yahoo.com</p> <p>SHREWSBURY FOOD ACTION (Shropshire) paola@cwcom.net</p> <p>SOMERSET AGAINST GE (Frome branch) 01749 813787</p> <p>SOUTHPORT PEOPLE AGAINST GE 01704 564524 Lolanlen@hotmail.com</p> <p>STROUD CAMPAIGN</p>	<p>FOR SAFE FOOD 01453 765789 richard.macbeth@ruskimmill.org.uk</p> <p>SWINDON CAMPAIGN AGAINST MODIFICATION OF FOOD BY G.E. (SCAM) 01793 790438 sbirley@gn.apc.org</p> <p>S. YORKSHIRE GEN 01226 764279 pp3mo@aol.com</p> <p>TAUNTON (FoE) 01823 286311 mary@tushita.u-net.com</p> <p>TAVISTOCK 01822 614430</p> <p>TOTNES OPPOSED TO GENETICS GROUP (TOGG) 01803 840098 info@togg.org.uk</p> <p>WELLINGTON 01823 664776 info@caraquan.fsnet.co.uk</p> <p>WHITBY AGAINST GENETICS 01947 606189 griffins_of_whitby@msn.com</p> <p>WORTHING GENETIX CAMPAIGN West Sussex genetix@worthing.eco-action.org</p> <p>GE FREE WALES 02920 229577 cymru@foe.co.uk</p>
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CONTACT POINTS-For establishing local groups!

BIRMINGHAM
 0121 378 5558

CALSTOCK
 kim@hettie.clara.net

CLEVELAND
 fibronson@netscapeonline.co.uk

CUMBRIA Nentshead
 01434 382 115

DONCASTER
 Tel. 01302 702045

DORSET Weymouth
 01305 783621
 helen@elleries.freemove.co.uk

IPSWICH/SUFFOLK AREA
 Ipswich 01473 828351
 01449 774566

KENT Ramsgate
 07775 560309
 puff_in@yahoo.com

KINCARDENSHIRE AREA,
 SCOTLAND Westerton, Mains of Balfour, By Fettercairn, Kincardenshire AB30 1DT

LANCASTER
 12 New Street, Halton, Lancaster, LA2 6PR

SURREY East Horsley
 01483 282868
 info@body-and-soul.demon.co.uk

OTHER GROUPS CAMPAIGNING

ACTION AID
 0171 561 7611
 zelford@actionaid.org.uk
 www.actionaid.org

ANIMAL AID
 01732 764 546
 info@animalaid.org.uk
 www.animalaid.u-net.com

ASEED
 0031 20 6682236
 aseedeur@antenna.nl

BRITISH UNION FOR THE ABOLITION OF VIVISECTION
 0171 700 4888
 info@buav.org

CAMPAIGN AGAINST HUMAN GE
 PO box 6313 London N16 0DY.
 cahge@globalnet.co.uk

COMPASSION IN WORLD FARMING
 01730 264 208
 compassion@ciwf.co.uk
 www.ciwf.co.uk

CORPORATE WATCH
 01865 791391
 mail@corporatetwatch.org
 www.corporatetwatch.org

EARTH FIRST!
 07974 791841
 actionupdate@gn.apc.org
 www.eco-action.org/efau

FIVE-YEAR FREEZE

0171 837 0642
 gealliance@dial.pipex.com
 www.dspace.dial.pipex.com/gealliance

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH
 0171 490 1555
 info@foe.co.uk
 www.foe.co.uk

THE GAIA FOUNDATION
 0171 435 5000
 gaia@gaiantet.org

GE-FREE FORESTRY
 geffcoalition@hotmail.com
 Also contact WEN

GENETIC CONCERN
 00 3531 4760360
 geneticconcern@tinet.ie
 www.vibrantplanet.com/geneticconcern/

GENETICS FORUM
 0171 837 9229
 geneticsforum@gn.apc.org

GENETIX FOOD ALERT
 01803 868523
 gfa@rvint.globalnet.co.uk
 www.essential-trading.co.uk/genetix

GMO CAMPAIGN
 01865 513224

GM PRISONER SUPPORT
 0161 226 6814

GREEN PARTY
 01207 560026 pm
 0191 222 5305 day
 david.wood2@ncl.ac.uk

GREENPEACE (UK)

0171 865 8100
 info@uk.greenpeace.org
 www.greenpeace.org.uk

GROWING AWARENESS
 00 3532 820232
 growingawareness@indigo.ie

HENRY DOUBLEDAY RESEARCH ASSOC.
 01203 303517
 rog@hdra.org.uk
 www.hdra.org.uk

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGY AND CULTURE
 01803 868650
 isecuk@gn.apc.org

NATIONWIDE FOOD SURVEY
 http://wkweb4.cableinet.co.uk/brown/index.htm

NATURAL LAW PARTY
 01962 852122
 nlpwessex@bigfoot.com
 www.btinternet.com/~nlpwessex

PRIMAL SEEDS
 mail@primalseeds.co.uk

SCOTTISH CONSUMERS' ASSOCIATION FOR NATURAL FOOD
 0141 334 4886
 georgestidolph@btinternet.com

THE SOIL ASSOCIATION
 0117 914 2449
 hhadaway@soilassociation.org
 www.soilassociation.org

TROLLEY THEATRE

0117 939 3903
 trolleytheatre@bigfoot.com
 www.videonetwork.org/trolley/

UNCAGED
 (INCL. XENOTRANSPLANTATION CONCERN)
 0114 253 0020 uncaged.anti-viv@dial.pipex.com
 www.uncaged.co.uk

WOMEN'S ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK 0207 481 9004.
 testtube@gn.apc.org
 www.gn.apc.org/wen/genetics

GE CAMPAIGN (FRANCE)
 0033 478285778
 maison.ecologie@wanadoo.fr

NORTHERN ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABILITY (ANPED) 0181 672 3454
 iza@cpa-iza.u-net.com

PUBLICATIONS
CORNERHOUSE 01258 473795

GENETHICS NEWS
 0181 809 4513.
 genethicsnews@compuserve.com

GENEWATCH UK
 01298 871898
 gene.watch@dial.pipex.com

GM FREE MAGAZINE
 01695 50504
 gmfree@cableinet.co.uk

SPLICE 0171 837 9229

Contact ToGG to correct or add details. If there isn't a Group listed in your Area - Earth First!, FOE or Greenpeace may have a local group working on GE. If they don't, set one up yourself. GEN, ToGG or your nearest local contact can give you tips and support. If you want info for stalls we can send you a box of info and flyers from a range of organisations. Stalls are a great way of getting info to the masses, asking for donations can help you support your group. Our info available is currently being updated.

GEN (new phone number) PO BOX 9656, London, N4 4JY
 Tel. ++ 44 020 7690 0626
 www.genetics-action.org

Subscribe to email news list:
 genetics@gn.apc.org



Q: How many people opposed to GM crops does it take to be a 'terrorist organisation'?

A: Three, if they're planning to remove the offending crop, even if they never actually do it!!

This loose definition of an 'organisation', and the inclusion of 'the use of serious violence against property or the threat to use such violence' in defining terrorism, are symptomatic of the absurdly ambiguous Anti-Terrorism Bill, presently sprinting its way through Parliament, aiming to become law in the Autumn, that aims to silence political, religious and ideological dissent.

While many believe the new legislation will not be used specifically against environmental activism, the Bill's vagueness in treating each incident case by case, does mean it could be used to target specific campaigners at whom or else respond to pressure from Multinationals attempting to quietly get away with their abuse of the planet. This makes it a savage attack on civil rights; in the words of the Guardian "This is a very bad Bill. All those who cherish freedom should join to stop it."

How will this affect you as a campaigner against GM technology? Basically before we can even think about organising rallies or picnics against farm-scale trials we must be aware that if the old grannies, school teachers and bank managers spontaneously decide to express their dissatisfaction by uprooting the crop, this COULD be classed a terrorist act with hefty prison sentences for all concerned. However, IT IS NOT LAW YET!

So lets check our definitions of 'violence' and 'non-violence'. Non-violent activism means actively resisting violence through the conversion, dismantling and disarming of destructive weapons, machines, technologies and sources of pollution. Corporate violence, with its philosophy of profit before people and planet is increasingly being challenged in the UK and it seems that Blair can't bear the thought of the corporations moving to more established dictatorships for the sake of a law that could protect Corporate interests.

Anti-Terrorism Bill Demonstration on April 30th (see upcoming dates for details) Dress: terrorist-style! For more details on the State terror Bill. Contact 01273 298192. <http://www.blagged.freeseve.co.uk/terrorbill/index.html>. Info on Government challenge to email privacy GreenNet 0171-731-1941 or www.gn.apc.org/activities/ir.

"Number of corporate logos the average American recognises- more than 1000. Number of plants and animals native to his/her locality the average American recognises today- fewer than 10."
Robert McChesney- Rich Media, Poor Democracy.

AVANT GARDENING - THIS IS NOT A PROTEST IT IS AN OCCUPATION!

The furore over GE has increasingly made people realise that as passive consumers of food we have become totally alienated from a real understanding of nature and the world around us. One step we can take to liberate ourselves from the corporate control of our lives is to learn to produce our own food. The first prerequisite for growing food is land, something which our feudal system of land ownership has made beyond the financial means of most of us.

But there are always spaces in which we can move, which we may never have noticed before because we've never looked. With imagination

a hole in a fence could give access to the local rich bastard's grounds for us to sew our seeds amongst the undergrowth. If squatting an empty property is not an option maybe the back garden can still be put to use. There are seldom visited corners of local parks and gardens and even churchyards. Edible cherry varieties could be grafted on the cherry trees in the park and beans cultivated on an unused trellis on someone's wall. How about the wilting flower beds that adorn our town centres: we could grow crops right in the heart of the consumer landscape of the burger bars, chain stores and supermarkets.

Whilst you can **guerilla garden** wherever and whenever, why not join others in digging for the revolution on MAYDAY2000. Armed with trowels, seeds and imagination, 1000's of Guerrilla Gardeners will come to take back what was once theirs, to transform a symbol of capitalism, to return urban land to its real usefulness - as provider of food, as public space where people meet face to face, discuss and participate directly in the remaking of their own city. There will be actions in London, Manchester, Sheffield and Bristol or organise your own. The emphasis is on ACTING LOCALLY. London Guerilla Gardening. 11am Parliament Square. Tel: 0207 281 4621.

This is not a Street Party but an action that demands participation. Come ready to get your hands dirty. Bring a sapling, vegetable seedlings, flowers, herbs, subvert the packaging of capital: turn designer trainers into plant pots, traffic cones into hanging baskets. Start sowing the seeds (and your seedlings) NOW!

<"<http://www.reclaimthestreets.net/>>.

"If anything clearly emerges from the debate about food biotechnology it is that when the veneer of pious rhetoric is stripped from the anti-GM food claims, their argument is simply one of selfishly seeking to impose their own fetishes and New Age beliefs on society whatever the costs to the rest of humanity may be." Monsanto web-site home page. So there!!

For Subscriptions to the GenetiX Update contact:

ToGG (Totnes Genetics Group): PO Box 77, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5ZJ. 01803-840098 or email info@togg.co.uk

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