

**GM-Free World Perspectives workshop
Planet Diversity, Bonn, 15 May 2008**

Date & time	15.05.2008 / 13.30-16.30
Location	Gustav-Stresemann-Institut e.V. - Bonn, Germany
Minute taker	Svetla Nikolova & Maaïke Raaijmakers
Moderator	Steve Emmott
Speakers	Jeffrey Smith – Institute for Responsible Technology (USA) Maggie Lilith – Conservation Council of Western Australia Inc (Australia & NZ) Maria Isabel Manzur – Fundacion Sociedades Sustentables (Latin-America) Mamadou Goita – IRPAD, COPAGEN (Africa) Geert Ritsema – Greenpeace International (Europe)

Minutes

Note	This workshop was deleted from the programme and had the room and time changed 3 times, which affected its outcomes. The ambitious goal of the workshop of identifying points in common worldwide and define global actions was not achieved, but still it was a very useful exercise to have the global perspective given by speakers from 5 continents on the situation of GM cultivation and of resistance to its expansion.
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Summary	<p>Australia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some Australian states decided not to plant GM crops and have moratoriums in place • Other states are growing GM – e.g. oilseed rape is planted in Victoria and New South Wales • Japan opposes GM crops in Australia • There are small grassroots campaigns in Western Australia • The two main arguments for farmers not to plant GM: don't want to be in a franchise-type arrangement i.e. not being able to save their own seeds ; don't want to risk their exports • It is hard to get anything in the media (newspapers or mainstream media) • There is no mandatory labelling but there are some GM-free labels (with zero tolerance)New Zealand • Has no commercial growing of GM crops but has trials on animals. <p>Latin America</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Largest growth of GM crops in the world; Argentina and Brasil largest exporters of GM soy; Argentina's government is blind for rural areas and small farmers and totally happy with GM soy • Brazil was affected by GM expansion in Argentina; contamination forced Brazil to approve new law on biosafety allowing GM soy • Centre of origin for many crops: potatoes, beans
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- In Paraguay there are serious conflicts for land, human rights problems – small farmers surrounded by landowners; there is a moratorium on GM crops
- Bolivia is pushing to grow GM
- Mexico prohibited growth of GM corn/maize because it is the centre of origin for the crop, but there is illegal planting
- Costa Rica and (?) are producing GM seed for exporting to the North
- Latin America is receiving GM-food aid from the USA
- There are campaigns for GM-free zones and countries and a network for GM free Latin-America
- There was a UNEP-GEF project to create national biosafety network in 2003, but this did not work
- Priorities for action: guarantee GM-free seeds & increase soy diversity; local seminars to inform people and raise awareness; support for campaigns on GM-free zones; legal tools

Europe

- There's big public resistance to GMO; the more they know about GM the more they reject it
- There are campaigns in supermarkets & for GM-free animal feed
- There's a legal ban on GMO in 6 countries
- GM cultivation only represents 0,01% of total agricultural area
- Priority issues: labelling

Africa

- In South Africa there is cultivation of Bt cotton and problems of contamination
- In Burkina Faso there's maize from a Canadian company that's also causing contamination
- Last year there was a joint meeting in Nairobi and a common position on GMO aroused. Discussion on how to prevent GM cultivation on the countries where there's still no GMO
- Need for informational tools
- There's a network of different organisations: women, farmers, children protection, fighting GMO

USA

- There are GMO in the entire food chain: feed, food, seed
- Supermarket chains are starting to reject GMO (???): Starbucks, Walmart
- There's a big and growing movement to buy organic
- There's a need for clear definitions, standards and rules
- A huge campaign to drive GMO out of the market is on its way –

	<p>goal is to reach a tipping point of consumers pressure to drive GMO out of the market</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus on health risks of GMO and choice of consumers• Information on how to choose non-GM food to the public, in schools, web sites; a brochure on “How to avoid GMO”• Organise the entire chain which is against GM: food suppliers, producers• Verify GM-free supply
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