Workshop: GMOs in Asia (May 14)
Building the consumer anti-GMO Movement in Japan

NO! GMO Campaign
Launched in 1996
GM food;
- We don't need,
- don't eat,
- don't farm it.
The NO! GMO Campaign has been actively fighting to prevent the domestic cultivation of GM crops, as well as to put a stop to the development of GM rice varieties.
Opposition to Monsanto’s GM Rice Trials

- Especially successful was the campaign to halt Monsanto’s GM rice development, which the company intended to use to promote its GM rice into the Asian market. (in 2001, after a petition signed by over 580,000 citizens)
Government continues to promote GM rice

- The cedar pollen allergy alleviating GM rice is being planted in a hothouse of the Nippon Paper Group, Inc. This experiment is conducted by the governmental institute, National Institute of Agrobiological Sciences (NIAS).
Since January 2005
farmers (who mainly work with consumers’ co-operatives) declared themselves GMO free
About 50,050 ha in total (over 1% of the whole farmland)
Collaboration between Farmers and Consumers
Local government bylaws and guidelines regulating GM crop cultivation

Bylaws carrying clauses concerning protection against cross-pollination or contamination by GM crops: Hokkaido, Niigata, Chiba, Kyoto, Tokushima

Independent Guidelines and Policies: Ibaraki, Shiga, Iwate, Hyogo, Tokyo, Imabari City
Experimental Research of crossing in Hokkaido

- Aiming to improve the safety precautions and preventive measures against crossing stipulated by the Ordinance, Hokkaido Government conducts experimental researches of crossing from 2006 to 2008.

- 5 crops for which the isolation distances have been stipulated under the Ordinance: rice, soybean, corn, rapeseed and sugar beet (the experiment started in 2007).
GM Rapeseed from Canada
Growing Wild

- No commercial planting (only a small scale of experiment)
- Spilt seeds growing wild at ports, along main roads, and other places.
- Concern over cross pollination with domestic vegetables (relatives such as turnip, Chinese cabbage, and so on)
- The government underestimates the problems → no effective control
3 years of citizen’s survey of spilled GMO canola
No GM labeling on oil and soy sauce
International Solidarity against GMOs

In March 2004, the NO! GMO Campaign visited Canada and the U.S. to deliver a petition signed by 440 groups representing over 1,300,000 Japanese individuals.
Extend the GM Ban in Australia

- 155 organizations representing over 2.9 individuals signed on the petition to ask Australian state governments to extend their GM ban.
Let’s work together for GM free Asia!

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