

2005 April 12

To: Syngenta Japan
Attn: President, Mr. Michael Kester

From: NO! GMO Campaign
Representative, Keisuke Amagasa

A letter of protest and questionnaire concerning unapproved insecticidal GM maize “Bt10”

On March 22, NATURE magazine reported that your company distributed and caused producers to cultivate without approval genetically modified Bt maize in the United States. It has been revealed that your company had informed the US government about it already at the end of last year.

However, both your company and the US government kept quiet about it and continued to distribute the GM maize around the world. On March 23, one day after the article was published, the US embassy reported to the Japanese government, what has happened, but until then consumers in Japan were eating the unapproved Bt10 without knowing anything about it.

According to the information your company has provided, the GM maize in question was cultivated in 9 states between 2001 and 2004 in an area roughly estimated to be up to 15,000 hectares. However, the competent authorities, USDA, FDA and EPA, decided that the Bt maize is safe to eat and safe for the environment, and did not order a recall

The US government’s attitude to simply overlook this issue and keep the distribution going for unapproved products without recall is a problem, but it is even more questionable that your company is lacking in corporate ethics, and has slipshod management over unapproved GM maize which continued to be sold for 4 years without appropriate measures.

We strongly protest against this matter, and ask you to reply to the questions below.

We assume you are busy, but we would like to ask you to send us your answers by April 20.

INQUIRIES:

1. Please provide the details of Bt10 distribution: 1) for how many years, 2) in what volumes, 3) the amounts for cultivation and harvest, 4) how much has entered Japan.
2. Please describe in detail how you are going to clarify your responsibility in this matter.
3. Please explain the reason why the announcement concerning the presence of the ampicillin resistance gene was delayed.
4. Are you intending to abandon the Bt10 development? If not, please explain the reason.
5. Do you have any plan to conduct field trials on unapproved GM crops in Japan? If yes, are you considering canceling the trials after causing this latest problem? If not, please explain the reason.

NO! GMO Campaign

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