

GMOs - no solution to face Climate Change, Biodiversity loss and Global Food Crisis

Experiences from Canada and the US show GMO failures- better solutions are possible

Brussels, 2/12/2009 – The IFOAM EU group (1) emphasizes the need for comprehensive approaches to guarantee food security on a long term. Simplistic approaches to future challenges such as claimed by the GMO industry with their one-dimensional technology cannot work. The IFOAM EU Group invited to a debate on GMOs (2) and farming solutions to face Climate Change, Biodiversity loss and Global Food Crisis today. The speakers raised the following issues:

Charles Benbrook, Chief Scientist Organic Center (3), USA: *“GMO crops have been responsible for an increase of 383 million pounds of herbicide use in the U.S. over the first 13 years of commercial use of GM crops (1996- 2008). This dramatic increase in the volume of herbicides applied makes the overall chemical footprint of today’s GM crops decidedly negative.”*

Percy Schmeiser, (4) Farmer from Saskatchewan, Canada: *“Farmers should be concerned about how GMOs and the related property rights impact on their independency; the society should be concerned how this eventually might impact on food security. The right of farmers to save and re-use their own seed is crucial for the future of agriculture.”*

Marco Contiero, Greenpeace EU GMO policy director: *“GM crops only exacerbate the climate and environmental crises. They are dependent on the intensive industrial agriculture model that has a big carbon footprint and requires large quantities of harmful pesticides. Only ecological agriculture can address the challenges posed by climate change and food scarcity.”*

Thomas Dosch, Vice President IFOAM EU: *“Organic farming practices have a high potential to face future challenges due to using less inputs, sequestering carbon in the soil and working with biodiversity. These assets have to be used and further developed to secure food supply in times of oil depletion and changing climate.”*

End (characters 2011)

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Press Release

International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements – EU Regional Group

NOTES:

(1) The **IFOAM EU Group** represents more than 300 member organisations of IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements) in the EU-27, the EU accession countries and EFTA. Member organisations include: consumer, farmer and processor associations; research, education and advisory organisations; certification bodies and commercial organic companies.

(2) GMO - Genetically modified organism; in this context genetically modified plants.

(3) Read more: www.organic-center.org

(4) Read more: www.percyschmeiser.com