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From:

Sent:

Thursday, 24 December 2020 4:00 PM

To:

submissions

Cc:

Subject:

Submission RE: A1193: Irradiation as a phytosanitary measure for all fresh fruit and vegetables

Categories:

Dear Food Standards Assessment Team

My name is Franklin Bruinstroop. I am an Australian citizen living at 5 Macadamia Drive, Maleny Queensland, and for this reason have mailed this to you, my local state and federal members, as well as one senator from my state.

I am writing to advise that I oppose the blanket approval of irradiation of irradiation for all fresh fruit and vegetables. I have concerns about the wholesomeness and nutritional value of irradiated food as well as the environmental and social impacts of irradiating our food. Numerous alternatives to irradiation exist and I do not believe that the irradiation of these fruits for quarantine purposes benefits me or my family. I am also worried that irradiated food will not be adequately labelled.

Numerous studies have shown the potential health risks posed by irradiated food. The approval of regularly eaten fruit and vegetables could significantly increase the amount of irradiated food in our diet.

In 2003, concerns over the safety of irradiated food led the European Union Irradiation to rule out further irradiation approvals. The Australian Senate followed suit with a call for approvals to be halted until further research has been conducted. Claims that irradiated foods are safe are indefensible as no research on long term consumption of an irradiated diet have been conducted.

Irradiation alters the molecular structure of food, producing free radicals and potentially harmful chemicals such as benzene, formaldehyde and cyclobutanones, and has been shown to deplete vitamin C, vitamin A, proteins, essential fatty acids and other nutrients in food and has been linked to health problems such as nutritional deficiencies, immune system disorders, abnormal lymph cells, and genetic damage.

In 2008-9, irradiation was responsible for neurological disorders leading to paralysis and in some cases, death, of up to one hundred Australian pet cats. Irradiated cat food is now banned in Australia. The European Food Safety Authority acknowledges that the risk to humans cannot be ruled out.

While irradiation is promoted as beneficial to Australian farmers; each approval also enables irradiated imports from overseas. Irradiation is a tool of large agri-business – and supports mass production systems that diminish the power of local food producers and destroy local markets.

Irradiation will not eliminate the use of chemicals and pesticides in crop production; it will be used in conjunction with these and other food processes, and thus seriously impacts the natural goodness inherent in crop food.

Further, I am not confident that these fruits will be adequately labelled. This is highly likely to lead to foods being marketed as “fresh” even though they are processed. Irradiated food and their packages must be individually labelled “treated with radiation” or “irradiated.” A1092 does not assure me that this will be the case.

For these reasons I call on you to reject A1193 and to rescind all previous irradiation approvals. I look forward to hearing your response to my concerns.

Thank you,

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