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To the Food Standards Australia New Zealand

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please see my call for comment on the Submission - Application Number A1274 regarding Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) bananas.

It is understood the Panama Disease was first discovered on the Panama Plantations in the 1950s. Panama disease or known as Tropical Race 4 is resistant to fungicides, soil-borne, and causes wilting and death in bananas.

That said, there are a few reasons to question the application made by Queensland University of Technology (QUT) who are seeking to amend the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code to permit the sale and use of food derived from a new food produced using gene technology: banana line QCAV-4.

According to Britannica, "eighty-percent of the global product of bananas is under threat from Tropical Race 4." At present, there is no cure for Tropical Race 4 and no species of banana is immune.

Points/queries to the Food Standards Australia New Zealand is:

1. Genetically modified crops occupy large surface areas and are linked to intensive monoculture systems that wipe out other crop and ecosystems. This results in the reduction of flavours, traditional knowledge and food security.
2. If we get GM bananas or any other GM fruit/vegetables, these will be engineered to resist chemical herbicides and engineered to create insecticides. Each time herbicides are used on resistant crops, over time weeds become resistant themselves. This will make it harder to eliminate despite using more chemicals.
3. There is the issue with corporate control by companies for example, Monsanto, Bayer, DuPont, Dow and Syngenta as GM crops are patented. They also produce their own herbicides and fertilisers, many of which are dangerous to human, Australian flora and fauna. How would the Food Standards Australia New Zealand regulate the enormous control these multinational companies have over our seed market?
4. Expanding on point number 3, these same multinationals threaten the very existence and role of local Australian farmers and small business enterprise. If not done already, unless the Food Standards Australia New Zealand and the Australian government do not implement strong protections for local farmers, the farmers always experience a risk of being sued by the multinationals and big corporations if their crops are accidentally contaminated with patented GM crops.
5. There are studies that prove there are greater health concerns for animal

health such as higher mortality rates when fed with GM crops. For example,
please see the US National Library of Medicine:
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31370250/>



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