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Call for submissions – Application A1274

Food derived from disease-resistant banana line QCAV-4

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) has assessed an application made by Queensland University of Technology (QUT) 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.

I wish to submit against amending our food standards to use and sell genetically engineered bananas.

1. Firstly, Australia has a worldwide reputation of not growing genetically modified food and this introduction would harm Australia's overseas reputation.
2. The labelling laws are hopeless in Australian supermarkets. I have complained about things like grapes being labelled Australian when in fact they are from overseas (they were in a box stating that they are American grapes). The dude at the supermarket does not get paid enough to check everything. There is no way that these bananas will be labelled genetically modified **100%** of the time.
3. How will the labelling be enforced. Australia has changed its labelling laws so that the percentage of Australian ingredients is on the label, however I can easily go into any supermarket and find products that do not have this required labelling. There is no follow up to make sure labelling is correct.
4. Bananas are a fresh product and the labelling is up to the workers of the store. They are not in a can that can be clearly labelled.
5. I'm sure given a choice, most people would not want to eat a genetically modified banana.
6. The banana contains an antibiotic resistance marker gene, now that does not sound like an essential thing that I should be consuming. In fact, it sounds like something that I should not be eating. Why do they have to alter our food.
7. "Banana is one of the most consumed fruit in the world and has a long history of safe use in the food supply." . It has been proven that bananas are safe to eat, it has not been proven that genetically modified bananas do not have a long history of safe use.
8. In regards to the flesh, there was a statistically significant difference in mean values between banana line QCAV-4 and the control.
9. The proposal states that it will not address the possible effect of the environment but surely this also needs to be considered.
10. I could not see what would be "used". It did not state if the plants would be grown in Australia or as banana fruit contains seed, whether there is a biosecurity risk. (Bananas contain seeds).
11. I am an organic farmer and feel that the introduction of genetically modified bananas will only lead to the opening of the flood gates to more genetically modified produce. I really do not see

the point in producing a crop that is resistant to chemicals like round-up so that we can sprary the crap out of it with round-up. These chemicals will end up in our food.

12. Just because one so called disease, does not mean that we need to modify and consume gm food.
13. Diseases can be traced back to a lack of nutrients. If you have a healthy plant you can avoid diseases. Farming now has changed and companies, including chemical companies make money promising to treat certain conditions. A problem occurs and the farmer is told to chuck a chemical at it, another problem, another chemical, another problem, lets genetically modify the plant, instead of going back to basics. For example, we are helping a dairy farmer friend out. He had a soil test and the agromomist told him to buy \$60K of fertilizer. After spreading this out there was no change to his field (just his bank balance). The farmer sent his soil test to us and we saw that, among other problems, the pH was very low. If you have a very low pH, the plants will not take up the nutrients. (We are getting them to send a soil test to an independent company). We do not need to go straight to genetically modifying a product.
14. "Your scientists were so preoccupied with whether or not they could, they didn't stop to think if they should." — Ian Malcolm, *Jurassic Park*

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