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Date: 6/11/23

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I request the 'clock be stopped' on application A1274 until robust scientific safety testing is conducted.

Or A1274 GM Banana must be declined.

This application does not provide adequate information relating to food safety for FSANZ experts or other submitters to consider.

- There is no analysis of seven new proteins identified in the GM banana. There is no current research on the implications of these proteins for food safety when the banana is eaten. Long term studies need to be done before considering releasing this kind of food into the general population for consumption.
- The GM bananas proposed to contain a gene for antibiotic resistance. If transferred to peoples gut bacteria this could add to problems of bacterial resistance to antibiotics.
- There is a lack of evidence on the impact of different medicines that change the survival rate of GM constructs into the gut and bloodstream of consumers.
- There is no study of different impact for infants, children, the sick or elderly from eating the GM bananas. All of these groups have vulnerabilities.
- Until there is scientific data on the any effects of the transgenes and inflammatory response in small bowel flora, villi and epithelium, in long-term studies, the GM banana must be declined.
- FSANZ must require laboratory diagnostic tests for detection of the transgenes be made available for health professionals before any approval of the product.
- Scientific evidence on long term safety of consumption of the GM banana must be required.

- The information provided does not give the public confidence on the effective, transparent, and accountable regulatory framework assessment. The lack of general publication of the proposal also does not engender trust in the process. This proposal should have also been on main stream media channels.
- The importance of cavendish bananas is acknowledged but does not outweigh the possible health implications for consumers.

