
From:

Sent:

Wednesday, 20 May 2020 1:45 PM

To:

in response to Monsanto application to FSANZ
(Monsanto herbicide-tolerant corn line MON87429)

Submission to Food Standards Australia NZ (FSANZ)

In response to Monsanto application to FSANZ for herbicide-tolerant corn line MON87429

Submittor:

Contact:

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.

We support the substantive submission lodged by GE Free Tai Tokerau (Northland) as well as
-GE Free NZ
-Physicians & Scientists for Global Responsibility/ Responsible Genetics Charitable Trust (NZ)

Our farming family urges FSANZ to decline Monsanto's application in its entirety (herbicide-tolerant corn line MON87429).

We ask you to reject application A1192, because the applicant, Bayer/Monsanto, has failed to submit exhaustive and compelling evidence that the combined effects of the multiple synthetic chemical weed killer residues that will be sprayed on the MON87429 corn crop are safe for short or long term human ingestion.

We are concerned that FSANZ does not adequately represent the interests of New Zealand and its citizens/ consumers.

We oppose controversial and risky GE/GMO food ingredients going into the NZ (and Australian) food supply. It is of particular concern that the GE content is unlikely to be clearly labelled, undermining consumer "right to know" and traceability, putting at risk those who have

low immune system functioning, and other vulnerable people including pregnant women and children.

FSANZ has an obligation to prioritize the public health. There is only controversy about GE food, and numerous feeding trial studies showing harm from consumption of GE food (including the Seralini studies). Food safety experts, epidemiologists, independent scientists and industry scientists (indentured to the biotech industry) continue to argue at a very high technical level as to whether GE food is safe to eat in the long term. We want our right to eat GE free food upheld and protected.

The particular corn in this Monsanto application is developed to survive spraying with up to twelve different pesticides. This risks exposing consumers in New Zealand or Australia to increased levels of toxic chemicals.

The seed is coated with an neonicotinoid insecticide. We do not want to eat such food or be subjected to hidden toxic food ingredients when shopping at supermarkets or dairies i

FSANZ has made its assessment without safety data on potential impacts of the GE corn absorbing multiple chemicals, or unintended mutations from gene editing and transgenic engineering

FSANZ assessment of MON 87429 is based on insufficient research and relies on inaccurate and purely theoretical data.

FSANZ has missed or selectively overlooks data that reveals significant problems.

It is of concern that to date FSANZ ignores:

- the cumulative and synergistic effects of the pesticide residues that would remain in the corn and products made from it;
- the fact that many of the FOP herbicides are not registered with New Zealand Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) for use in the human food chain;
- the 5 different transgenes and their effect on the corn's phenotype that may have health impacts.

In our view, allowing a food to be sprayed with a cocktail of toxic herbicides which have a history of chronic health effects is highly irresponsible and endangers the public health.

Data cited in Bayer's application came from Monsanto, who have shown they cannot be trusted to avoid manipulation or not to omit data.

FSANZ should prioritise standards that ensure food is fresh, pesticide and GE free. Foods that are genetically modified, highly processed, and grown with pesticides are known to damage and undermine the human immune system making people more vulnerable to illness. Decline this application.

We are concerned that FSANZ does not adequately represent the interests of New Zealand nor prioritizes the health of NZ citizens/ consumers.

Please keep us informed.

We wish to be heard.