

Crash-Test for GM maize!

Strengthen independent research!

Genetically modified (GM) crops are approved in the EU without sufficiently being tested for their safety. The most prominent example: The genetically modified maize MON810 produces an insecticidal toxin, that is disseminated into the environment through plant material, pollen and roots. Affected are not only the pest insects, but also other organisms and their habitats:

- Caterpillars of protected butterflies are susceptible to the toxin
- Water- and soil insects can be affected by the toxin
- In some insects, the toxin accumulates
- Research suggests affects on bees, possibly depending on other stress factors

There are fundamental knowledge gaps: Even though it is known, that the toxin concentrations in the plants can vary greatly, there is no comprehensive research about how great these variations are or what causes them. It is only certain that there is no sufficient research of the actual danger potential of genetically modified maize.

Variations in toxin concentrations can allow pest insects to develop resistance more quickly while increasing the risk for non-target organisms such as caterpillars of other butterflies or soil organisms..

We demand:

- The companies that want to make profit on the agro-biotechnology should pay 10% of their turnover into a fund to pay for independent and critical risk research. In addition they have to grant all scientists access to appropriate research material.
- The principle of risk assessment needs to be changed: Transgenic crops have to be tested in a kind of crash-test, to better assess their actual danger potential. In future it will not just be sufficient to state that risks are not proven; instead their environmental harmlessness must to be proven.
- The approval procedure needs to be readjusted in regards to the choice of experts involved and the obligatory testing methods. In addition, the expertise of consumer and environmental organisations needs to be taken into account.
- Because the current research is not sufficient to assess the risk of genetically modified crops, their import and cultivation in the EU have to be suspended.

I support the petition

“Crash-Test for GM maize – Strengthen independent risk research!”

Name	Address	Signature	More Info

First signatories (associations): Bioland e.V., Bio Austria, BUND e.V. (Friends of the Earth), Campact e.V., foodwatch e.V., Foundation GEKKO, Gen-ethisches Netzwerk e.V., Gesellschaft für ökologische Forschung e.V., Initiative „No Patents on Life!“, Naturschutzbund (NABU) e.V., tegut and Foundation on Future Farming (ZSL).

