

Dear Sir / Madam,

Having read the passages on Labelling of GM foods in the fore mentioned report I make the following comment as a submission.

Resident of New Zealand I can foresee that the issues raised in this report will be strongly influencing the position in New Zealand, which is affiliated with Australia in several respects regarding food legislation. There for I am driven to participate in this process.

From 9.3 Regulation of food labelling I quote:

'Consumers rely on labels to enable them to buy food that is safe to consume (use-by-dates, allergen information), **in line with their beliefs** (free-range, organic), healthy to eat (ingredient list, nutrient information panel) and/or locally produced'.

Consumers have good reasons to believe that GM foods can be harmful.

A multitude of reasons and experiences have been collected by Jeffrey Smith of the organisation 'Responsible Technology' in the US.

A few reasons to be critical of the safety of GM foods are:

- Approvals of GE foods in Australia issued by FSANZ rely on limited tests carried out under the administration of companies that develop and market the GE crops.
- Reports made by independent scientists which cast doubt on the safety of GM foods are systematically rejected as 'non scientific'.
- There is evidence that after consuming GM food the bacteria in the gut have modified.

As consumer aware of the unprincipled base on which the approvals for GM foods rest I state that it is a human right that consumers are informed of the presence of GM ingredients in the product they eat.

I ask you not to throw that right out for productivity or commercial reasons. When trade is mixed in with rights corruption comes in. This is not an aspect that we want to voluntarily introduce in a civilised and free society.

P.C. Volker