

AN OPEN LETTER TO OUR PRIME MINISTER

On 7th July 9, 2009 - SBS screened the program – **Can GM Food Save the World?**

The film was a wonderful exercise in double talk by a Jimmy Doherty who poses as though he is actually **researching** the issue of GM. Jimmy knows that GM is **not** sustainable but he poses as a sustainable farming advocate; Jimmy trained as a scientist but scientists always consider what is happening and what has already happened, on the serious concerns over GM Jimmy does neither.

Jimmy Doherty's program - **Can GM Food Save the World?** - never discusses why thousands of farmers in India have committed suicide because Monsanto's *Bt* Cotton has and still is sending thousands of them broke where they cannot even feed their families. Nor does Jimmy mention the thousands of farmers in North America that face court because Monsanto's patented DNA gets carried in pollen and lands in the farmer's crop – the farmer is found guilty of stealing Monsanto's property; in the form of patented DNA. Have Australian farmers been warned about patented DNA?

Jimmy never mentions the amazing coincidence that since the introduction of GM, starting in the US and Canada, allergies, especially in children have skyrocketed; yes that **is** on record. And when GM soy was introduced into the UK about a decade ago allergies went up by 50% then when the GM soy was withdrawn from the market allergy levels dropped back to normal.

Jimmy even suggests that, because the Europeans are so opposed to GM they are depriving the Africans of feeding themselves. The short history of GM proves that if Africa goes GM, they are more likely to starve. GM is about narrowing gene pools and it is a fact that the narrowing of a gene pool is a road of no return and **dangerous**; that is very **basic** biology and Jimmy studied science. However sadly, as Jimmy Doherty clearly illustrates a degree in science does not include a degree in ethics.

SBS would now love to screen for us the other sides of the story with the two films - **Food, Inc.** and **The World According to Monsanto**. The slippery program called **Can GM Food Save the World** is a very slick promotion for Monsanto that avoids the evidence that we are being led down a dangerous road of allergies and drug dependence. The media have remained silent on the truth about GM for too long; does Monsanto own our media or are our Chief Editors frightened of them? Mr Rupert Murdoch could speak out on GM but can we blame him when not even Peter Garret, Nicola Roxon, Tony Burke or Bob Brown of the Greens will speak about the explosion in **allergies** or the destruction of our **gene pools** since GM came on the scene unannounced and unlabelled.

Because, '**He who pays the piper calls the tune**', just watch TV channels go silent or duck and weave when asked to screen either '**Food, Inc**' or '**The World According to Monsanto**'. The Tobacco and the Asbestos industry continued their lies because of the bottom line. The Head Honchos of Monsanto know the truth about GM but they still peddle their GM lie. The more they lie the more **liable** they become; times are a changing fellers and we are fed up with deceit. Mothers of Australia must step forward and demand the truth; but beware those '**farcical terms of reference**' where **nothing is ever exposed**. The GM stooges will attack you but **they** are liable not you.

The GM potato scandal in Britain that should have rocked the world

In March 1999 GM soy was introduced into the UK and immediately allergies to GM soy jumped by 50%. and then studies relating to allergies with GM soy were immediately stopped. Roundup Ready GM soybeans, contain 27% more trypsin inhibitor (a known allergen) than non-GM soybeans. Once heated, this allergen jumped to between 3 and 7 times that level, would this not suggest that cooking does **not** make GM safe; we are told that it does. When people stopped buying GM in the UK allergies to soy dropped to normal levels. By 2005/6 there were over 4 times more Australian children leaving hospital (in the 0-14 age group) with a diagnosis of food anaphylaxis or other adverse food reaction. Ref page 8 – MADGE - GM and Allergies www.madge.org.au Who would thwart an investigation into the **more than likely** GM/allergy link when that is now our responsibility. If you think that what we are feeding our children is not an issue then watch the film '**Food, Inc**'.

In 1996 the UK government planned to require long-term safety tests for all GM foods. So a grant of £1.6million was awarded to format a testing protocol. Arpad Pusztai a scientist of 35 years led the team and they started by genetically engineering a potato that was to carry within it its own insecticide. The naturally occurring insecticide comes from another plant and is called GNA lectin.

The naturally occurring GNA lectin was fed in large amounts to rats with no ill effects. However, when the GM potatoes containing the GNA lectin were fed to rats the effects on the rats were devastating. After just 10 days of eating GM potatoes, the brains, livers and testicles of young rats were generally smaller. The animals had enlarged pancreases and intestines and there was a proliferation in cell growth of the stomach and the small and large intestines of which the lining was thicker than the controls. It appeared that it was not the GNA lectin that caused the problem but the genetic engineering of the food that did it. Has anybody noticed the **GM elephant in the room?**

For a few days Arpad Pusztai was seen as a hero for alerting the world to the dangers of genetically manipulating our food (GM) and the press loved him. Then two phone calls to the Rowett Institute, where the research had exposed the dangers of GM, came from the UK Prime Minister's Office. Within a day Mr Pusztai was sacked and the team of 20 scientists were disbanded. Mr Pusztai was threatened with a lawsuit if he opened his mouth about the dangers of GM. Ref: page 23 Genetic Roulette. But the women of Britain saved the day - Britain is now GM-free as is Norway and both countries have a lot less food allergies in their children than do Australia or 'obviously' North America.

Did you know that GM insecticide is already in some of our foods?

There is a soil bacterium called *Bacillus thuringiensis* it is commonly known as *Bt.* The naturally occurring *Bt* creates an insecticide, which has been used for years to make insect sprays. *Bt* spray easily washes off food by either the rain or by the consumer and becomes non-toxic within 48 hours.

Food plants have now been genetically engineered to produce a *Bt* insecticide inside the plant, including in the food itself. *Bt* insecticide can now be found in GM: corn and also *Bt* cottonseed oil; which we eat from most Fish & Chip shops. It has been estimated that GM plants produce from 1500 to 5000 times more *Bt*-toxin in the food than is normally found in their sprayed equivalent. There are no laws as to how much *Bt*-toxin plants may produce; in other words, there are no laws governing how much *Bt*-toxin can legally be fed to us. If someone said to you "Just boil this pesticide and it is safe to drink." would you drink it or give it to your child to drink? Remembering all the time that this GM technology was to save us from eating pesticides; but we are now eating cooked *Bt* pesticides.

Let's ask our Prime Minister to protect our children's health and food security

Dear Mr Prime Minister, would you allow us the public, to decide whether or not we want to continue contaminating our country with GM. It would be inexpensive to learn the true wishes of the people. But firstly the public must know a little about the issue. 90% of Australians including politicians know nothing about GM. At times there's a media grab with the nonsense that Monsanto intends to feed the world with GM; but many people still think that GM stands for General Motors. Also Mr Prime Minister, you know full well that feeding the world was never the intention of Monsanto; controlling our food with patented DNA and agricultural chemicals is their intention. You also know that the true story is kept from us so that the contamination can continue by stealth until it is too late; then farmers will have **no** more choice and **Ventolin** for children can be sold by the tonne instead of by the bottle.

You can organise the two films to be screened across Australia. They must be screened sensibly, meaning during the same time-slot around mid-week; and not at 2am in the morning. The public must be alerted to the event and no whoopee-do shows must be allowed to drown them out. The two films must be '**The World According to Monsanto**' & '**Food, Inc**'. Monsanto can then simultaneously sell their GM story by screening that brilliant film - **Can GM Food Save the World?**

Mr Prime Minister, if it is too difficult because Monsanto won't **allow** you to inform us about GM and allergies, then let's ask all students across Australia through years: 9, 10, 11 and 12 to view those two films and let them decide if we should continue contaminating our world with GM. Teachers across Australia would love to organise such an event for our children. Are our children allowed to have a say or should Monsanto's Head Honchos dictate to us with their pharmaceuticals and patented DNA? Monsanto wants to eliminate all major natural GM-free food crops of the world and tie us to patents and chemicals; they have already said as much. Forcing GM on our kids cannot be ethical so please ask the President of the AMA to seriously look into the issue of GM and sickness.

Would you agree to such simple and democratic GM solutions Mr Prime Minister?