

# SAFE FOOD GUIDE

A consumer's guide  
to GM free food



[www.safefoodnow.org](http://www.safefoodnow.org)

**GREENPEACE**

Greenpeace believes that GMOs should not be released into the environment as there is not adequate scientific understanding of their impact on the environment and human health.

We campaign for creating a paradigm shift in agricultural production to transform how politicians, industry, media and the public see agriculture and to provide incentives- to replace the industrial agriculture of corporate control, monoculture, genetically engineered crops, and synthetic agrochemical inputs with sustainable farming that has low external inputs, enhances agro-diversity, protects biodiversity and helps meet local food and employment needs.

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# Executive Summary



**F**ood is nutrition. Food is safety. A nation's food security comes from the production of safe food in sufficient quantities to feed its citizens. Both unsafe food and unsustainable production are a threat to the well being of the nation.

Food today is not safe. There is a need to identify safe food as we have shifted to the industrial mode of agriculture involving unsafe agrochemicals and now the possible introduction of controversial techno-fixes such as genetically modified crops in the country.

As of today, there is no commercially cultivated genetically modified food crop in India. This should imply that no food in India will contain genetically modified ingredients. But, unmonitored open air field trials and unchecked import of raw food grains suggests otherwise.

More than 11 major food crops have been grown at hundreds of acres across the country, posing a real danger of contamination to consumers and food businesses. The first GM crop, Bt Brinjal, is on the verge of approval and is being re-assessed for safety. We may need to be prepared for the government choosing to aid the industry, rather than the safety of citizens.

Every consumer has a right to choose safe food and avoid GM food for various reasons, primarily health concerns, ethics, and environmental sustainability. It is the responsibility of food businesses to be aware of this right of the consumer, and act towards providing this choice.

The Greenpeace India guide to GM-free food will give consumers an insight into the positions of some food brands, on the use of genetically modified ingredients.

There are no labelling regulations in India. But, companies like MTR Foods, Ruchi Soya, PepsiCo, ITC Foods, Haldirams, and Dabur have said they do not use GM ingredients. Others like Britannia, Safal, AgroTech, Parle, Bambino, Kellogg, and Godrej have not responded at all, indicating indecisiveness.

Still others like Bharati Enterprises suggest that they follow the law of the land, while

Cadbury's has not said a word about their stand on GM foods. This implies that if permitted by the Indian Government, they may use these ingredients. On the other extreme are corporations like Nestlé and Hindustan Unilever, which have stated they would use GM-derived ingredients.

Consumers and farmers are the most significant stakeholders of the food industry and have, across the world, determined the direction in which the industry has moved. Across the European Union, for instance, consumers have rejected GM foods, creating a GM-free food market. Similar examples exist in China and Brazil.

In India, rice exporters to the EU have worked to create a GM-free rice zone consisting of basmati rice cultivating states. A shift away from GM foods is possible and businesses can adapt to it. The Greenpeace India guide would indicate where the processed food industry stands on GM foods, and would help consumers identify food brands and their positions.

Greenpeace demands that food businesses voluntarily adopt a no-GM policy, because of the risks to health and environment. They should take proactive steps to label themselves GM-free. Greenpeace believes that consumers can help replace industrial agriculture of genetically engineered crops, with sustainable farming that has low external inputs, protects biodiversity, and helps meet food and employment needs.



# Genetically Modified Foods

Genetically Modified Foods are Neither Safe nor Sustainable  
Present day Scenario: GM Crops and the Threat of Contamination  
Parameters Used to Rank Companies in this Guide



# Genetically modified foods are neither safe nor sustainable.

In a real sense, food is synonymous with nutrition and with safety. But, food can also be the route for ill health. Therefore, safe food is a basic need.

The concept of safe and wholesome food encompasses many diverse elements. From a nutritional aspect it is food that contains the nutrients humans need and that brings strength, immunity, and helps prevent diseases and deficiencies.

From a food safety aspect, safe food is something that is free not only from toxins, pesticides, and chemical and physical contaminants, genetically modified ingredients but also from microbiological pathogens such as bacteria and viruses that are known to cause illnesses.

## Toxic Farming, Toxic Food

Evidently, food has always been subject to willful adulteration or irresponsible contamination.

The increasing distance between us and where our food is produced has led to us being blissfully unaware of how it is being produced. This, along with the unscrupulous promotion of agrochemicals by agrochemical companies, has led to our food being laden with fertilisers and pesticides.

This industry promoted toxic farming with mindless usage of fertilisers, pesticides, herbicides etc. has not only made our food toxic but also led to the destruction of natural resources like soil, water and biodiversity putting our future food security under threat. This has also pushed our farmers into an era of distress.

The Planning Commission documents of the 11th five-year-plan, acknowledges that the loss of yields and food security crisis is a result of decreasing soil fertility.

Unfortunately, instead of helping our food production systems and farmers out of this vicious cycle of intensive agriculture, the industry and the government is coming up with false solutions like the cultivation of Genetically Modified crops.



## Genetically Modified Food: The Genetic Gamble

Scientific evidence across the world points to the fact that GM crops are a potential health hazard and could have serious environmental impacts in the long run. It is now an established fact that pesticides have an adverse impact on humans. Yet, unfortunately, pesticide residues today are found in almost every food product. Genetically Modified crops are in every sense the same as these toxic chemicals.

The fundamental similarity between toxic chemicals that are already out of control and GM foods that will possibly end up on our plates in few months from today is that, both are a product of an irresponsible regulatory mechanism supported by incomplete science. The fundamental difference, however, being that Genetically Modified crops from which GM food is derived are living organisms and once let out into the environment, will be uncontrollable and irreversible.

GM foods tested on laboratory animals by independent scientists across the world are found to cause increased allergies, immune system disorders, toxicity in liver and kidneys, increasing antibiotic resistance and recent studies have even reported reproductive disorders with the long-term feeding of GM food. These are some effects that are indicative of the larger damage these foods can cause to our health.

## Ecological Farming can Provide Safe and Sustainable food

Undoubtedly, we seem to be moving in the diametrically opposite direction because there is a definite need to move away from the unsafe chemicals, GM seeds, and ecologically disastrous methods of farming.

Ecological farming can provide a safe and sustainable alternative. It is free of



synthetic agrochemicals and genetically modified crops, is sustainable, with low external inputs, and which protects biodiversity and helps meet local food and employment needs.

The fact that ecological farming practices ensure a healthy environment is enough to suggest that this is the way forward. Safe and sustainable food production has been advised for by the latest and the most comprehensive review of agricultural technologies by the U.N. and the World Bank in their International Assessment of Agricultural Research and Technology for Development [IAASTD]. India is signatory to this.

### Time to Act

The way our food is being tinkered around with, necessitates that consumers demand safe and sustainable food, and that both governments and corporations take responsibility in ensuring that this demand is met with. World over, governments have either banned or have ensured adequate choice for their citizens on GM food. The European Union, China, Brazil, Japan, Australia, Russia are some examples of governments, which have made the labelling of GM foods mandatory.

India on the other hand has refused to recognise the threat of genetic pollution. Legally, no separation of GM seeds/ food from non GM food/ seeds is required. Neither is there a binding law on labeling GM foods, and GM contamination is deemed "natural" under law.

Food businesses in India are thus not required to make any effort to inform their consumers regarding GM foods.

Genes are the tiny building blocks that make up every living thing. Genetic engineering (GE) is the artificial transfer of genes from one species into another, plant or animal in a laboratory, to create new organisms that would not occur naturally. The new organism made by this method is called a genetically modified organism or a GMO. The food from this plant or animal is GM food.

GM food has been tested on rats by independent scientists and has found to cause increased allergies, immune system disorders, toxicity in liver and kidneys, increasing antibiotic resistance and a recent study have even reported reproductive disorders with the long term feeding of GM food.

# Genetically modified Crops

## Present day scenario & the threat of contamination

Going by 2008 figures, a total of 56 genetically modified (GM) crops are undergoing various stages of research in the country. Of these, a whopping 41 comprise food crops around 169 varieties of cereals, oil seeds, cash crops, vegetables, fruits, pulses and spices. While a chunk of these are at the laboratory stage, 11 major food crops are undergoing different phases of field trial. These are Brinjal, rice, potato, tomato, mustard, ladies finger, corn, cabbage, cauliflower, pigeon pea and groundnut.

### Contamination from GM crop field trials:

As of today, there is no single genetically modified food crop, which is commercially cultivated. All the same, the threat of contamination is looming at large. Once a GM crop is introduced in the environment, even if it is in field trials, it has the capacity to multiply and spread uncontrollably. Controlling it is impossible, and eventually the entire crop species will become genetically modified.

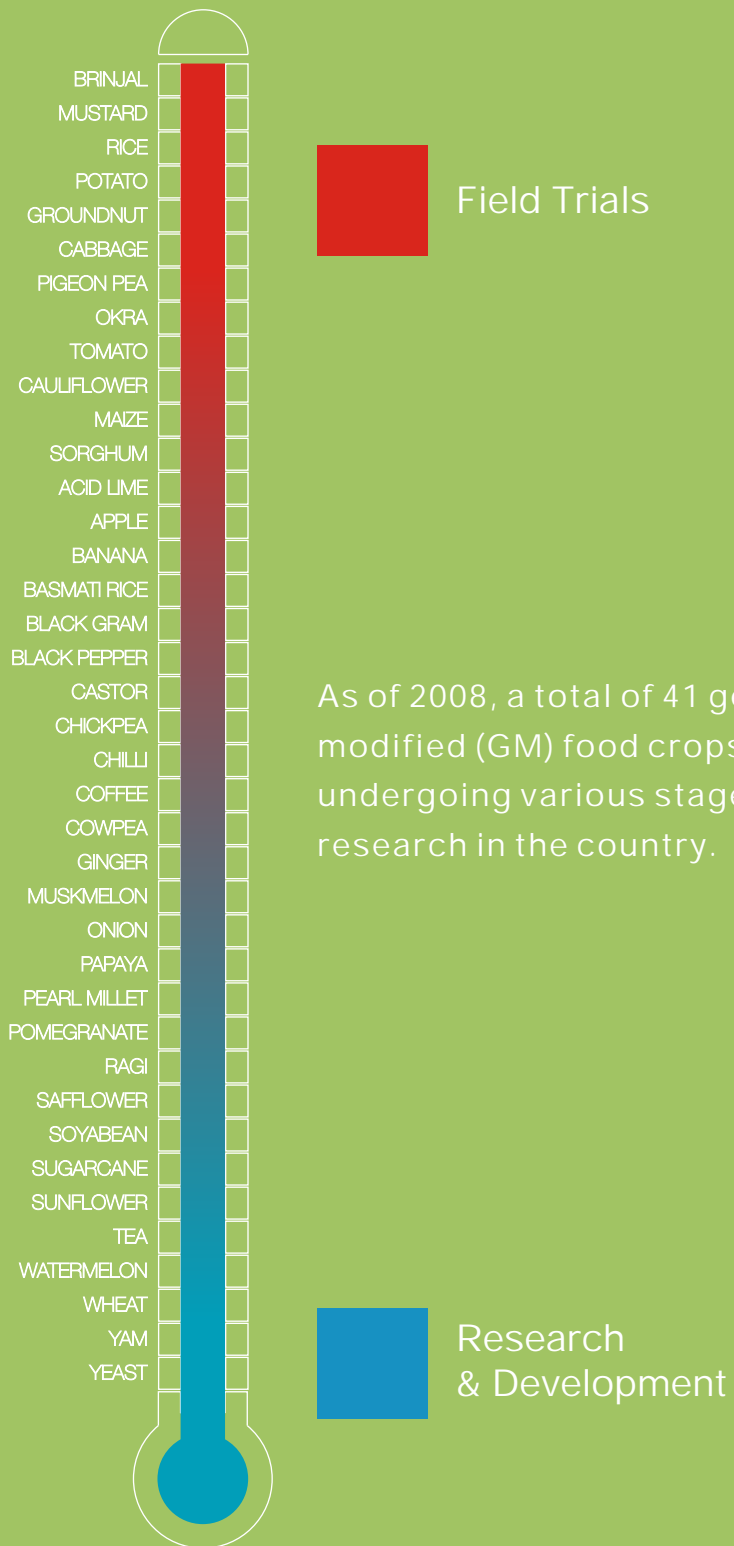
Contamination from GM crops is perhaps the biggest threat as far as biodiversity and thus food security are concerned. In India this risk also has additional dimension- field trials are hardly monitored and there is little compliance to the regulations laid out to prevent contamination. There are enough evidences to these violations and it has been documented every year, across the country. The existing regulatory mechanism in India has not been able to stop the uncontrolled illegal spread of GMO's in the food chain, a fact that has been acknowledged by the Genetic Engineering approval authority itself.

### Contamination by imports:

There is so far no labeling of GM food practiced in India. While several countries have strict labelling laws and penalize contamination by imposing liabilities, India has only enforced an unauthorized import restriction. This naturally has given rise to illegal, untraceable GM imports- processed and unprocessed.

One example is Doritos, a product of PepsiCo USA, which has several ingredients of GM corn and Soya, sold in India, without any restriction. A pack of Doritos chips in the market had no label to suggest it contained GM ingredients and its importer was unaware because the enforcement of the law was virtually nonexistent. So far, several Doritos samples have been for GM by Greenpeace, and the product is still sold in India, illegally.

This goes same for the unprocessed food or feed we import each year from the USA, Canada or the Latin American countries, Brazil and Argentina. There is no mechanism to test GM crops at the ports, the customs and excise authorities lack the expertise to track such exports. There is all probability that the few thousand tonnes of corn and soya that are being imported from these countries contain GM ingredients.



As of 2008, a total of 41 genetically modified (GM) food crops are undergoing various stages of research in the country.

# Parameters used

to rank companies in this guide.

Without a doubt, there are innumerable parameters to access safe and sustainable food. However, this guide will focus only on parameters related to the use of genetically engineered foods in India.

India does not currently permit any genetically modified (GM) food crop to be commercially cultivated. However this does not mean that there may be no GM food ingredients in the food produced in India. As we have seen, there have been hundreds of acres of field trials and unmonitored processed and raw grain imports into the country. Therefore, "No GM seeds being sold" is not enough to assure consumers that our food is GM free today or will be GM free in the future.

To facilitate this arduous task of identification, we at Greenpeace India contacted some of the popular food brands and asked them about their policy on the use of Genetically Modified ingredients apart from their other policies on sustainable agriculture.

In this report, we have categorised companies strictly based on their responses regarding their policy on the use of Genetically Modified ingredients. Using this as a starting point, companies are listed as either Green or Red.

**The Green List:** Companies in this list have assured us that they do not use any genetically modified ingredients in their products. We have confirmed this mostly through written declarations from companies and emails. This list also includes progressive companies which have a declared policy not to use GM ingredients at all at any point of time and the ones which have merely stated that they are GM free at present, without stating their policy for future, when GM crops might be approved.

**The Red List:** Companies in this list may have products containing genetically modified ingredients. We have included them in the Red List after making our best efforts possible, writing to them, following up with phone calls and emails.

This list includes:

- Companies that have stated they would use genetically modified ingredients in their products.
- Companies that have responded to Greenpeace, but have mentioned nothing about their stand on using genetically modified ingredients in their foods.
- Companies that have not responded to Greenpeace for over 45 days.

\*It is possible that companies that have not responded are open to using GM ingredients in their products. Consumers will be forced to believe so, unless they clarify otherwise. We alert consumers to keep an eye out for their products.

Unfortunately, due to the polluting nature of Genetically Engineered crops, some accidental contamination of non-GE crops may occur. While this guide can provide a good basis for avoiding GE food, the only guarantee is to stop the environmental release of GMOs.

It is also essential to note that while this is the first step towards identifying companies adopting a GM-free policy, there are several parameters Greenpeace will take into account in the future to ensure companies keep their promises to consumers. Among others, these will include a no-GM policy which means a long-term commitment to GM-free products. This will ensure that they do not practice double-standards in labeling, have necessary systems to track the lines of raw materials, and monitoring systems to trace contamination.

In the future, this guide will increase its scope into identifying and classifying companies on their positions on agricultural practices and its impact on health, environment and livelihoods, in sync with the vision of sustainable agriculture.

# The Indian Processed Food Industry - An Overview



India is the world's second largest producer of food next to China, and has the potential of being the biggest with the food and agricultural sector. The total Indian food market is valued at Rs. 9.1 lakh crores. The processed food market is at Rs. 3.5 lakh crores and accounts for 9 % of the country's GDP. This with just 2 % of the country's agricultural and food produce getting processed whereas the average is 80 % in the developed countries and some developing ones. Against such a backdrop, India has adopted "Vision 2015" which aims to triple the size of food sector in 10 years time by increasing the level of processing of perishables from 6% to 20%, value addition from 20% to 35%, and a resultant increase in share in global trade from 1.6% to 3%. This would require making processed food affordable domestically and competitive globally. An investment of about Rs. 110,000 crores is envisaged in the next ten years.<sup>1</sup>

The industry is shared by a large 42% unorganised sector, around 33% as small-scale industries and the organised sector is fairly large 25%.<sup>2</sup>



The Government of India has taken many steps to give impetus to this sector, which include virtual de-licensing of the sector, inclusion in the priority sector for lending, allowing 100 % FDI except in alcoholic beverages and retailing, several duty and tax reliefs, financial assistance for infrastructure building, setting up of food processing units etc. In the case of export-oriented units, foreign investment is permitted even in case of items reserved for the small-scale sector. In addition, the export oriented units are given a number of incentives and concessions under the Export-Import Policy such as, duty free import of capital goods, raw materials and intermediates.

The Ministry of Food Processing, Government of India indicates the following segments and sub-segments within the Food Processing Industry

<sup>1</sup>Address by Mr. D.P. Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Foodworld India 2005. November 28-30, 2005, India

<sup>2</sup><http://mofpi.nic.in/images/volume1.pdf>



Category	Sub categories
Fruits and Vegetables	Fruit pulps and juices, fruit based ready-to-serve beverages, canned fruits and vegetables, jams, squashes, pickles, chutneys and dehydrated vegetables, vegetable curries in restorable pouches, canned mushroom and mushroom products, dried fruits and vegetables and fruit juice concentrates.
Milk and Milk Products	Milk powder, packaged milk, butter, ghee, cheese and ready-to-drink milk products, ice creams.
Meat and Poultry	Value added products like sausages, ham, bacon, kababs, meatballs, etc.
Marine Products	Conventional block frozen products, individual quick frozen products (IQF), minced fish products like fish sausage, cakes, cutlets, pastes, surimi, texturised products and dry fish etc.
Grain Processing	Staples, spices, oils etc
Consumer Foods	Beer and alcoholic beverages, packaged or convenience food and packaged drinks ready-to-eat and ready-to-cook products, salted snacks, chips, pasta products, cocoa based products, bakery products, biscuits, aerated soft drinks, packaged drinking water and alcoholic beverages.

The main players in this Industry are Nestlé India, PepsiCo India, ITC Foods, Dabur India, Britannia, Parle products, Amul, Hindustan Unilever, Amul, Haldiram's, Godrej Foods, Kellogg's, ConAgra, Perfetti, Bharti Group, Glaxo Smithkline, Heinz and Nissinmet.

This guide contains information from the following processed food companies: PepsiCo India, Nestle India, Hindustan Unilever, ITC (Foods Division), MTR Foods, Britannia Industries, Safal, AgroTech Foods Limited, Bharti Enterprises, Godrej Hershey Foods & Beverages, Ruchi Soya Industries, Haldiram Foods International, Cadbury India, Dabur India, Parle Products, Bambino Agro Industries and Kellogg India.

The organised retailers or supermarkets of India are not included in this guide. Organised retail account for less than 1% of the total food sales, as compared to 72% world average<sup>3</sup>. Most of the food sales in India are from neighbourhood and kirana (grocery) stores. Because of this reason, processed food companies in India are much larger in size than the organised retailers. In contrast, in the European Union and the USA, the retailers are larger in scale.



<sup>3</sup><http://mofpi.nic.in/images/File/volume2.pdf>

# Legislations and Market Scenarios: GM Foods in the European Union, Brazil and China





### European Union:

The European Union (EU) with its 455 million consumers is one of the biggest food markets in the world in terms of value. The market in the EU is more or less completely closed to GM labelled food products.

In 2004, the European Union brought into force a new labelling and traceability legislation for genetically modified foods, feed and ingredients. These new rules are amongst the most stringent in the world.

According to this rule, it is required to label all products derived from GM ingredients, irrespective whether or not GM DNA or proteins can be detected in the final product.

The maximum threshold for GM contamination ("adventitious or technically unavoidable presence"), which was exempted from labelling requirements, is 0.9%. Besides, all GM ingredients are required to be labelled based on traceability systems and not only by GM testing.

The rules also apply to genetically modified feed and thus GM feed needs to be labelled.

However, it is not required to label the end meat and dairy products from animals fed on GM feed.

### Traceability:

According to the EU's traceability legislation, operators placing on the market an authorised GMO are obliged to inform in writing to the receiving operators about the fact that the product contains or consists of or is produced from GMOs, and of the unique identifiers assigned to these GMOs. This information must be transmitted to any subsequent operator receiving the product. Records of any such transactions must be kept by the operators for a period of five years.

Despite some approvals for GM crop cultivation and many GM foods approved for in processed form, there is a very small acreage for GM crops in the EU and almost no market for any GM food.

In 2005, Greenpeace contacted a majority of EU retailers and food companies to know their position on GM foods.



- It was found that 27 of the 30 top retailers have a non-GM policy throughout the EU or in their main market where they make more than 80% of their sales.
- 11 leading companies have given a non-GM-commitment for all their brands in Europe:
- They are: Nestlé, Kraft Foods, Unilever, Coca-Cola, Mars (Masterfoods), Heineken, InBev (Interbrew), Diageo, Danone, HJ Heinz and Kellogg.
- 4 other companies - PepsiCo, Sara Lee, Cadbury Schweppes and Campbell Soup had given non-GM commitments through several of their national subsidiaries.

### Brazil:

Brazil passed a decree about mandatory labelling on GM foods in 2003. It mandates labelling of both direct and processed foods derived from GMOs and also foods from animals fed on GM feed. The threshold for a non- GMO product to have an adventitious GM contamination is 1%. The information that has to be declared on labelling includes a symbol "T" in a yellow background and details of donor organism.



Gm food in brazil should mandatorily contain any of these statements as applicable:

- *Transgenic (name of product) /*
- *It has transgenic (name of ingredient or ingredients)/*
- *Product produced as from transgenic (name of product)*
- *For (name of animal) fed with ration with transgenic ingredient*
- *(Name of ingredient) produced from animal fed with ration with transgenic ingredient*

Despite the law, many food companies which sell products derived from GM crops don't follow regulations owing to poor monitoring and enforcement by the government. There are a number of cases against such manufacturers being pursued by the CTN Bio, the apex regulatory authority of Brazil.

In 2008, when Greenpeace Brazil contacted major food companies in Brazil regarding their positions on GM food, many renowned food companies like Unilever, Nestle, Danone, Quaker and Retailer cum food producers like Wal-Mart, Carrefour said that they don't have any GM in their products. Several other manufactures also declared themselves GM free.



## China:

China has a legislation on mandatory labelling under two rules passed in 2001 by China's Ministry of Agriculture (Safety Regulations on Agricultural Genetically Modified Crops)<sup>1</sup> and Ministry of Health (Ordinance on Genetically Modified Food). All products made from GM organisms are listed in an official registry of GM products and all food items containing transgenic material have been labelled since March 2002.

The list in the official registry include:

- Soybean seed, soybean, soybean powder, soybean oil and soybean meal;
- Corn seeds, corn, corn oil and corn powder;
- Rape seed for planting, rape seed, rape oil and rape meal;
- Cotton seed;
- Tomato seed, fresh tomato and tomato jam.

The legislation includes seeds, animal feed and food products containing GMOs. The rules also require safety certificates to be obtained for domestic approvals as well as imports of GM food into China.

China does not define a threshold to label GM products. But if any product has been derived from any of the GM products listed, they will have to be labelled.

GE labelling in Hong Kong is not mandatory but voluntary.

Towards the end of 2007, Greenpeace in Hongkong contacted over 250 food producers regarding their policy on GM foods.

106 brands, including companies like, Coca-Cola, Del Monte, Sara lee, Heinz, Danone, Lay's, Lipton and Lotte, had committed to eliminating GM ingredients.

About 110 other brands, including global brands like Nestlé had not given any commitments on the use of genetically modified foods.

In a similar effort in Mainland China in 2007, about 140 brands, including Coca-Cola, Danone, Heinz, Lay's, Lipton, Glico, Kraft, Pepsi had committed not to use GM.

<sup>1</sup>Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards: Agricultural Genetically Engineered Organisms Safety Administration Regulations 2001 governed by Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). <http://www.stee.agri.gov.cn/biosafety/spxx/>

# Positions and Implications of Major Food Businesses on GMOs in India



## AgroTech Foods Limited - Safe food Rank : Red

AgroTech Foods Ltd. is a direct subsidiary of ConAgra Foods USA. Originally called ITC AgroTech a joint venture of ITC, ConAgra and Tiger foods of South Africa, today it is a 100 percent subsidiary of ConAgra foods Inc.

CEO: Mr. Sachin Gopal

Statement on the use of Genetically Modified Foods: Though AgroTech gave verbal confirmations to Greenpeace about their strict adherence to using non-GM foods in all their products in India, they refused to confirm the same in writing.

**Implication:** Since AgroTech did not confirmed to us in writing, their GMO-free policy, we may have to believe that they have no systems in place to check contamination from the field trials of GM crops. A number of AgroTech products, particularly snacks such as Act II Popcorn that contain ingredients, which are in field trials, and could be contaminated by GM strains in the future. Therefore, we rank them Red alerting the consumer to keep an eye out for AgroTech's products.

### Products:

Consumer Foods: Act II Popcorn, Sundrop Snack Break

Fruits and Vegetables: Healthy World (Dried Green Peas) and Lamb Weston potato products (used in major hotel chains and fast food joints McDonalds, KFC and Pizza Hut, Sheraton, Hyatt and The Marriott source their potato products from Lamb Weston).

Milk and Milk Products: Pudding Mix, Swiss Mix (Cocoa Mix)

Grain processing: Sundrop Sunflower Oil, Crystal, Rath Vanaspati, Sudham (Mustard Oil) Crystal (Sunflower Oil), Rath, Sudham (Mustard Oil)

### Contact:

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## Bambino Agro Industries Limited - Safe food Rank : Red

Bambino Agro Industries Limited is part of the well known diversified Bambino Group. Ghanta Foods Pvt. Ltd. and Seshayi Foods Pvt. Ltd. are subsidiaries of Bambino Agro.

CEO: Mr. Kishan Rao

Statement on the use of Genetically Modified Foods: Bambino Agro Industries has not responded to Greenpeace's communications.

**Implication:** Since Bambino Agro has not confirmed to us in writing, their GMO-free policy, we may have to believe that they have no systems in place to check contamination from the field trials of GM crops. Some of Bambino Agro products like their Rice Ada contain ingredients, which are already in field trials, and could be contaminated by GM strains in the future. Therefore, we rank them Red alerting the consumer to keep an eye out for Bambino's products.

### Products:

Consumer Foods: Bambino Vermicelli; Bambino Ada-Ada/Rice Ada, Rasmati; Bambino Soups; Ready-To-Eat Snacks Bambino Namkeens and Bambino Sweets; Bambino Pasta, Instant Foods Bambino Instant Mixes

Grain processing: Sundrop Sunflower Oil, Crystal, Rath Vanaspati, Sudham (Mustard Oil) Crystal (Sunflower Oil), Rath, Sudham (Mustard Oil)

### Contact:

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[www.bambinofood.com](http://www.bambinofood.com)

## Bharti Enterprises - Safe food Rank : Red

FieldFresh Foods Pvt. Ltd. is a joint venture between Bharti Enterprises and Del Monte Pacific Ltd. The company offers branded FieldFresh fruits and vegetables across Indian and international markets. Del Monte currently offers preserved foods and will soon start producing other consumer foods.

**CEO:** Mr. Sunil Bharti Mittal

**Statement on the use of Genetically Modified Foods:** We and our partners are governed by the rules and regulations laid down for this industry, including labeling regulations to inform our customers.

**Implication:** Since Bharti Enterprises has merely stated that they will follow the regulations and present day regulations and are neither clear about contamination nor labelling, we believe that they have no systems in place to check contamination from the field trials of GM crops which are illegal even as of today. Some of FieldFresh products, particularly their tomato based products that contain ingredients, which are already in field trials may be contaminated by GM strains in the future. Therefore, we rank them Red alerting the consumer to keep an eye out for Fieldfresh and DelMonte range of products.

### Products:

Fruits and Vegetables: DelMonte Packaged Fruit: Pineapple slices, Pineapple titbits, Fruit cocktail, Peach halves, Prunes, FieldFresh Vegetables, FieldFresh Fruits; FieldFresh Pre-cuts, DelMonte Green Chutney, Mix Fruit Drinks: Pineapple, Pineapple Orange, Four Seasons, Juice Dispensers, Ketchup and sauces Tomato Ketchup, Tomato Chilli Sauce, Olives, Whole Kernel Corn

Grain processing: Extra Virgin Olive Oil

### Contact:

Tel. no. 0124 4109400 | Email: [feedback@fieldfreshfoods.in](mailto:feedback@fieldfreshfoods.in) | [www.fieldfreshfoods.in](http://www.fieldfreshfoods.in)

## Britannia Industries Limited - Safe food Rank : Red

Britannia is a leading player in the Indian organised biscuit market. The Nusli Wadia group, one of the oldest business houses, collaborates with Groupe Danone, a French multi-products food company, to produce their signature range of food products.

**Managing Director:** Ms. Vinita Bali

**Statement on the use of Genetically Modified Foods:** Britannia Industries Limited has not responded to Greenpeace's communications.

**Implication:** Since Britannia has not confirmed to us in writing, their GMO-free policy, we may have to believe that they have no systems in place to check contamination from the field trials of GM crops. Some of Britannia products, like Nutri-Choice that contain ingredients, which are already in field trials may be contaminated by GM strains in the future. Therefore, we rank them Red alerting the consumer to keep an eye out for Britannia's products.

### Products:

Consumer Foods: Biscuits Tiger, Milkman, Good day, Britannia Marie Gold, Treat Fruit Rollz, Milk Bikis, Bourbon, 50-50, Britannia Nutri-Choice, Little Hearts, Nice Time, Time Pass Nimkee; Britannia Subh Kamnaye; Daily Fresh Breads and Rusks; Cookies and Cakes

Milk and Milk Products: Milk Man brand Cheese, Milk, Butter, Ghee, Dairy Whitener, Milk Man brand Cheese, Milk, Butter, Ghee, Dairy Whitener, Dahi

Shops: Daily bread outlets

Grain processing: Extra Virgin Olive Oil

### Contact:

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## Cadbury India Limited - Safe food Rank : Red

Cadbury is a global confectionery company with a portfolio of chocolate, gum and candy brands. Currently Cadbury India operates in four categories - Chocolate Confectionery, Milk Food Drinks, Candy and Gum category.

**Managing Director:** Mr. Anand Kripalu

**Statement on the use of Genetically Modified Foods:** Though Cadbury had stated their responsibility for healthy life styles, ethical and sustainable sourcing, and measures to minimise environment impacts including carbon emissions and reducing water use, they have not confirmed their positions on the Genetically Modified Foods.

**Implication:** Since Cadbury has not confirmed to us in writing, their GMO-free policy, we may have to believe that they have no systems in place to check contamination from the field trials of GM crops. Therefore, we rank them Red alerting the consumer to keep an eye out for Cadbury's products.

### **Products:**

Milk and Milk Products: Chocolates Dairy Milk, Five Star, Perk, Éclairs, Gems, Celebrations, Temptations; Bournville

Consumer Foods: Snacks Cadbury Bites; Beverages Bournvita; Candy Halls, Gums Bubbalo.

### **Contact:**

Toll free no.: 1800 22 7080 | Email: [suggestions@cadburyindia.com](mailto:suggestions@cadburyindia.com)  
[www.cadburyindia.com](http://www.cadburyindia.com)

## Dabur India Limited - Safe food Rank : Green

Dabur India Limited has positioned itself as a company that uses natural products. With interests in Health care, Personal care and Food products, Dabur also exports many of its products.

CEO: Mr. Sunil Duggal

Statement on the use of Genetically Modified Foods: Dabur does not support the use of GMO in its products

**Implication:** Though Dabur has written to us stating they are GM free as of today, it is not a commitment or a policy that they will continue to abide by forever. In the event of approval of GM crops by the government, they might retract on their current statement and switch to a 'may contain GM foods' stand. Besides, it is not clear from their statement whether they have systems in place to trace any accidental contamination from field trials of GM crops. This is evident, from the fact that they have not proactively labelled their products GMO free. But, since they have confirmed about their products being GM free, we rank Dabur Green. Greenpeace will closely monitor Dabur's products to check for any deviation from their current stand.

### Products:

Consumer Foods: Health Care: Dabur Chyawanprash, Hajmola, Pudín Hara Lemoneez, Glucose-D, Dabur Honey

Fruits and Vegetables: Homemade Tomato Puree, Garlic and Ginger Garlic Pastes, Real and Activ fruit juices

Consumer Foods: Health Care: Dabur Chyawanprash, Hajmola, Pudín Hara Lemoneez, Glucose-D, Dabur Honey

Fruits and Vegetables: Homemade Tomato Puree, Garlic and Ginger Garlic Pastes, Real and Activ fruit juices

### Contact:

Tel. no. 01204181100 | Email: [foods@dabur.com](mailto:foods@dabur.com) | [www.dabur.com](http://www.dabur.com)

## Godrej Hershey Foods & Beverages Limited - Safe food Rank : Red

Godrej is a household name in India due its varied business interests. Godrej is associated with the famous Hershey's brand of chocolate products.

**Chairman:** Mr. Dalip Seghal

Statement on the use of Genetically Modified Foods: Godrej Hershey Foods has not responded to Greenpeace's communications.

**Implication:** Since Godrej has not confirmed to us in writing their GMO-free policy, we may have to believe that they have no systems in place to check contamination from the field trials of GM crops. Some of Godrej products, like Godrej range of oils that contain ingredients, which are already in field trials, may be contaminated by GM strains in the future. Therefore, we rank them Red alerting the consumer to keep an eye out for Godrej's products.

### Products:

Consumer Foods: Confectionery Nutrine Aam Ras, Koka Naka, Maha Lacto, Gulkand, Lolli Pop, Chilz, Orange Candy, Lacto Bon Bon, Peppermints, Fruit Roll; Bakery fats: Godrej Himgiri, Godrej Zesta Puff and Godrej Margarine

Grains Processing: Oils: Cooklite sunflower oil, Godrej refined sunflower oil, Godrej refined groundnut oil, Godrej Vanaspati,

Fruits and Vegetables: Cooking aids: Smart cook Tomato puree, Fruit drinks: Jumpin, XS, Sofit Soy Milk

### Contact :

Toll free no.: 1800 22 8080 | Email: lever.care@unilever.com | www.hul.co.in

## Haldiram Foods International Limited - Safe food Rank : Green

Headquartered at Nagpur, India, Haldiram's has been manufacturing sweets and namkeens for the past six decades. Its namkeen varieties are particularly popular in international markets.

CEO: Mr. Nitin Jain

Statement on the use of Genetically Modified Foods: We shall strive to provide world class quality products by utilizing hygienic, Safe in regards by using pesticide free ingredients, not using genetically modified ingredients & using premium quality ingredients & material.

**Implication:** Though Haldiram's has written to us stating they are GM free as of today, it is not a commitment or a policy that they will continue to abide by forever. In the event of approval of GM crops by the government, they might retract on their current stand and switch to a 'may contain GM foods' stand. Besides, it is not clear from their statement whether they have systems in place to trace any accidental contamination from field trials of GM crops. This is evident, from the fact that they have not proactively labelled their products GMO free. But, since they have confirmed about their products as being GM free, we rank Haldiram's Green. Greenpeace will closely monitor Haldiram's products to check for any deviation from their current stand.

### Products:

Consumer Foods:

Namkeens Aloo Bhujia, Plain Bhujia, Masala Bhujia, Nimbu Masala, Cornflakes Mixture, Kashmiri Mixture, Kaju Mixture, Panchrattan, Khatta Meetha, Navrattan, All-in-one, Hara Chiwda, Dal Biji, Shahi Mixture, Chana Jorgaram, Moong Dal, Masala Moong Dal, Chana Dal, Bhujia Sev, Chatpata Dal, Chana Nuts, Navratan Mixture, Lasun Sev, Ratlami Sev, Salted Kaju, Navratan Mixture, Mini Samosa, Boondi, Masala Thick Sev, Dry Fruit Mix, Masala Kaju, Aloo Laccha, Potato Sticks, Masala Sticks,

Bakery - Sandwich Bread, Milk Bread, Premium Bread, Cream Doughnut, Cream Roll, Magic Puff, Pizza Base,

Baked Bites - Ajwain, Butter Badams, Choco Chips, Coconut, Jeera, Kaju Pista, Whole Wheat

Minute Khana - Aloo Mutter, Poorani Dilli Ke Chole, Haldiram's Dal Makhani, Punjabi

Kadhi Pakoda, Lajawab Mutter Paneer, Nawabi Palak Paneer, Amchi Pao Bhaji,

Rajma Raseela, Yellow Dal Tadka, Kesari Moong Dal Halwa, Hyderabad Biryani Pani Puri and Bhel Puri

Chips - Pudina Treat, Spicy Paprika, Mast Masala, Salt-n-Pepper

Baleto's - Chatak Masala

Taka-tak - Chatpat Masala, Pudina Punch

Whoopies - Pillow Fights, Heatbeats, Masala Balls, Cheezi Balls, Chatpat Stix,

Chatpata Chaska

Royal Temptations- Cashew Masala, Almonds, Salted Peanuts, Nut Cracker,

Masala Peanuts

Gujarati Snack - Falahari Mixture, Gathiya, Halka Phulka, Nylon Sev, Mini Bhakar

Badi

South Indian Snacks - Chakoli, Madras Mixture, Moodi Mixture, Murukku, Om Pudi,

Salted Banana Chips, Spicy Banana Chips, Tangy Banana Chips

Papads - Bikaneri Papad, Punjabi Papad, Javitri, Medium Masala, Sada Papad

Drinks/Sherbets - Orange Squash, Pineapple Squash, Kesar Badam Treat,

Thandai Treat, Strawberry Crush, Khush Sharbat, Rose Treat, Kala Khatta Squash,

Lemon Squash, Aam Panna, Badam Pista, Lemon Crush, Orange Crush

Continental - Vermicelli, Yummy Bites, Tri-D Shapes

Milk and Milk Products:

Sweets - Soan Papdi, Soan Papdi Chocolate, Soan Papdi Orange, Soan Papdi

Coconut, Special Soan Papdi, Soan Cake, Badam Halwa, Karachi Halwa,

Rasagulla, Kalam Petha, Raj Bhog, Kesar Rasbhari, Cham Cham, Kesar Ganderi,

Canned Sweets - Gulab Jamun, Rasgulla, Sweet Pop, Cham Cham, Rajbhog

Fresh Sweets - Kaju Katli, Besan Laddu; Dodha Burfee, Kaju Roll, Dry Fruit Laddu

**Contact:**

Tel. No. 0172 2680218/2681191 | Email: [customercare@haldirams.com](mailto:customercare@haldirams.com)

[www.haldirams.com](http://www.haldirams.com), [www.haldiram.com](http://www.haldiram.com)



## Hindustan Unilever Limited - Safe food Rank : Red

HUL sells Foods and Home and Personal Care brands in about 100 countries worldwide. It is one of the biggest players in the Indian consumer market.

**Chairman:** Mr. Harish Manwani

**Statement on the use of Genetically Modified Foods:** Our companies are free to use ingredients derived from modified crops, which have been approved by the regulatory authorities and which meet our own standards for quality and acceptability.

**Implication:** Since HUL has confirmed to us in writing regarding their pro-GMO policy, it is clear that HUL will use GM ingredients in their products. Although it is not clear about the steps HUL has taken to prevent accidental contamination as of today when GM foods are illegal. We rank HUL Red alerting the consumer to keep an eye out for HUL's products.

### **Products:**

Consumer Foods: Tea - Brooke Bond, Lipton; Coffee - Brooke Bond Bru, Knorr Soups

Grains and Processing: Annapurna Atta

Fruits and Vegetables: Kissan Sauces, Jams, Squashes and Ready-to-drink Products,

Milk and Milk Products: Ice cream - Kwality Walls Cornetto, Feast, Viennetta, Paddlepop

### **Contact :**

Toll free no.: 1800 22 8080 | Email: lever.care@unilever.com | SMS 'LEVERCARE' to 54555 [BSNL 4555] | Address: LeverCare Executive | P.O. Box No. 14760, | Mumbai 400 099 | www.hul.co.in

## ITC Foods Limited - Safe food Rank : Green

ITC's extensive portfolio includes packaged foods, confectionery and agri-exports. The company currently has a wider portfolio in the staples and snack foods segments.

**CEO:** Mr. Y.C. Deveshwar

**Statement on the use of Genetically Modified Foods:** ITC's Foods business does not currently use any genetically-modified food crops or food ingredients.

**Implication:** Though ITC has written to us stating they are GMO-free as of today, it is not a commitment or a policy that they will continue to abide by forever. In the event of approval of GM crops by the government, they might retract on their current policy and switch to a 'may contain GM foods' stand. Besides, it is not clear from their statement whether they have systems in place to trace any accidental contamination from field trials of GM crops. This is evident from the fact that they have not proactively labelled their products GMO free. But, since they have confirmed about their products being GM free, we rank ITC Green. Greenpeace will closely monitor ITC products to check for any deviation from their current stand.

### Products:

**Consumer Foods:** Consumer Foods: Kitchen's of India Ready to Eat Dum pukht, Dakshin, Bukhara, Gharana, Curry pastes Butter Chicken Curry Paste, Hyderabadi Biryani Paste, Fish Curry Paste, Vegetable Biryani Paste, Chicken Curry Paste, Mutton Curry Paste, Dum Aloo Curry Paste, Mutton Kolhapuri Curry Paste, Goan Fish Curry Paste; Sunfeast Snacks Sunfeast Milky Magic, Sunfeast Marie, Sunfeast Golden Bakery, Sunfeast Dark Fantasy, Sunfeast Glucose, Sunfeast Dream Cream, Sunfeast Snacky, Sunfeast Salt-n-Sweet, Sunfeast Benne Vitta Flaxseed Biscuits, Sunfeast Special; Sunfeast Pasta; Confectionery -Mint-o, Candyman; Bingo! Potato Chips, Finger Snacks; Aashirvaad instant mixes

**Fruits and Vegetables:** Kitchen's of India Conserves Strawberry and Mint, Pineapple and Green Pepper, Apple and Cinnamon, Mango and Saffron; Kitchen's of India Chutneys Shredded Mango, Tamarind and Date, Mango and Jeera, Carrot and Black Pepper, Papaya and Raisin, Hot Mango, Tomato Chilli; Aashirvaad multi-purpose cooking pastes

**Contact:** Toll free no.: 1800 11 0888/1800 425 2903 | Email: [kitchensofindia@itc.in](mailto:kitchensofindia@itc.in), [Feedback@sunfeastpastatreat.com](mailto:Feedback@sunfeastpastatreat.com) | [www.itcportal.com/foods/foods.html](http://www.itcportal.com/foods/foods.html)

## Kellogg India Pvt. Ltd. - Safe food Rank : Red

Kellogg is one of the largest manufacturer of breakfast cereal in the world. Kellogg India captures a major part of the Indian breakfast cereal market.

**Managing Director:** Mr. Anupam Dutta

**Statement on the use of Genetically Modified Foods:** Kellogg India has not responded to Greenpeace's communications.

**Implication:** Since Kellogg India has not confirmed to us in writing, their GMO-free policy, we may have to believe that they have no systems in place to check contamination from the field trials of GM crops. Kellogg's cornflakes contain corn, which is in field trials across the country and may be contaminated by GM strains in the future. Therefore, we rank them Red alerting the consumer to keep an eye out for Kellogg's products.

**Products:** Kellogg's Corn Flakes

**Contact :**

Toll free no.: 1800 22 3500/022 25456400 | Email: [nutrition.india@kellogg.com](mailto:nutrition.india@kellogg.com)

## MTR Foods Private Limited - Safe food Rank : Green

MTR Foods Private Limited manufactures processed foods - ready-to-eat curries and rice, ready-to-cook gravies, frozen foods, ice cream, instant snack and dessert mixes, spices and a variety of accompaniments like pickles and papads. MTR became part of Norwegian Company M/s Orkla in 2007.

**CEO:** Mr. Sanjay Sharma

**Statement on the use of Genetically Modified Foods:** We have policy to use 100% natural and hence GE items are unacceptable.

**Implication:** MTR foods, is the only company in the list of companies Greenpeace contacted, to have confirmed to us a policy to keep their products GM free today and in the future. Yet, it is not certain from their policy, whether they have systems in place to trace any accidental contamination from field trials of GM crops. This is evident, from the fact that they have not proactively labelled their products GMO free. But, since they have confirmed about their policy to commit themselves as GMO free, we rank them Green. We hope they will introduce a GMO free label in their products soon.

### Products:

**Consumer Foods:** Soups Simply tomato; Babycorn and Spring Onion, Mixed Vegetable, Mulligatwani, Spicy Tomato, Spinach and Carrot; Ready to Eat North Indian, South Indian, main course, snacks; Frozen Foods Main dishes, combo meals, snacks, parathas; Rice Meals Rajma Chawal; Bisibele Bhat, Diet Delight, Jeera Rice, Lemon Rice, Masala Rice, Sambar Rice, Tomato Rice, Tamarind Rice; Instant Snack Mixes Masala Upma; Bisibele Bhat, Muruku, Rava Idli, Rice Idli, Rice Dosa, Rava Dosa, Vada; Beverages Aamras, Badam Drink, Chocolate Drink, Health Drink, Herbal Drink, Thandai Drink; Snacks and Crispies; Vermicelli and Macaroni; Papads

**Grain Processing:** Masala Powders Pav Bhaji; Sambar Mix, Rasam Mix, Madras Sambar Powder, Pav Bhaji, Pulao, Chutney Powder, Vaangi Bhat, Sambar Powder, Rasam Powder, Potato Sago, Puliogare, Bisibele Bhat, Spice Powders Jeera; Turmeric, Chilli, Coriander, Black Pepper

**Milk and Milk Products:** Instant Sweet Mixes Gulab Jamun; Badam Feast, Vermicelli Payasam; Ice creams.

**Fruits and Vegetables:** Pickles

**Contact:** Tel. no.: 080 26765464 | Email: rama.devi@mtrfoods.com | www.mtrfoods.com

## Nestle India Ltd. - Safe food Rank : Red

Nestlé's relationship with India dates back to 1912, when it began trading as The Nestlé Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Company Limited, importing and selling finished products in the Indian market. It was only after Independence that Nestlé set shop in India.

**Chairman:** Mr. Martial G. Rolland will step down in October, and Mr. Antonio Helio Waszyk will take over.

Statement on the use of Genetically Modified Foods: Nestlé recognises the potential that gene technology has in the long term to improve, the quality, availability and nutritional value of the food. The safety of our products and the ingredients from which they are manufactured are paramount to Nestlé and Nestlé therefore supports a reasonable application of gene technology for food production based on sound scientific research...

**Implication:** Nestlé, one of the oldest and well known food companies in India, a market leader particularly in the baby food segment, has stated that they believe GM food can improve quality and nutrition of food. This, at the time when the controversies about the safety of such foods are still raging and many governments have taken cautious stands on the issue. Also, it is not clear about the steps Nestlé has taken to prevent accidental contamination as of today when GM foods are illegal. Nestlé India position on GM food is also in stark contrast with its policies in the European Union where it is GM free. Therefore, we rank Nestlé Red and alert the consumer to keep an eye out for the company's products.

## Nestle India Ltd. - Safe food Rank : Red

### Products:

Milk and Milk Products: Nestlé Everyday Dairy Whitener, Nestlé Everyday Ghee, Nestlé Milk, Nestlé Slim Milk, Nestlé Nesvita Pro-heart Milk, Nestlé Fresh-n-Natural Dahi, Nestlé Fresh-n-Natural Slim Dahi, Nestlé Jeera Raita, Nestlé Nesvita Dahi, Nestlé Milkmaid Fruit Yogurt, Nestlé Milkmaid, Nestlé Milkmaid Funshakes, Nestlé Nido; Chocolates and confectionery Nestlé Kit Kat, Nestlé Kit Kat Chunky, Nestlé Munch, Nestlé Munch Pop Choc, Nestlé Milky Bar, Nestlé Milky Bar Choc, Nestlé Bar-One, Nestlé Milk Chocolate, Polo, Nestlé Eclairs, Nestlé Milkybar Eclairs, Nestlé Selections

Fruits and Vegetables: Maggi sauces, Maggi Pichkoo

Consumer Foods: Beverages Nescafé Classic, Nescafé Sunrise Premium, Nescafé Sunrise Special, Nescafé Cappuccino, Nescafé Milo Smart Plus Ready-to-drink, Nestea Iced Tea with Green Tea, Nestea Iced Tea; Prepared dishes and cooking aids Maggi 2-minute noodles, Maggi Vegetable Atta Noodles, Maggi Cuppa Mania, Maggi MAGIC Cubes; Maggi Pizza Mazza, Maggi Bhuna Masala, Maggi Coconut Milk Powder, Maggi Healthy Soups, Maggi Healthy Soups Sanjeevani

Baby Foods: Cerelac, Nestum, Lactogen.

### Contact:

Tel.No.012-4412 1212|Email: [CustomerServices@in.nestle.com](mailto:CustomerServices@in.nestle.com)  
[www.nestle.in](http://www.nestle.in)

## Parle Products - Safe food Rank : Red

Parle has been one of India's largest manufacturers of biscuits and confectionery products. The company has operated in India for over half a century.

**CEOs:** Mr. Vijay and Mr. Sharad Chouhan

Statement on the use of Genetically Modified Foods: Though Parle gave verbal confirmations to Greenpeace about their strict adherence to using non-GM foods in all their products, they have so far failed to confirm the same in writing.

**Implication:** Since Parle has not confirmed to us in writing, their GMO-free policy, we may have to believe that they have no systems in place to check contamination from the field trials of GM crops. Some of Parle's products, particularly snacks like Musst Bites contain ingredients, which are already in field trials and may be contaminated by GM strains in the future. Therefore, we rank them Red alerting the consumer to keep an eye out for Parle's products.

### Products:

Consumer Foods:

Biscuits: Parle-G, Krackjack, Magix, Monaco, Creams, Parle 20-20 Cookies, Nimkin, Chox, Hide and Seek, Hide & Seek Milano, Digestive Marie, Parle Marie, Milk Shakti, Goldenarcs, Creams Gold, Monaco Jeera; Confectionary: Melody, Kaccha Mango Bite, Poppins, Kismi Toffee, Kismi Toffee Bar, Mazelo, Kismi Gold, Orange Candy, Xhale, 2 in 1 Éclair, Gulgappa, Melody Softee, Parle Lites; Snacks Musst Bites, Cheeslings, Jeffs, Musst Stix & Musst Chips, Sixer, Sixer Zeera

### Contact :

Tel.no. 022 66916929 | Email: cz@parle.biz | www.parleproducts.com

## PepsiCo India Holdings, Pvt. Limited - Safe food Rank : Green

PepsiCo entered India in 1989 and has grown to become one of the country's leading food and beverage companies. The group has built an expansive beverage and foods business.

CEO: Mr. Sanjeev Chadha

Statement on the use of Genetically Modified Foods: Ingredients used by PepsiCo India Holdings Pvt. Ltd. for beverages and foods manufactured and sold by us are GMO-free we also work very closely with suppliers to ensure that all the ingredients used by PepsiCo India are GMO-free

**Implication:** Though Pepsi has written to us stating they are GM free as of today, it is not a commitment or a policy that they will continue to abide by forever. In the event of approval of GM crops by the government, they might retract on their current stand and switch to a 'may contain GM foods' stand. PepsiCo states to have a process to ensure that its suppliers are using non GMO products- this would not mean much since it is no clear whether they have systems in place to trace any accidental contamination from field trials of GM crops. They have not proactively labelled their products GMO free either. But, since they have confirmed about their products being GM free, we rank Pepsi Green. Greenpeace will closely monitor Pepsi products to check for any deviation from their current stand.

### Products:

Consumer Foods: Uncle Chips, Cheetos, Lays, Lehar, Kurkure, Quaker, Tropicana, Gatorade, Slice, Mangola

### Contact:

Email: [consumer.feedback@intl.pepsico.com](mailto:consumer.feedback@intl.pepsico.com) | Toll free number: 1800 22 4020



## Ruchi Soya Industries Limited - Safe food Rank : Green

Ruchi Soya Industries Limited is part of the Ruchi Group of Industries. Apart from soya, they are also manufacturers of edible oils, vanaspati and bakery fats. Ruchi Soya is also one of the biggest exporters of soy products in the country.

**Chairman:** Mr. Dinesh Shahra

**Statement on the use of Genetically Modified Foods:** As specified on the company website: "Ruchi Soya uses only certified Non-GMO seed in all its operations. India, from where all our seed is procured, has an official Non-GMO policy. All Indian crops are by law Non-GMO. Not only does this guarantee, our seed to be pure, but also eliminates the risk of contamination due to cross-pollination of crop by scattering pollens from GMO fields. All our products are guaranteed Non-GMO by Cert ID.

**Implication:** Being a soya exporter, Ruchi soya aims to comply with European Union standards and therefore adopts a strict non-GMO policy. However, Ruchi Soya does not label its products in India, both soya and non soya edible oils as GMO free. We assume, though all its products are probably GM free today, when faced with contamination threats Ruchi might accord the GM free status only to its export products. Thus we alert consumers to watch for Ruchi's policies closely in our consumer guide. Greenpeace will closely monitor Ruchi Soya products to check for any deviation from their current stand

### Products:

Consumer Foods: Beverages Nutrela N'rich; Soya foods Granules and mini chunks, Nutrela TVP Chunks.

Milk and Milk Products: Vanaspati Nutririch Vanaspati, Ruchi No 1 Vanaspati.

Bakery Fats: CakeMo Margarine, CookieMo Full fat, PuffMo Margarine, MoSno Cream Margarine. Grain Processing: Nutrela Proflo Soya Flour, Mahakosh Oil Sunflower Oil, Mustard Oil, Soybean Oil, Cotton Seed Oil, Groundnut Oil, Mustard Oil; Ruchi Gold Palmolein Oil, Mustard Oil; Edible Oils Nutrela Rice Bran Oil, Nutrela Soyumm Oil; Nutrela Sunflower Oil, Nutrela Groundnut Oil, Nutrela Mustard Oil

**Contact:** Tel. no. 0731 2513281 | [www.ruchisoya.com](http://www.ruchisoya.com)

## Safal - Safe food Rank : Red

Safal's fruit and vegetable unit is a unit of Mother Dairy Food Processing Ltd. The fruit and Vegetable Unit was set up in the year 1988 by National Dairy Development Board, an institute of national importance, a body created by the Government of India.

**CEO:** Sunil Bhansal

**Statement on the use of Genetically Modified Foods: Safal has not responded to Greenpeace's communications**

**Implication:** Since Safal has not confirmed to us in writing, their GMO free policy, we may have to believe that they have no systems in place to check contamination from the field trials of GM crops. A lot of Safal products, particularly their vegetable produce, that contain ingredients which are in field trials and may be contaminated by GM strains in the future. Therefore, we rank them Red alerting the consumer to watch out for Safal products.

### **Products:**

Fruits and Vegetables: Fresh fruits; Fresh vegetables; IQF vegetables;  
Processed foods : pickles, jams, tomato foods, squash, fruit drinks

### **Contact:**

Toll free no.: 1800 1801 018 | Email: [consumer.services@motherdairy.com](mailto:consumer.services@motherdairy.com)  
[www.safalindia.com](http://www.safalindia.com)

# Voices From Other Stakeholders and Regulatory Bodies



It is known that genetic engineering techniques are much faster but pose an enormous danger to the ecology because of man's inherent greed and recklessness. The threat to the peaceful co-existence of all living beings of our planet far outweighs the claimed benefits to human beings alone. In addition, humanity can't face among many other problems, the disturbance of ecological balance, artificially induced characteristics and the inevitable side-effects will be passed on to all subsequent generations and to other related organisms. Damaging effects of genetic engineering are irreversible. Once released, they can never be recalled or contained. The consequences of this are incalculable. We therefore must prevent problems before they occur.

Biotechnology companies that spend millions of dollars to produce GM seeds claim that their methods are precise and sophisticated, but inadequate government regulation is one of the top most anxieties in the minds of farmers, consumer organisations and common man at large.

We, therefore, demand that until all concerns are addressed through medium of science and technology alone and approvals are received (case by case) from the 'Panel of Scientists for genetically modified organisms and foods' established under Food Safety & Standards, Act (FSSA), 2006

- ? • Stop the onward march of GM foods, including Bt Brinjal, immediately.
- ? • Stop all open air field trials of various GM crops immediately.
- ? • Freeze all approvals for trials and disapprove the release of GMOs into the environment.
- ? • Stop the import of GM food or products containing GM food as an ingredient.

The demand also has support in chapter III, 18.1. (C) of the FSSA Act, 2006.

Statement from The Mumbai Grahak Panchayat

Established in 1975, Mumbai Grahak Panchayat (MGP), is perhaps the largest voluntary consumer organisation in India with a membership of 24,000 families. It has been engaged in activities of consumer protection and education for the last 32 years. All the functions of the organisation are carried out by volunteer activists, mostly women. They represent consumer voices in many



forums like Advertising Standards Council of India, Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission and in the Food Safety and Standards Authority.

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**F**ood manufacturing industries in India have to take a position on consumer health and safety. They have to address the key concerns of the consumer on safe and healthy food. The new Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 has clearly defined the objectives of how to build a strong and robust regulation in the interest of the consumers on food standards and safety issues. The country is working towards developing an efficient and effective tracking and tracing system of food manufactured and imported into India. Soon the food industry has to become accountable to the consumers and provide an informed choice to the consumers in the manner the consumer desires and wish to be communicated about its safety and quality.

The recent survey by Greenpeace on the food industry position on GM Policy has revealed that most of the companies are at the moment non-committal and wish to be fence sitters because the consumers in India are yet to speak-up on the issue and only a few have responded in favour of a strong GM policy within their manufacturing/importing practices. It is time for consumer organisations in India to take a strong position on GM so that food manufacturers are compelled to take a position and provide full information to the consumers about the presence of GM in their food ingredients. Lack of such information is misleading and undermines the rights of the consumers.

Mr. Bejon Misra, Healthy You Foundation and Member of the Food Safety and Standards Authority, Government of India

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**W**ith little evidence of the long-term effects of consuming Genetically Modified foods, it is impossible to confirm that GM foods are safe for consumption. GM crops, by nature have the ability to be spread uncontrollably and the resulting contamination is irreversible. This is even more risky when we have open air cultivation or field trials of GM crops.

Most importantly, consumers have the right to be informed about the goods being purchased and the services availed. The right to make an informed choice is a

fundamental one. This means that food brands should be obliged to share information about ingredients and in this case the use of genetically modified ingredients in foods with their customers.

As a representative of the consumer coordination council, a body with over 69 consumer organisations as members which has been working towards ensuring the rights of the consumer, I emphasise that all the food processors and brands operating in India should act responsibly and take proactive steps to give a choice to the Indian consumers. This guide is a definite step in that direction.

Ramaben Mavani, Chairperson, Consumer Coordination Council (CCC), Noida, New Delhi and President, Rajkot Saher Jilla Grahak Suraksha Mandal, Rajkot



It is very encouraging to learn that presently Govt has not permitted any transgenic activity in Basmati Rice and proposes not to permit development of GM Basmati. Nevertheless we suggest that the Government seriously consider the following steps to protect the interests of the farmer and field trials should start ONLY after:

The GM event to be declared safe for long-term human consumption/interaction. All field trials if conducted should be limited in scope and a test protocol to detect and quantitate the GM event which must be confirmed between all trading partners to provide the assurance that the trials have been limited and isolated. In any case no trials must be held in Basmati growing areas of India, ie, Punjab, Haryana, UP and Uttranchal.

18/10/2006 Brig. Anil Adlakha (Executive Director)

The basmati rice growing areas of Punjab, Haryana, Uttarkhand and western Uttar Pradesh has been free of field trials of GM rice since 2007. This GM free zone was created due to the efforts of the All India Rice Exporters Association, which foresaw the risk of contamination for the basmati exports.

The AIREA has held a firm belief that GM rice should not be let into field trials before assessing its benefits both on health and the economy.

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India) has also been a key player in bringing the GM rice Free zones in the Basmati growing regions. In 2006, APEDA, taking into account the risk of a Rs. 4000 crore worth of exports, took an initiative to stop GM basmati rice as well as stopping field trials of GM Rice.

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**W**hile the economic benefits of Genetically Modified (GM) technology are well established, considerable bio-safety concerns have been expressed that relate to environmental, human and animal health consequences. Food safety and human health have raised concerns about toxicity of newer genes and their products. GM foods can pose health risks. It could also lead to allergies, changes in the nutrient content and other plant composition. This is a major concern to Nutritionists and Dietitians because we are not sure whether the foods we prescribe will serve the purpose or not. As an association, we would want to prescribe safe foods and foods, which help in holistic health, without contamination of any kind. We also believe that labelling of GM foods is vital so that consumers can make an informed choice.

Indian Dietetic Association




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## Regulatory Bodies

### The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee

The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) is an inter-ministerial committee under the Ministry of Environmental and Forests, which is the final nodal agency for the approval of any import, export, transport, manufacture, process, use or sale of any genetically engineered organisms/substances or cells.

The authority, which has representatives from seven ministries and the Food Safety and Standards Authority has so far approved only one GM crop Bt cotton for commercial cultivation. However, it has approved research on more than 56 crops, 11 of which are in field trials. Hundreds of acres have been permitted for field trials so far.

The enforcement of the regulations to prevent the accidental release of GM crops during field trials is almost absent. This has led to several mishaps in the last few years. In a similar manner, the imports of GM grains and processed foods have also been poorly monitored. More recently, in July 2009, the authority clearly indicated in its 95th meeting on July 8, 2009 that it so far has not been able to control the contamination of illegal GM cotton that has taken place in several states across the country for over two years.

Though the GEAC has issued GM free certificates to rice and mustard exporters in the past, the lack of any initiative to formulate a standard on labelling and threshold levels for GM contamination has in effect left the country without a law to identify and penalise offenders related to GM contamination.



The authority was setup under the Food Safety and Standard Act, 2006, which was envisaged to be a single authority on food safety and standards in the country. This Act replaced seven other legislations including the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

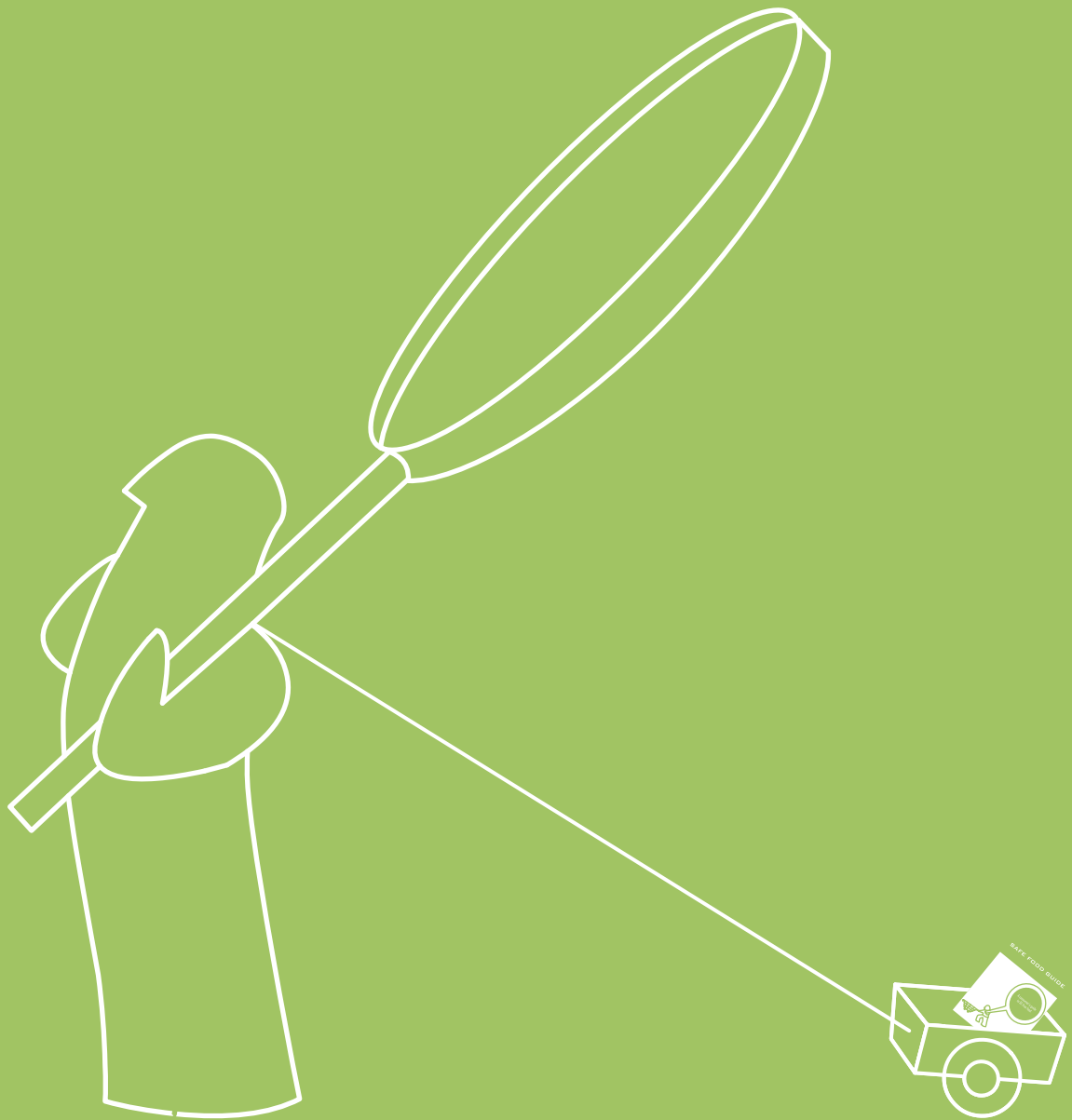
The authority comprises 18 members representing seven ministries, industry, consumer organisations, farmers and state governments.

According to the FSSA, Act (Chapter IV, Sec 22) no person can manufacture, distribute, sell, or import genetically modified food without the regulation of the Act. Though the Act seems to share responsibilities with the GEAC, there has been a concurrence between the two authorities and GEAC has amended its rules to exclude its regulatory responsibilities regarding processed foods derived from GMOs. (This order SO 1519(E) was issued on August 2007, however it is under abeyance as of now). The FSSA has recently set up scientific panels on genetically modified organisms and foods and deputed a representative into the GEAC to deal with issues related to processed GM foods.

However, the authority has so far not taken any initiative to formulate a standard on labelling and threshold levels for GM contamination and has in effect left the country without a law to identify and penalise offenders related to GM contamination.



# Appendices



## Links to Greenpeace worldwide consumer websites

Greenpeace International

[www.greenpeace.org/stopGMO](http://www.greenpeace.org/stopGMO)

Australia

[www.greenpeace.org/au/truefood/index2.html](http://www.greenpeace.org/au/truefood/index2.html)

Austria

[www.greenpeace.at/909.html](http://www.greenpeace.at/909.html)

Belgium

[www.greenpeace.org/belgium\\_fr/campaigns/intro?campaign\\_id=353877](http://www.greenpeace.org/belgium_fr/campaigns/intro?campaign_id=353877)

[www.greenpeace.org/belgium\\_nl/campaigns/intro?campaign\\_id=178586](http://www.greenpeace.org/belgium_nl/campaigns/intro?campaign_id=178586)

Brazil

[www.greenpeace.org.br/consumidores/guidoconsumidor.php](http://www.greenpeace.org.br/consumidores/guidoconsumidor.php)

Canada

[www.greenpeace.ca/shoppersguide/](http://www.greenpeace.ca/shoppersguide/)

[www.greenpeace.ca/guideogm/index.php](http://www.greenpeace.ca/guideogm/index.php)

Chile

[www.greenpeace.org/chile\\_es/campaigns/intro?campaign\\_id=468148](http://www.greenpeace.org/chile_es/campaigns/intro?campaign_id=468148)

China

[www.greenpeace.org.hk/eng/gm\\_main.adp](http://www.greenpeace.org.hk/eng/gm_main.adp)

Czech republic

[www.greenpeace.cz/gmo/spotreb.shtml](http://www.greenpeace.cz/gmo/spotreb.shtml)

France

[www.greenpeace.fr/campagnes/ogm/liste/index.php3](http://www.greenpeace.fr/campagnes/ogm/liste/index.php3)

Germany

[www.greenpeace.org/deutschland/?page=/deutschland/fakten/einkaufsnetz/](http://www.greenpeace.org/deutschland/?page=/deutschland/fakten/einkaufsnetz/)

Greece

[www.greenpeace.gr/pages/gmo/gmo\\_guide\\_note.htm](http://www.greenpeace.gr/pages/gmo/gmo_guide_note.htm)

[www.greenpeace.gr/library/gmos/Consumers\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.greenpeace.gr/library/gmos/Consumers_Guide.pdf)

Hungary

[www.greenpeace.hu/campaigns/story/story\\_26.html](http://www.greenpeace.hu/campaigns/story/story_26.html)

India

[www.safefoodnow.org](http://www.safefoodnow.org)

Italy

[www.greenpeace.it/ogm/](http://www.greenpeace.it/ogm/)

Mexico

[www.greenpeace.org/mexico\\_es/campaigns/intro?campaign\\_id=553585](http://www.greenpeace.org/mexico_es/campaigns/intro?campaign_id=553585)

Netherlands

<http://archive.greenpeace.nl/gminfo/lijsten/00huismerk.shtml>

New Zealand

[www.greenpeace.org.nz/truefood/default.asp](http://www.greenpeace.org.nz/truefood/default.asp)

Slovakia

[www.greenpeace.sk/campaigns/story/story\\_149.html](http://www.greenpeace.sk/campaigns/story/story_149.html)

Southeast Asia

[www.greenpeacesoutheastasia.org/en/seaissuege01.html](http://www.greenpeacesoutheastasia.org/en/seaissuege01.html)

Spain

[www.greenpeace.org/espana\\_es/campaigns/intro?campaign\\_id=159562](http://www.greenpeace.org/espana_es/campaigns/intro?campaign_id=159562)

U.K.

[www.greenpeace.org.uk/Products/GM/](http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/Products/GM/)

U.S.A

[www.truefoodnow.org/](http://www.truefoodnow.org/)

## Health risks from genetically modified crops

Health risks have been a primary concern with these food crops. Innumerable concerns are being raised about the adverse effects genetically modified crops have on the health of people and animals alike. There is a growing body of evidence regarding these health risks, none of which have yet been disproved.

However, there is a paucity of accurate information; a direct result of the meagre scientific attention the issue has been accorded. Whatever information does exist has not been adequately collated. However, there have been sporadic studies conducted by independent scientists and the findings are rather disturbing.

All the testing for GM crops are presently done on animals such as rats, chicken, cows, goats, fish etc.

Though there are several impacts that have been observed by many independent scientists, we would like to present few cases where evidence of adverse impacts has been irrefutable.

### Impacts on Internal Organs and Immune System

Dr. Arpad Pusztai (1998) of the Rowett Research, Institute, Scotland, found that potatoes modified by the insertion of snowdrop and jackbean genes that code for pesticidal toxins stunted the growth of rats and reduced their immune responses to injurious antigens. Rats subjected to GM potatoes were observed to have had adverse effects on their vital organs including the kidney, thymus, and gastrocnemius muscle.<sup>1</sup>

A group of scientists representing CRIIGEN (Committee for Independent Research and Genetic Engineering, University of Caen, France) found signs of toxicity in the liver and kidney of rats fed with Mon863, a genetically engineered maize type by Monsanto (Agri biotech company). There were also stark weight gain differences between rats fed with GM and non-GE maize. While it is not known whether the signs of toxicity are caused by the Bt protein, or from some changes in the plant's own DNA caused by genetic modification, it is certain that it points to the unpredictable nature of GM technology.<sup>2</sup>

This result was a re-analysis of an earlier study done by Monsanto, which found no irregularities in the rats.

### Allergic reactions:

Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) developed transgenic field peas with a gene from the common bean, so as to make it resistant to pests. The gene inserted was intended to produce, a protein that affects the digestion enzymes and kills the pest. After a decade of research, mice, which were being fed with these peas, were found to have developed lung inflammation. Interestingly, these effects were not observed with beans that naturally produce this protein.<sup>3</sup>

### GM crops could lead to serious reproductive disorders:

According to a study published by the Austrian Ministry of Health, Family and Youth, mice fed with GM corn were found to have a smaller litter in the long term. This was derived from the outcomes of a multi-generation reproduction study done over a period of 20 weeks. Interestingly, this was the first time a study of such a nature was conducted anywhere in the world.<sup>4</sup>

### Threat to infants and invalids:

A report by the Royal Society recognised that food allergies are far more common in children than in adults, stating that: "food allergies occur in one to two per cent of adults and six to eight per cent of children" and, therefore, children would be most vulnerable to any allergens that may have gone undetected in GM food. The Royal Society also recognised that babies and infants are vulnerable to harmful effects from nutritional changes in their diet. Any changes in the composition of foods made from GM crops could be important when given to infants over a long period of time, especially if it is a food such as infant formula, which is often used as complete food nutrition for infants. This view has been reiterated by the British Medical Association.<sup>5</sup>

No scientific consensus has been reached regarding the safety of GM food for human consumption. Some believe that GM food has been brought into the market too soon without proper long term safety tests.

### References:

1. Pusztai A. Report of Project Coordinator on data produced at the Rowett Research Institute. SOAEFD flexible Fund Project RO818. 22 October 1998.
2. New analysis of a rat feeding study with a genetically modified maize reveals signs of hepatorenal toxicity. Archives of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology DOI: 10.1007/s00244-006-0149-5.
3. Prescott, V.E., Campbell, P.M., Moore, A., Mattes, J., Rothenberg, M.E., Foster, P.S., Higgins, T.J.V. & Hogan, S.P. 2005. Transgenic expression of bean alpha-amylase inhibitor in peas results in altered structure and immunogenicity. Journal of Agricultural And Food Chemistry 53: 9023-9030
4. Biological effects of transgenic maize NK603xMON810 fed in long term reproduction studies in mice - October 2008
5. British Medical Association (BMA), 2004. Genetically modified foods and health: a second interim statement. www.bma.org.uk | 3rd August, 2009

## The letter sent out to all the companies by Greenpeace

To,

Subject: Your policy regarding environmental sustainability and food quality

Greenpeace is a non-profit organisation with a presence in 40 countries across Europe, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific. Greenpeace India is now 9 years old there are now over 100,000 Indians who believe in us and support our work.

In India, Greenpeace focuses on the most critical worldwide environmental issues such as fighting climate change, preserving marine biodiversity, preventing use of hazardous chemicals in products and sustainable agriculture.

The sustainable agriculture campaign in India focuses on meeting the country's food security objective without compromising on food quality or endangering the environment in any way.

We been actively campaigning for a paradigm shift in agriculture to replace the industrial agriculture of synthetic agrochemicals and genetically engineered crops with sustainable farming that has low external inputs and protects biodiversity and helps meet local food and employment needs.

Intensive industrial practices threaten agricultural ecosystems with impacts ranging from widespread loss of biodiversity to soil degradation, salinisation, ground water depletion; contamination and even global climate change. This drastic reduction of diversity contributes to a downward spiral of ecosystem health and increasing pressures on remaining natural ecosystems (forests, wetlands, mangroves etc).

In our initial efforts to engage the urban consumers we wish to inform the Indian public about policies of food companies with regard to environmental sustainability and food quality. I am sure that you will agree that both your company's products and its reach, make you accountable to your customers.

We intend to make public the statements and commitments by individual agro- food companies once we receive them. This will be sent to all our supporters across India and will also be made available for the larger public through other media. In order to faithfully translate efforts that your company may have undertaken to provide

consumers with environmentally sustainable food/ farming practices and efforts to maintain international quality standards, we would like to be informed about your policy in these matters.

1. Your company's policy/ stand on Genetically Modified seeds and use of GM ingredients in Processed food products
2. Your company's policy/ stand on providing safe food free of pesticide residues and adopting organic fertilisers instead of inorganic fertilisers in the agricultural procurement for your food products.
3. Your company's policy/ initiatives taken on procurement of organic foods or foods produced by Non Pesticide Management or "NPM"
4. Any other relevant policy and processes that are adopted in relation to reducing the Environmental impact of food production and in providing healthy food to the Consumer.

We would appreciate a response on this before August 1st, 2009 at the latest.

Greenpeace believes that it will go a long way in demonstrating your commitment to people who value the most your customers. If you do require more time to finalise your policy, please to intimate us before July 20th, 2009. The urgency for us to respond to the growing environmental crisis mandates a response from you at the earliest.

Thank you and Regards,  
Jai Krishna R.  
Campaigner Sustainable Agriculture  
Greenpeace India



Greenpeace is an independent global campaigning organization that acts to change attitudes and behavior, to protect and conserve the environment and to promote peace.