



8 September, 2006

No! GMO Campaign

www.no-gmo.org

GMO Opposition Week in November 2006

Featuring the Second Conference on GMO Free Zones

Background

*In 1996, the Japanese government approved the commercialization of GM crops for the first time. In the same year, the No! GMO Campaign was launched.

*The GMO Free Zone Campaign has been spreading nationwide since 2005. At the moment, Japanese farmers have declared over 5,000 ha of their land "GMO Free".

*In March 2006, the first National Conference on the GMO Free Zones was held in Takashima City, a rice farming area in Shiga Prefecture.

*From 2000 to 2003, the Codex (WHO/FAO joint committee on food standards) Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Food Derived from Biotechnology was held in Chiba and Yokohama (Japan) to lay down guidelines for the conduct of food safety assessment of foods derived from genetically engineered plants and micro organisms.

The second round of the Task Force started in 2005, and it has launched a discussion on creating a guideline for genetically modified animals, including fish. The Task Force meets once a year, and this year, the 6th session of the task force is going to be held from 27 November to 1 December in Chiba City. This round is supposed to continue until 2008.

Tentative Schedule of the GMO Opposition Week

1) 26 Nov. (Sun)

13.45.16.15 **2nd National Conference on GMO Free Zones**

Panel Discussion: speakers from Korea and all over Japan

GMO-free zones 2006 - an overview: presentations by farmers, consumers, and fishermen

Video messages from around the world: Greetings from GMO free zones in Europe, Canada, the United States, and many other places!

17.00.18.30 **Reception**

2) 27 Nov. (Mon)

9.00.12.00 Field Trips to GMO Free Zones: Farms (optional)

9.00.10.00 Protest at the entrance of the venue of the Codex Task Force (Makuhari Messe, Chiba) :

giving handouts to the participants

10.30.11.30 Study Session about the Codex Task Force

12.30.13.30 March (during the lunch break of the Codex Task Force)

14.00.17.00 Field Trips to GMO Free Zones: the ocean (optional)

3) 27 Nov.-1 Dec. the 6th Session of the Codex Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Food Derived from Biotechnology

4) 2 Dec. (Sat) 13: 00~ 17: 00

*Briefings on the outcomes of the 6th Session of the Codex Task Force on Food Derived from Biotechnology

*Concurrently, the 10th Anniversary of the No! GMO Campaign

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