

STATE OF GM CROPS IN CATALONIA

- The **Catalan** Government is directly responsible for Catalonia being, along with Aragon, **the European region with the greatest surface of GM maize (MON 810) being grown**. Specifically, around 17.000 hectares (1 hectare = 2471 acres) in 2005, from the total 50.000 hectares in Spain. After the Romanian Government has recently banned GM soja RoundUp Ready (prohibition which will enter into force in 2007), Spain becomes the only European country to allow big-scale commercial growing of GM varieties.
- It is also responsible for the total lack of control and monitoring plans -an indispensable condition for the release of GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms) to the environment, according to the European legislation-.
- The Catalan Government and the Department of Agriculture are responsible for both hiding and denying a series of **GM contamination cases** that have been taking place in Spain since 2001. So, even though the lack of means and resources of independent organisations and the obstacles interposed by the Administration, during 2005 it was possible to confirm nine new contamination cases in Catalonia and Aragon (revealed in the study "The impossible Coexistence" made by Assemblea Pagesa, Plataforma Transgènics Fora! and Greenpeace, 2006). These contamination cases prove that **coexistence between transgenic, conventional and organic agriculture is productively, socially and ecologically impossible. The existence of GM crops in a region attempts against the existence of any other type of agriculture.**
- The Department of Agriculture (DARP) and the "left-wing" Catalan Government threaten, since beginnings of 2005, with the approval of a **Decree regulating the Coexistence between transgenic, conventional and organic crops**, which represents the death sentence for organic agriculture; it has the political objective to legalise the **imposition of GM agriculture** in Catalonia, its wild expansion, and the spread of GM contamination.
- While more and more studies, from all around the world, reveal the alarming consequences for the environment, health and the whole society - intrinsic to the agronomic application of genetic engineering-, the Catalan Government systematically refuses the reports elaborated by independent scientists and research centres that question the benignity of GM crops and show the potential dangers associated to this technology.
- **In accordance with what has been exposed, Plataforma Transgènics Fora! (Anti GMO Platform) and Assemblea Pagesa (Farmer's Assembly), along with other groups, demand:**
- The declaration of GMO-free Catalonia (like other 80 regions have already done), in order to guarantee the producers' and consumers' right to choose real GMO-free food and agriculture.
- In these conditions of absolute lack of monitoring and control of GM crops, we demand that the Catalan Government assumes its **responsibility** and, making use of its powers, that it impedes the distribution, sale and sowing of GM seeds in Catalonia from now on. We also demand an answer in relation to the many GM contamination cases that have been made public, both in conventional and certified organic production. Also, that it complies with the European legislation about deliberate release of GMOs and labelling regulations.
- The definite **withdrawal of the Coexistence Decree** draft, thus it legalises the spread of genetic contamination and therefore, the disappearance of organic agriculture.
- That the Catalan Government joins the petition for a 10 years moratorium on all kinds of GM crops and trials, which has been elaborated by different groups and European regional administrations, and will be submitted to the European Parliament.
- The end of the criminalisation and judicial and political persecution of the civil Catalan opposition movement to GMOs; and the immediate withdrawal of the charges interposed against Albert Ferré and Josep Pàmies.

For a GMO-Free World

Plataforma Transgènics Fora! and Assemblea Pagesa de Catalunya