

“Science in Society”, Christian Vélot, November 2006

Video Duration : 5:09

*As a microbiologist working in fundamental research, I use and I construct GMO every day, every week with my students and in my laboratory, and because of this, I know how it is irresponsible to introduce GMO in the environment and also in the food chain.*

*Especially, we do not master the consequences of a genetic modification on the overall metabolism of an organism – a plant, for instance – and the consequences in the food chain, and we do not master neither the consequences of the genetic modification on the interaction of a plant with its environment.*

*Very often, people who fight against the introduction of GMO in the environment and in the food chain are considered as people who are against science, who are against the progress. I think this is totally wrong, because the process which consists of introducing GMO in the food chain and in the environment is not a scientific process and is not a democratic process.*

*This is not a scientific process because when a researcher is confronted with a research project, whatever this project is, he has to consider all the strategies to solve the scientific problem. In agriculture, of course, GMO technology is one of this strategy, but it's not the only one. There is a lot of other strategies, and for each one of these strategies, the researcher has to consider the feasibility, the risks, and to confront them. If the risks are too big, or if the risks are not mastered at all, as usually the case with GMO technology in agriculture, he has to ask the following question: is it possible to obtain the same results without taking these risks and actually, in the scientific process with GMO in agriculture, it's not the case at all.*

*It's not democratic, because if we want to consider the other strategies, the alternatives, we have to interact with the professionals of agriculture when the research problem is an agricultural problem. So, we have to talk with the farmers; we have to talk also with the representatives of the environmental protection, with the representatives of consumers' protection, whereas presently, the GMO technology in agriculture is a topic which is strictly restricted to the science. There is no contact at all with the Society, with the citizens... the citizens are excluded from this choice of society; because the introduction of GMO in agriculture is really a choice of society.*

*The only aim of GMO technology in agriculture is to allow some firms like Monsanto to control the worldwide food, by using patents, or by using GM plants which are sterile. For this reason, the term “biotechnology” which means “technology of life” is not appropriate at all, because GMO technology in agriculture is “technology of death”.*

*So, for all these reasons, I lend my support to all the citizens, all the countries like Japan, all the organizations over the world which fight to preserve their countries from GMO. I'd like to say to Japan: Good luck for your organization for your meeting, and also: good luck for the future of the earth, good luck for the future of our children.*