



Position of the European organic farming movement on GM co-existence

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Our position n GMOs

- oppose the presence of GMOs in organic food
- breaches organic principles for safe, sustainable food: respect for and use of natural biological processes & a precautionary approach regarding safety
- unethical: manipulating life & restricting choice of food
- benefits are only speculative; organic farming has *already* delivered all GM promises: reduced pesticide use higher nutritional

GM contamination - top concern

- organic has a growing global market, higher value, better environmental impact, so a success story, but ...
- avoiding GM is a top issue for organic consumers
- organic success is founded on reputation & trust
- GM contamination destroys choice of organic farmers
- organic farming is costly and products have to be sold at higher price: GM contamination

EU 'Co-existence' policy

- EU-wide measures to control GM contamination

Key issues:

- 1) to what maximum level (the limit of detection, 0.1%, or EU GM labelling threshold, 0.9%)?
- 2) who bears burden, GM sector or non-GM?
- European Commission guidelines advise 0.9% 'target'
- but contamination impacts on organic sector

Summary contamination cases

Crop	Year	Country	Contamination route	Contamination level
Maize	2007	Spain	Cross-pollination	Unspecified
	2005	Spain	Cross-pollination	0.15% - 12.6%
	2005	Spain	Cross-pollination	0.03% - 1.9%
	2004	Spain	Cross-pollination	0.1% - 34%
	2003	Spain	Cross-pollination	0.05%
	2001	USA	Cross-pollination	2% - 5%
	1998	USA	Cross-pollination	Unspecified
Soya	2007	USA	Post-harvest supply chain	20%
	2006	Japan	Unknown	57%
	2005	Korea	Unknown	Unspecified
	2004	UK	Post-harvest supply chain	0.1% - 0.9%
	2005	Brazil	Cross-pollination	Unspecified
	2002	UK	Post-harvest supply chain	0.1% - 0.9%
	Papaya	2005	Hong Kong	Mislabeled seed
2004		Hawaii	Cross-pollination	5% - 50%
Oilseed Rape	2002 +	Canada	Cross-pollination	Up to 100%

1. Cases around the world

In Canada, Saskatchewan:

- 73% of oilseed rape is GM, causing general GM contamination of seed
- organic farmers abandon crop, worth C\$millions
- class action launched, negative judgement May 2005
- appeal heard in highest court, awaiting outcome

2. Cases around the world

In Spain (mainly Aragon and Catalonia):

- only EU country with widespread GM production
- contamination reported in 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007
- contamination by GM 'events' Bt174 and Mon810
- contamination level: 50% of samples, 0.03% to 34%
- crops sold at lower non-organic/GM price (eg. costing 4000 euros), organic certification

3. Cases around the world

In UK, Japan, Korea:

- contamination found in soya-based food in super-markets, health food shops, baby foods & feed-mills
- level: 57% of tofu in Japan, 5 of 9 samples (56%) of organic soya foods in UK (0.1 to 0.9%)
- tests done by Soil Association, Korean authorities, Japanese “No GMO campaign” and GM advocate

Loss of organic certification of soya food

4. Cases around the world

In Hawaii,

- GM papaya trees grown since 1998
- contamination level: over half of seed from organic farms in Big Island; 5% of organic papaya on Oahu
- organic farmers now receiving a third of price
- destruction of Hawaii's papaya industry: export markets lost, papaya production area now 30% less

Prices for organic crops reduced; loss of export

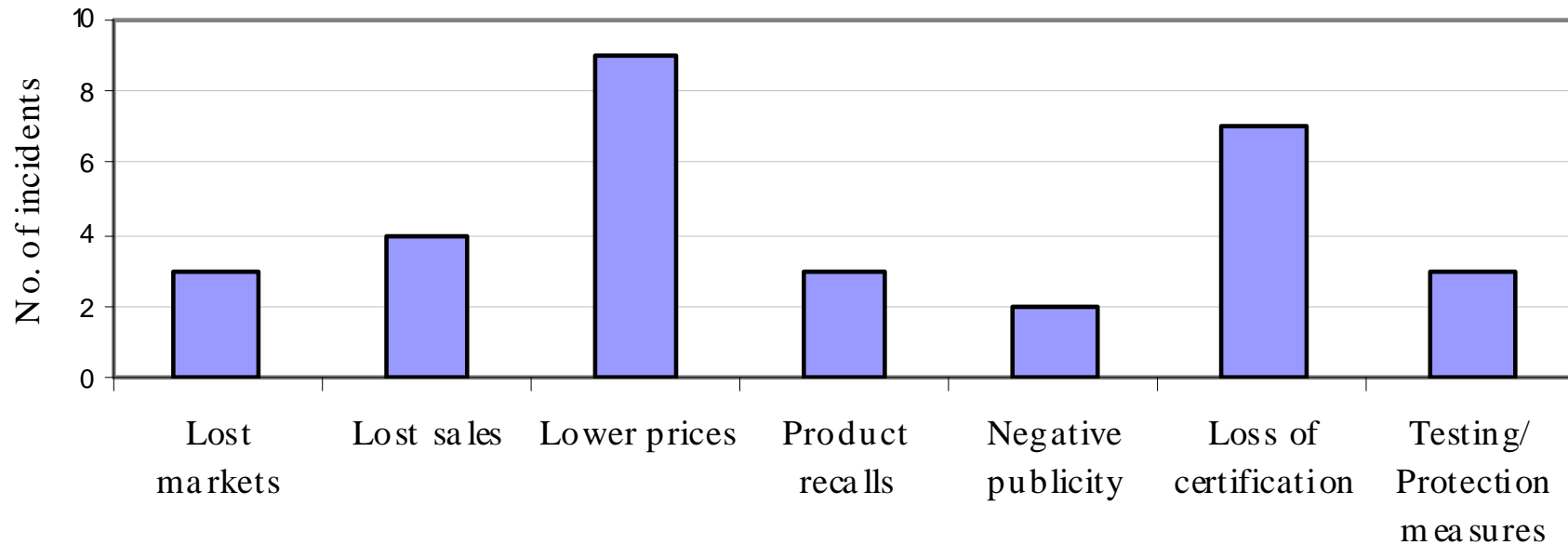
GM contamination impacts

What are the impacts? Cases around the world show:

- restricted access to clean seed
- loss of organic market premium
- loss of whole markets
- inability to grow certain crops
- loss of reputation and trust in organic food/brand
- testing programmes costs
- product recalls
- loss of locally bred seed varieties
- legal costs

Summary impacts of contamination

Economic consequences of GM contamination incidents



Our position on 'co-existence'

- GM contamination is already cause widespread practical, economic and legal problems
- 0.9% GM does not equal non-GM or no impacts!
- GM contamination must be kept below 0.1%
- the problem is caused by the GM sector & approval of GMOs, for gain by GM sector, so the burden must not be on the organic sector

Our recommendations

- Ideally, a prohibition on GMOs in agriculture, or ...
- 0.1% maximum level for routine GM contamination

To be applied by:

- legal 0.1% threshold for **all** seed
- mandatory EU-wide controls for all GM operators with 0.1% (not 0.9%) maximum target (eg. for protecting organic & other non-GM crop production in the field)

Our recommendations

- eg. notification of organic farmers in zone around GM crops corresponding to 0.1%, not 0.9%
- IP schemes by the industry to support development of non-GM market (eg. to protect seed & feed)
- strict liability and compensation for damages incidents of GM contamination for non-GM farmers, applying for all cases above 0.1% (not 0.9%) and also comprehensive (eg. include testing costs)