



BFA Press Release 2nd July 2008

Dr Maarten Stapper presents on GM Friday 11th July 2008, Bardon, Brisbane

The need for vital answers to a looming world food crisis is giving the limelight to new agricultural technologies promising higher yields including Genetic Modification (GM).

Among many claims made by GM supporters are that the technology could be used to help reduce famine amongst the world's poorest populations, and could benefit the environment through a lessened reliance on agrochemicals.

But Dr. Stapper, former Senior CSIRO Scientist, says arguments that GM crops can benefit the environment do not take an ecological approach.

Dr. Maarten Stapper has been presenting real facts on GM for the past several years. He will present on biological farming at the BFA Brisbane Roadshow in Bardon on the 11 July 2008 followed by a full presentation on GM Crops from 3:45pm at the same location.

Learn about the issues:

GM is a single gene 'solution' to a problem. "Isolated genes can't fix soils degraded by modern farming – they're simply a tiny part of a highly complex production system" says Dr. Stapper.

Farmers need to focus on regenerating soils with biology. "Emphasis should be on productive and resilient biological-organic agriculture for healthy soils, the production of mineral rich food and a regenerated landscape that demonstrates biodiversity and sustainable environments. We should be working out how to get the most out of existing plant, animal and human genes, not working out whether one gene will make a difference".

GM is flawed in an uncontrolled environment. "Studies which return positive data on GM are conducted in controlled laboratory environments with results that can disappear when the genes are put into the real world".

Dr Maarten Stapper GM Seminar:

When? Friday 11th July, 3:45pm – 4:45pm

Where? Central Bardon Conference Centre, 390 Simpsons Rd, Bardon (Brisbane)

Cost? GM Seminar: Donation only

Everything you wanted to know about GM:

- What are the secrets of plants? Does one gene make a difference?
- What is the status of current GM promises?
- Can we fix soil problems such as salinity and acidity with GM?
- Why is GM unhealthy for us, our environment and our economy?
- How (not) to design an experiment to prove GM food safety?
- Who directs our research and regulators?
- WHO PROFITS? Farmers? Consumers? Companies?
- Do we really need GM? What are the alternatives?
- How can we get more out of our (plant, animal & human) current genes?

The Brisbane Organic Roadshow: Friday 11th July, 8:30am – 3:30pm at the same location. For further details visit http://www.bfa.com.au/index.asp?Sec_ID=150 or ph. 07 3350 5716.

Links to further information on GM:

Guardian, 16 April 2008; *Change in farming can feed world – report*

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/apr/16/food.biofuels>

Gene Ethics: <http://geneethics.org/actnow/display/2>

BFA: http://www.bfa.com.au/index.asp?Sec_ID=229

The Network of Concerned Farmers: www.non-gm-farmers.com

Greenpeace True Food Guide: www.greenpeace.org.au



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Seeds of Doubt report: www.soilassociation.org

ENDS

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The BFA has a vision for organic industry growth and education in Australia. Watch out for the Organic Industry Market Research Report due for release mid 2008 to see how the industry is achieving its goals! More information is available at http://www.bfa.com.au/index.asp?Sec_ID=260



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