



454 Laurier Est, Montreal H2J 1E7 (Quebec)

April 12, 2007

Honourable Chuck Strahl
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
Sir John Carling Building
930 Carling Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0C5

Dear Mr. Strahl,

Re: Immediate recall of Monsanto maize MON863 after study reveals health risks – reassessment of all authorised GMOs and suspension of the authorisation procedure

We would like to bring to your attention a scientific study confirming that GMOs, authorized by the federal government, pose significant health risks. The study was carried out by Dr. Seralini, from the Committee for Independent Research and Genetic Engineering (CRIIGEN), and published in the scientific journal *Archives of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology* on 13 March 2007. A summary is attached.

Reviewing research data from Monsanto's own tests on *Bt* maize MON863, Dr. Seralini concluded that evidence available to Monsanto, the European Food Safety Authority and to the Canadian government prior to MON863 being authorized was clear: rats fed on MON863 during the 90 days trials showed signs of liver and kidney toxicity and significant variations in growth. These data, however, were disregarded in as the Canadian government unfortunately confirmed in its response to Greenpeace in November 2005¹.

Clearly, Dr. Seralini's recent peer-reviewed publication further undermines the credibility of the GE authorisation system. Greenpeace is deeply worried that other high-risk products have been approved in Canada despite clear evidence of their dangers.

CRIIGEN's findings confirm that government authorization bodies have failed to conduct full environmental and health risk assessments. We are also concerned that Canada has not to date analyzed the long-term effects of GMOs and continues to ignore precautionary scientific opinions voiced, for example, by the 2001 expert panel report of the Royal Society of Canada². Unfortunately, your government is still largely ignoring its 58 recommendations³. Furthermore, it has yet to follow the recommendations of the 2004 report on CFIA published by the Auditor General of Canada⁴.

In light of the above, Greenpeace calls for:

- an immediate and complete recall of GE corn MON863 from the market
- a reassessment of all other authorized GMO products currently on the market based on complete, scientific, social, environmental, and health risk assessments of each.
- an immediate suspension of the current authorization process for GMOs, pending a serious review of the risk assessment and management measures based on recommendations in the 2001 Royal Society report and the 2004 Auditor General's report on the CFIA.
- mandatory labelling of all GE food and feed, not only to give consumers the fundamental right to know, but also to put in place a traceability system to track the source of any contamination.

We believe that a matter of such importance need to be discussed at the highest level, and we urge you to put it on the agenda of the annual meeting of Canadian agriculture ministers in Whistler in June.

We thank you in advance for your timely response.

Yours sincerely,

Éric Darier, Ph.D.
GE campaigner
Greenpeace

Annex: Greenpeace briefing

Cc: François Guimont, President of Canadian Food Inspection Agency, 59 Camelot Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0Y9
Opposition Agriculture critics
Provincial and Territorial Agriculture Ministers.

¹ Response of the Federal Departments and Agencies to Environmental Petition 152 filled by Greenpeace Canada under the Auditor General Act. 18 November 2005 available at :

<http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/domino/petitions.nsf/viewe1.0/D44FA5A66A01C9638525714E007B4554>

Greenpeace's original letter available at :

<http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/domino/petitions.nsf/viewe1.0/305DF40A2D83430D852570DC007E9718>

² Royal Society of Canada, *Elements of Precaution: Recommendations for the Regulation of Food Biotechnology in Canada*, available at: http://www.rsc.ca/index.php?&page_id=119&lang_id=1

³ Peter André, « GM Food Regulation – An Analysis of Efforts to Improve Genetically Modified Food Regulation in Canada », in *Science and Public Policy*, Vol. 33, no 5, June 2006. See attached.

⁴ Chapter 4 of the Annual Report of the Auditor General. Available at:

<http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/domino/reports.nsf/html/20040304ce.html>