

PAN Newsletter Spring 2013

Pesticide Action Network NEWS

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We Win This Round!

Dow's GE Corn Held Off at Least a Year

Compsys to block new GE seed pipeline gaining momentum

Thanks to you and all the PAN members who have signed petitions, donated and spoken to friends countless times over the past year, there will be no 2,4-D-resistant corn planned in 2013. This is very good news for farmers and rural communities. Together, we kept Dow AgroSciences' controversial new genetically engineered (GE) crop out of American fields for another year.

Designed to be used with the herbicide 2,4-D, Dow's new corn product is multi-act specifically a machine of pesticides from hundreds of thousands of Americans: the poor, family farmers, health professionals, sustainable farming advocates and PAN members and allies around the country.

They had planned to roll out 2,4-D-resistant corn for the 2013 planting season. But after 12 months of fierce public opposition, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has still not issued its decision on 2,4-D corn. And without the stamp of USDA approval, there remains unable to market to produce.

What this means is that for at least another year, farmers will not be threatened by the possibility of 2,4-D drifting off GE corn fields and damaging their crops or disturbing their livelihoods. It also means that a health of farmers, farmworkers and rural communities will be safe from the increased risk of the herbicide chemical drifting over their homes, schools and playgrounds.

Dow still pushing hard for approval

Despite this win, Dow is grinding ahead with plans to release its 2,4-D resistant and GE seed package by establishing its new seedling centers in the Midwest and South. The company is also preparing to launch 100 field trials and farm demonstrations plots of its corn. But this is by

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Peru and Poland join countries banning GE

It took pesticides advocacy, spearheaded by a farming community of 6,000 in Cuzco, Peru, to win the 2012 10-year national ban on GE ingredients in food. The farmers were determined to protect their native crops—gone wheat, corn, purple corn and Peru's famous indigenous potatoes—from genetic contamination. As this resolution goes to press, Mexican farmers are staging a hunger strike for the "Plate Mexico." They oppose permits for Monsanto and DuPont GE corn that could contaminate native maize, the world's source of corn genetic diversity.

Meanwhile, Poland welcomed the same year by imposing new bans on GE potatoes and corn, citing potential health harms and threats to the country's dwindling bee population. Poland joins France, Luxembourg, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Ireland, Bulgaria, Switzerland and Greece in blocking cultivation of GE crops at home.

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