

**“Impacts and risks of the overuse of herbicides on
GMO cattle feed”**

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Impacts and risks of the overuse of herbicides on GMO cattle feed

- **focus of presentation**
- two countries: USA and Argentina
- two crops: soy and corn/maize

- **current EU political debate:**
- socio-economic impact assessment of GMOs
- zero tolerance for EU non-approved GMOs



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USA - GM crops and herbicide use I

- **The US grow 50% of all GM crops in the world**
- **81% of GM crops are herbicide tolerant (mainly to glyphosate, active ingredient in Monsanto's Roundup)**
- **Since 2000 – glyphosate resistant weeds in GMO fields**
- **2009: 16 glyphosate resistant weed species**



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USA - GM crops and herbicide use II

- **How to control glyphosate resistant weeds?**
 - **1. application of higher doses of glyphosate**
 - **1994-2006: 150 % increase** in the use of glyphosate on soybeans
 - between 2002 and 2006, glyphosate use on soybeans jumped by **43%**
 - between 2002 and 2005, glyphosate use on corn/maize jumped by **35%**
- **US Department of Agriculture confirms that farmers have begun to apply higher doses of glyphosate**



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USA - GM crops and herbicide use III

- **How to control glyphosate resistant weeds?**
 - **2. use of additional herbicides**
 - the amount of **2,4-D** (a component of Agent Orange) applied to US soybeans **more than doubled** from 2002 to 2006
 - use of **atrazine** (banned in the EU due to links to health and environmental problems) on corn/maize increased by **12%** between 2002 and 2005



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USA - GM crops and herbicide use IV

- **BUT, weed resistance is not leading to a review of HT crops, quite the opposite:**
 - 62% of field trials in the US are for RoundupReady crops
 - RoundupReady Flex cotton (to withstand higher applications of Roundup)
 - All “six gene giants” develop more HT crops: Dicamba, 2,4 D, LibertyLink etc. resistant crops
 - Monsanto, Bayer, BASF, Syngenta, Dow, DuPont/Pioneer = Chemical Companies



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Argentina - GM crops and herbicide use

- in 2008: 18 million hectares of GM soy with
- 200 million litres of glyphosate
- 20 to 25 million litres of 2,4 D (plus other herbicides)

- massive health impacts from intoxication through herbicides: diseases of respiratory tracts, immune system, skin, birth defects, cancer

- April 2009: environmental lawyers have petitioned the Supreme Court in Buenos Aires to impose a six month ban on sale and use of glyphosate

- no decision so far



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GMO cattle feed and current EU political debate I

- 2008/2009 EU **soy meal imports** from
 - USA: 500.000 tons (= 2,3 %)
 - Argentina: 12,2 million tons (= 56 %)
- 2008/2009 EU **soy bean imports** from USA: 2,2 million tons (= 15,8%)



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GMO cattle feed and current EU political debate II

- **socio-economic impact assessment of GMOs**
- EU has to take responsibility for its imported commodities
- health and environmental damages from herbicide use in non EU-countries have to be taken into account
- combination HT crops and herbicide: failed system of agriculture – consequence: no cultivation of HT crops in EU (19 pending applications)

- **zero tolerance for EU non-approved GMOs**
- dropping EU's zero tolerance policy would speed up approvals in South America (esp. in Argentina and Brazil): cultivation of more GM/HT crops



Thank you

GMOs and pesticide use

http://www.foeeurope.org/GMOs/Who_Benefits/FULL_REPORT_FINAL_FEB08.pdf

http://www.foeeurope.org/GMOs/Who_Benefits/QA_FINAL_FEB08.pdf

Who Benefits from GM crops in a food price crisis?

http://www.foeeurope.org/GMOs/Who_Benefits/full_report_2009.pdf

GMO crops in the EU, factsheet 2008

http://www.foeeurope.org/GMOs/Who_Benefits/EU_briefing_2009.pdf

Animal feed price increase and GMOs (« zero tolerance »)

http://www.foeeurope.org/GMOs/animal_feed/Briefing_animal_feed_GMOs_May_2008.pdf

http://www.foeeurope.org/GMOs/ZERO_TOLERANCE_Campaigner_briefing_FINAL.pdf

Pueblos Fumigados

http://www.grr.org.ar/trabajos/Pueblos_Fumigados_GRR_.pdf



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