

Suzuki urges more study on GM foods

By [Karen Briere](#)

Regina bureau

David Suzuki says the world is in such a rush to adopt biotechnology that it has given little thought to the long-term consequences.

Speaking to reporters in Regina, the well-known scientist and broadcaster said he's excited about the possibilities of the revolutionary science, but humans shouldn't be the guinea pigs.

He said people have been eating genetically modified foods for more than five years even though, contrary to industry claims, these foods haven't been studied enough.

Suzuki was in Regina to speak at a fundraiser in support of organic farmers who are suing Monsanto and Bayer CropScience.

"The reality is, when you look at the published literature, there is very little indication of what the health effects of feeding on these foods will be," he said.

"Among those tiny numbers of cases, there are examples that should give us concern.

"Right now, we don't know enough to be able to predict. Anyone that says, 'oh, we know that this is perfectly safe' I say is either unbelievably stupid or deliberately lying."

Suzuki said governments are supposed to be looking out for human health yet they have embraced the infant technology.

"The (Canadian Food Inspection Agency) seems to be a cheerleader for this technology," he said. "They're not doing their job."

Suzuki, who donated his time for the April 25 event, said he supports the lawsuit led by the Saskatchewan Organic Directorate because organic farmers will be put out of business by the kind of farming that biotechnology creates.

"What organic farmers have said is genetically engineered organisms represent a kind of technology we don't want to incorporate into our food growing and I support that."

Suzuki also met with Saskatchewan environment minister David Forbes before delivering his lecture to a supportive audience of about 900 people.

Arnold Taylor of the organic directorate's Organic Agriculture Protection Fund said he wasn't concerned that Suzuki focused on other issues like deforestation and climate change during his speech.

"That was part of the draw," he said. "And we got our message across."

Taylor said one of the criticisms was that organizers didn't charge enough - that Suzuki was worth more than the \$20 admission price.

Taylor added that farmers could wait several more months before receiving the court decision on a class action certification hearing held last fall.

The farmers want compensation for their losses due to GMO contamination of certified organic canola.

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