

Saskatchewan's rural governments call for moratorium on GM wheat

The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) (www.sarm.ca) has again come out strongly against GM wheat. At their Midterm Convention held in Saskatoon, Nov 14-15, 2002, the following resolutions were passed:

Resolution No. 29-02M
RM of Francis No. 127

Placing a Moratorium on Release of GM Cereal Crops

WHEREAS, the ratepayers of the RM of Francis No. 127 feel that GM Wheat could cause major problems with the marketing of both organic and domestic wheat as well as other cereal grain crops;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that SARM petition the Federal Government to place a moratorium on the release of new GM cereal crops until such time as it can be proven that their release and subsequent use will not affect out marketing of cereal grains.
(carried unanimously)

Point of Privilege Resolution No. 10
RM of Grant No. 372

WHEREAS, recent revelations through the media have shown that there are serious concerns about Monsanto's Roundup Ready Wheat Grower Advisory Panel recruiting farmer representatives that are board members of mostly agricultural organisations and they were required to sign confidentiality agreements; and

WHEREAS, SARM was asked by Monsanto to be part of its RR Wheat Growers Advisory Panel, but refused to sign the agreements; and

WHEREAS, SARM has a resolution, P.of P. No. 6, March 2001, vigorously opposing the registration of GMO wheats in Canada and demanding a ban on the introduction of any and all GMO wheats in Canada;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that no member of the Board of Directors or staff of SARM be allowed to be part of any committee directed by Monsanto or other such company involved in developing, promoting and commercializing genetically engineered crops in Saskatchewan.
(adopted, almost unanimously with just a couple votes against, after Marc Loiselle and Nick Postnikoff spoke to the resolution.)

Prior to the 2002 convention, the following resolutions were passed:

SARM 2000 Midterm convention:

Resolution No. 4

BE IT RESOLVED, that SARM investigate and report back to the membership at the SARM annual convention in March 2001, on the impact of any licensing of and

subsequent growing of GMO (genetically modified organisms) wheat in Canada, taking into consideration such things as: the noxious weed aspect due to the resistance to Roundup; and the impact on the sale of all wheat on world markets.

March 2001 SARM 2001 Annual Convention:

Point of Privelege resolution No. 6

WHEREAS, the growing of genetically modified wheats, also known as transgenic wheats, could seriously jeopardize present wheat markets;

WHEREAS, GM wheat may be on the market as soon as 2003 and logistics and segregation systems may not be in place to deal with the introduction of these crops by this time and;

WHEREAS, the growing of GMO wheats could seriously jeopardize present wheat markets;

WHEREAS, testing of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) should be carried out by publicly funded research institutions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that SARM vigorously oppose the registration of GMO wheats in Canada; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Canada ban the introduction of any and all GMO wheats into Canada.
(passed unanimously)

Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities office is at

2075 Hamilton Street
Regina, SK.
S4P 2B1
Phone 306-757-3579
Fax 306-565-2141
Website www.sarm.ca