

Madge Media Release Thursday 17th December 2015

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MADGE is concerned that new forms of plant breeding will escape all regulation and assessment.(1)

"Our food standards body, FSANZ, appears to be allowing risky new types of Genetic Modified food to appear on our plates without any assessment, regulation or monitoring." Said Fran Murrell from MADGE. "We will have no idea how what we eat is being altered and what effects that may have on us or the soils, animals, birds and bees."

"New types of GM breeding such as CRISPR/Cas9 and RNA interference may escape any form of regulation or even a record they are being used. They carry the same risks as the earlier forms of GM crops.

As anyone who uses a computer knows a tiny change in a programme can have catastrophic and unintended results. Yet we have genetic engineers claiming to be able to alter the genetic code, one they haven't written, don't fully understand and don't test, with complete accuracy and no unexpected consequences.

We are tired of our regulators allowing corporations to profit from poorly tested, unneeded and risky technologies. We do not want to be experimented on."

MADGE is calling for:

- These new GM techniques and the products derived from them to be subject to a comprehensive case-by-case risk assessment
- All products derived from new GM techniques to be labelled to protect choice for farmers, food producers and consumers;
- A moratorium on the commercialisation of these new GM techniques until our regulatory system for GMOs is adapted to deal with the potential risks posed by them.

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(1) <http://emergingtech.foe.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/FOE-GM2-Report-A4-interactive.pdf>

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