



Tania Willis

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To mpoon@legco.gov.hk

cc

bcc

Subject Subcommittee on Genetically Modified Organisms (Control of Release) (Exemption) Notice

History:

✉ This message has been forwarded.

Tania Willis

Mui Wo

Lantau

To : Clerk to Subcommittee on Genetically Modified Organisms  
(Control of Release) (Exemption) Notice  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
2/F Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central Hong Kong

Dear Subcommittee

As an environmentalist & a Member of the Lantau Bee-Keeping Association, I would like to ask that you vote NOT to introduce genetically-modified papayas into Hong Kong as cross pollination will eventually contaminate all indigenous & wild papaya species across Hong Kong. It is not possible contain the cross-pollination of GM plants to non-GM plants. As well as the presently unknown effects on our health that comes from eating genetically modified food, bees across the world are already showing the first results of genetic engineering in agriculture & GM plants. These GM plants with their inherent resistance to blight & pests, and the company behind the genetic modification of nature: Monsanto- are the main suspects in Colony Collapse Disorder which has wiped out one third of the global bee population so far.

The cost of losing replacing our natural pollinators with hand pollination would run into billions

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/damian-carrington-blog/2012/apr/11/bees-pesticides-decline-colony-collapse>

China already has to manually pollinate thousands of acres of pear & almond orchards, costing billions & consequently hiking food prices. This is entirely due of the use of GM stains & the associated pesticides.

it is only in these past couple of years that the initial effects of GM monocultures & the use of the associated pesticides is becoming clear. I think it is inevitable in the next few years, that governments will realise that GM agriculture is a dangerous & a counter productive idea. But if, by that time all

non-GM plants have been contaminated with GM plants, it will be too late to reverse the decision. With the evidence coming to light about genetic modification of our food, I think we should be halting the introduction of any new GM strains.

The papaya is a very hardy strain of plant & I fail to understand why we need GM versions.

I ask the committee to take this decision very seriously, you would be taking an irreversible decision that alters nature. The effects of GM could be very far reaching. This is not a small decision

Many Thanks for your time

Yours Sincerely

Tania Willis