

Dear FSANZ,

Thank you for reading this submission. I am concerned about the potential approval for herbicide resistant GM cotton. As a health professional I am concerned with the overall safety of this food for human consumption. I understand FSANZ at this stage does not look to health implications of the whole planet or even the health of the source of the food stuff (!), I'd like to inform FSANZ that health is directly related to how we treat the other (non human) systems here, hence to really understand food health, we must look bigger picture. In your response I ask that you may please point me in the direction of whom to approach to assist change this situation as I fear it is as it stands incomplete and I'm not sure where to turn.

While "No potential public health and safety concerns have been identified" I say it is too early to make that call. Please give it more time. I know FSANZ feel they are working with the best available scientific evidence. I firstly question if that is enough, are we happy enough as a whole society to say we have reached a point where we know enough? Secondly, I emphasise and explain that scientific thinking in isolation of other faculties like philosophy, in this case of earth care and health, does not exist for want of the whole bigger picture. You simply cannot advance science without thinking unscientifically so we need to remember that pure science is one tool, not the only way. It is still too early to tell what problems many people are concerned about but it can be deduced and foreseen via reason.

Just because GM has been approved in the past does not justify future approval. I myself know many people extremely concerned with the risks with GM food and I would like these people to be listened to rather than trodden over. I suggest a form of talking of through where all can be enlightened. This is the way we move as a healthy society. There is no hurry with GM, we can use this as an example of how talking it through liberates all, rather than one party having to lump it. The solution is for all, not just a select few, in this case GM scientists.

I don't feel the need to learn the science behind GM. Please don't hold that against my submission. I don't need to know the science behind it in detail to know that even just the initial steps to be made are not healthy. I fear GE's tend to feel superior and feel that their choice, to be proGM, to be worth more as some can't even understand the science. I'm sure it is not hard and with my education could work it out but I'm not interested as I'm telling you I don't need it to say that this style of agriculture is harmful. This was my first hand experience with Alex Johnson of Melbourne University who admits that it is not a good step for humanity but he feels one that some need to go through. I don't think we need it. I will work my hardest to protect those that will be innocently harmed by this process. And I protect my own right to healthy food. I protect the plants and animals that are abused in the process too. I call for full labeling while we move away from Genetic engineering.

The conclusion 3.4.6 seems to try to say that what we are altering is not altered much. The fact cannot be denied that you are altering something and that this

will have a consequence. Again, it simply cannot be denied that you are altering something here, otherwise there would be no GM.

Now would FSANZ members consider an education in organic farming? You could hire someone to be on board to represent the masses that feel very strongly that GM is not wanted. Without this, I fear you are hiring people to promote their own interests, which seem by the wording of the call for submissions even, to be advocating GM. That it was considered safe (Mark Booth) was one of the few things said on the call.

"The host organism *Gossypium hirsutum* L. is the most highly cultivated cotton species, and currently accounts for 90% of global cotton production" My concern here is that we are producing too many mono-varieties of crops. The earth was once diverse. It sustained life in a much healthier way by being so. Food allergies and intolerances, a huge array of diet related illnesses and other health problems are in my health professional view directly related to the form of agriculture that GM uses, that of monocrops; pesticide use; and the thought to feed more. We as a species have squeezed out much of the other life that once flourished here. FSANZ must look to what our food choices are doing to the whole planet, not just the mouth it goes into.

I'm questioning the motives behind the push for GM approval. I find the motives to be for human gain only. I warn that to manipulate a plant in such an extreme way for the wrong motives will result in problems in the future.

Herbicides work against nature. Sometimes for some nature gives you something you don't want. This is a very sad situation, as some of us feel fully supported by the earth. I guess that comes from respecting her and looking after her. You are then in turn looked after. I wish I could give others that gift but I know it needs cultivation. In the process I understand there are problems. GM is one of them. Let's deal with it in the light that it is a poison and has no (or at most very minimal) place in a cultured society, here.

The roots of cotton cultivation caused misery to many. I suggest a way forward that leaves everyone happy. I fear with this extension of the problems with cotton that we are doing nothing to undo that harm already caused. Quite simply and repetitively, GM is moving in the wrong direction. Please pause, reflect and don't act!

Apologies for the style of this submission, which may be hard to read at times for someone working allopathic/clinically in isolation. I can see from your call for submissions that you are hoping to have the chemistry questioned. I have intentionally written it in this way to give FSANZ a bigger picture view, which I consider essential and timely. I'll leave the heavy science to those who enjoy it.

Thank you for your time,
Dr. Yosefine Deans (Chiro).