

**From:** Tracy Powell  
**Sent:** Thu, 9 Mar 2017 21:46:48 +0000  
**To:** Jay Byrne  
**Subject:** Re: GMO query from unknown individual

Wow! Thanks so much -- all that information seems very much in line with what I gleaned from their question (which centered on whether US food aid includes GMOs, whether those GMOs are capable of reproducing, *etc.*).

My answer would be the same in any case, but it's good to have some sense of the audience.

I appreciate the backup!

Regards,  
Tracy

**Tracy K. Powell, Ph.D.**  
Agricultural Research Advisor  
Bureau for Food Security, Office of Agricultural Research & Policy  
U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
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On Thu, Mar 9, 2017 at 4:03 PM, Jay Byrne <(b)(6)@v-fluence.com> wrote:

Glad to help Tracy – although in this case it might not be much. This stakeholder name hasn't shown up in our monitoring before. A quick review finds this person is a board member with (b)(6). (b)(6) has also posted comments to social media and blog spaces critical of industrial food and food wastes and to WWF (b)(6) on the negative aspects of fish farming. (b)(6) (b)(6) The email address has been used in other public comment purposes on social issues involving recommendations to improve public health services in (b)(6)

I've shared the name and email with our analyst team to see if they have any other ties/connections to make and will let you know. No indication though this is someone representing a specific NGO or influential stakeholder group. (b)(6) tends to be pretty anti-GMO though...

=====

Jay Byrne, president  
v-Fluence Interactive

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**From:** Tracy Powell [mailto:[tpowell@usaid.gov](mailto:tpowell@usaid.gov)]

**Sent:** Thursday, March 9, 2017 2:47 PM

**To:** Jay Byrne <(b)(6)@v-fluence.com>

**Subject:** GMO query from unknown individual

Hi Jay,

Quick question: USAID's "Open Inquiry" department just forwarded me a query from this random global citizen:

Your Name: (b)(6)

Your e-mail Address: (b)(6)@gmail.com

Where do you live? (b)(6)

Subject of Your Message: GMO

Having now attended several of your presentations, it occurred to me to double-check whether there are any red flags regarding organizational affiliation that I should know about before responding.

Google was unhelpful. I tried searching the "Individuals/Stakeholder" database at Bonus Eventus and didn't kick up anything... Anything else I should do before sending a generic response to their inquiry?

Thanks,

Tracy

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**From:** Tracy Powell  
**Sent:** Mon, 9 Jul 2018 17:36:33 +0000  
**To:** Jay Byrne  
**Subject:** Re: Heads up: Research: Journal of Culture and Agriculture publishes claims that GMO development in Ghana is driven by allegedly racist Gates-ian development myths tied to neo-liberal globalization interests in colonizing African resources and usurping

Thank you -- interesting context.

-T

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On Mon, Jul 9, 2018 at 11:54 AM, Jay Byrne <(b)(6)@v-fluence.com> wrote:

This may be of interest as it mentions USAID.

[Research: Journal of Culture and Agriculture publishes claims that GMO development in Ghana is driven by allegedly racist Gates-ian development myths tied to neo-liberal globalization and agribusiness interests in colonizing African resources and usurping food sovereignty](#)

July 9, 2018 **Source:** Journal of Culture and Agriculture  
| **Stakeholder:** Academic **Region:** Africa  
**URL:** <https://anthrosource.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/cuag.12147>

**Original Article: “We are not starving”: Challenging Genetically Modified Seeds and Development in Ghana**

First published: 03 June 2018; <https://doi.org/10.1111/cuag.12147>

By Joeva Rock; Joeva Rock holds a PhD in Anthropology from American University and is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Nutrition and Food Studies Program at New York University (2018–2019). Her research specializes in political ecology, development, and social movements.

*[Analyst note: Joeva Rock also currently represents herself as doing research for the Greenpeace-affiliated NGO Thousand Currents which campaigns for GMO-banning agroecology policies in Africa.]*

=====

Jay Byrne, president

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**From:** Tracy Powell  
**Sent:** Tue, 3 Jul 2018 20:27:53 +0000  
**To:** Jay Byrne  
**Cc:** Shae Johnson  
**Subject:** Re: References re: criminal anti-GMO activities?

Thanks, Jay -- very helpful. I may follow up briefly after the holiday with a couple of follow-up questions, but this gives me plenty of material to work with.

Regards,  
Tracy

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On Tue, Jul 3, 2018 at 2:35 PM, Jay Byrne <(b)(6)@v-fluence.com> wrote:

Tracy about 5 years ago (2013) we did a partial update review of a more comprehensive report we prepared in 2000 on the historical criminal/eco-terrorism acts targeting biotech. Unfortunately, I no longer have that 2000 report spread sheets as we have gone to a very strict document retention policy here because of all the costly FOIA and litigation discovery demands by biotech opponents.

However, the draft 2013 report is attached and has some of the info you're looking for. It would need to be updated, but that wouldn't be too hard (our monitoring archives (b)(4) are archived online back 5+ years and any such acts would be found there). Let me know if you'd like some assistance in culling our database. I don't think we "code" content for eco-terror specifically but it should be easy to search and find those reports. I've copied our biotech team lead (b)(4) in case she has some additional thoughts.

There was a significant drop-off in criminal acts (at for a few years in the U.S., less so elsewhere) after the 2001 9/11 attacks. After a short break (about 3 years) we saw a return of these "direct action" tactics in Asia, Europe and Latin America. We've not yet seen (to my knowledge) eco-terror/criminal vandalism in Africa – but I will check. A few years ago (2013 mainly in Oregon if I recall) we saw a return to criminal property destruction and have been seeing signs that we're likely to see more of this back in the U.S. in the future. Most recently I'd say the most aggressive criminal acts are happening in Latin America, followed by Europe and

then Asia (but not as much in Asia since the widespread condemnation of the Golden Rice field trial destruction in 2013).

I did find this 2013 memo referencing some of the highlights of that research following an eco-terror attack on Syngenta crops in Oregon:

Fueled by a recent onslaught of mainstream disinformation and fear mongering about plant biotechnology, extremists engaged in acts of eco-terrorism are back. After a 10 year hiatus in the United States we are seeing a return to criminal acts of vandalism against GMO research field trials that the Federal Bureau of Investigation calls economic sabotage. On two nights this June separate controlled research field trials of genetically modified sugar beets were destroyed in Oregon. By all reasonable definitions these felonious acts are terrorism which historically have been linked to cells of extreme environmental and animal rights activists with names like Earth First!, Animal Liberation and Earth Liberation Front (ELF).

Dating back to the late 1990's and through the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, eco-terror acts targeting research into genetically modified plants had become all too common for agricultural researchers. The research field trial destruction tactic was started by Greenpeace USA destroying an Iowa research crop in 1996 but was greeted at the time with such resounding public revulsion it was tabled and the activist group focused their efforts on creating a public relations atmosphere of distrust around GMOs. Then between 1999 and 2002 Greenpeace in Europe and groups like Earth Liberation Front in the United States, calling themselves 'elves' or 'midnight gardeners', took credit for more than 100 "decontaminations" destroying groves of modified trees, trashing fields and greenhouses with biotech crops, and setting off explosive devices to burn down crop scientists' laboratories and offices.

These extremists planted pipe bombs, sent razor-blade booby trapped packages and physically assaulted scientists at public events. By 2001 the FBI was characterizing them as the nation's most active domestic terrorist group. One such ELF member remains at large and on the FBI's most wanted list today. Following the 9-11 foreign terrorist attacks, these radical domestic acts of violence targeting agriculture slowed in the United States as public tolerance for these crimes hit an all-time low. The attacks, however, albeit at a diminished rate continued overseas with the support of groups like Greenpeace.

Today these extreme activists are returning to the U.S. and operate under the justification and cover of unrelenting false and misleading attacks on the safety of food from biotech

crops. These attacks are regularly amplified by the mainstream media and marketing by organic and natural product companies which benefit from these food scares.

When interviewed about increasing eco-terror acts in 2000, one of the key leaders of the anti-biotechnology movement Andrew Kimbrell declined to condemn the acts instead telling CBS news that we were in a “food war” and that he was “very concerned that these genetically engineered foods could create toxic effects in consumers, could create some very serious allergenic effects for people who are allergic to a variety of different kinds of foods, could lower the nutrition in our foods...”

Today Mr. Kimbrell and activist allies like Michael Hansen, Vandana Shiva and Doug Gurian-Sherman are found giving television interviews weekly still touting claims that GMOs are linked to cancer, autism, impotence, birth defects and other diseases. All of these claims are roundly refuted and thoroughly debunked by the independent academic experts and medical community, but that doesn't stop them constantly repeating the claims for the headline hungry media undermining decades of peer reviewed research proving these foods are as safe, or in fact, safer than their organic counterparts.

These anti-GMO campaigns are now openly funded and trumpeted by mainstream organic food marketers like Gary Hirshberg of Stonyfield Organic and alternative health and supplement hucksters Joe Mercola and Mike Adams. All fear profiteers who benefit from increased consumer mistrust in conventional products. Adding fuel to this fire are mainstream media outlets which are too quick to report without investigation these claims and to stir the social media pot promoting links and photos on Twitter to headline grabbing images of tumor laden rats claiming health risks to humans from GMOs.

But like in 2000, none of these commercial or media sources - not Columnist Mark Bittman or Organic CEO Gary Hirshfeld – have voiced a peep of condemnation for the return of eco-terrorism to agricultural research. In fact, none of the oft-mischaracterized as reasonable activist groups like Kimbrell's Center for Food Safety, Gurian-Sherman's Union of Concern Scientists or Hansen's Consumers Union have uttered a word about the crimes done in the name of saving humanity from the dangers of GMOs promoted by fear profiteers. In fact, all can still be found giving interviews touting thoroughly dismissed claims of human safety from GMOs.

One anti-GMO advocacy group memo guiding the eco-terrorist acts helps sheds light on their tactics noting, “Zero in on private companies and universities rather than small farmers, because they are less sympathetic victims.” As such, the recent attack on a



company's research fields need not evoke any condemnation or even surprise from those who otherwise post, tweet and blog about every possible negative claim thrown at the agricultural biotech product producers and farmers who use these products.

The result is an environment which sparks extremists to act and get applause from the Facebook and Twitter followers of the GMO "right to know" activists and organic marketers. Within hours of the FBI news release, GMO labeling and organic advocacy groups were posting info graphics touting the terrorists' eco-sabotage. Adding insult to injury, the followers of these fear mongering campaigns – people who profess to be mainstream, non-radical, simple and reasonable supporters of a "right to know" piled on "likes" and supportive comments in the thousands to the news that GMO research had been destroyed.

More than 1,000 Twitter accounts posted links to news and advocacy reports on the Syngenta Oregon GMO field trial vandalism. Sources trumpeting the announced eco-terrorism were diverse, but the majority of "tweets" came from alternative health, organic, GMO-free, Right to Know (labeling), general anti-biotech and anti-corporate sources. More than 100 Facebook pages with combined 1 million followers/friends, posted info-graphics and article links, which were then shared by more 5,000 followers to their networks, generating more than 2,500 combined comments. The posts came from anti-corporate "Occupy movement" members, environmental group supporters, GMO-Free, GMO Right to Know labeling, organic farming, alternative health and anti-government conspiracy sources.

GMO-Free USA, Mom's Against Monsanto, the Farmers Pal organic cooperative, and Green Med Info nutraceutical sales Facebook sites all shared graphic images touting the "eco-tage" and reports suggesting their support for the eco-terror field trial destruction. These posts prompted thousands of comments ranging from "I hope they all get destroyed" and "GMO s are the real crime against humanity" to "Two fields down how many millions of fields left?" and "Burn them all!!!" One of the "Mom's against Monsanto," Michelle Donaldson, posted, "Great job. I hope this turns into a trend."

I hope this helps with your project. Sorry I no longer have the spread sheets with all the details.

Regards,

Jay

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**From:** Tracy Powell [mailto:[tpowell@usaid.gov](mailto:tpowell@usaid.gov)]

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 3, 2018 11:32 AM

**To:** Jay Byrne <(b)(6)@v-fluence.com>  
**Subject:** References re: criminal anti-GMO activities?

Hi Jay,

I'm putting together a shortlist of key references demonstrating a well-established, global history of:

1. Criminal destruction of field trials involving (or believed to involve) GE organisms.
2. Criminal threats, intimidation, harassment, and violence against individuals publicly engaged in activities involving GE organisms.

I've ID'd a few good sources so far, but given your work archiving these sorts of events and resources, I figured you might have some key references handy. Do you have a few minutes to touch base over the next week or so?

If you have any suggestions, just let me know whether/when/where I might be able to reach you (or feel free to respond by e-mail; whichever is most efficient).

Thanks in advance, and enjoy your July 4th holiday!

Regards,

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**From:** Jay Byrne  
**Sent:** Tue, 3 Jul 2018 18:35:36 +0000  
**To:** Tracy Powell  
**Cc:** Shae Johnson  
**Subject:** RE: References re: criminal anti-GMO activities?  
**Attachments:** eco-terror-update 2013.docx

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Below is a background memo written in 2000 and following that a more recent April 2013 article in Discover Magazine which talks about ag biotech field trial destruction.

### January 2000 Memo

Background info on anti-biotech vandalism and file (attached) detailing activities:

In the past two years (1998-2000) there have been more than 100 reports of eco-terrorism and anti-biotechnology vandalism aimed at various academic, industry, government, and individual farmer owned locations. The vast majority of these attacks have taken place in the United Kingdom (UK); with the United States coming in second. Activists have claimed related actions in other countries including: India, France, Germany, New Zealand and South Korea. Most media reporting on these other cases of vandalism have been limited to reporting activist claims with little or no local official confirmation. In several cases, vandals also destroyed farmers' or researchers' non-GM crops.

In North America the first reported vandalism took place in **October of 1996 by Greenpeace** in Atlantic, Iowa. These activities were roundly criticized in the media and little U.S. vandalism was reported again until November 1998 and into this year. Following their 1996 actions in the U.S., Greenpeace focused their crop vandalism efforts in Europe punctuated by the 1999 arrest of Greenpeace UK Director Peter Melchett. In the United States, all the various field trial and crop vandalism to date has been to technology that has already been approved by the EPA, USDA and FDA.

Greenpeace's other related vandalism includes hacking into a Monsanto U.K. web site database and stealing an electronic mailing list. Greenpeace then sent unsolicited anti-biotechnology materials to that list. During the January 2000 Montreal Biosafety Protocol meetings an industry representative's laptop computer was stolen and his files and e-mails detailing Industry positions and activities were subsequently circulated throughout the Internet by Greenpeace and other anti-technology groups. The laptop was later returned with all the files erased and anti-biotech messages left on the screen.

Anti-biotechnology activist groups that have supported or promoted vandalism, field trial destruction or other property destruction range from the radical **Earth Liberation Front** to the more moderate **Public Citizen** run by Ralph Nader. (At the WTO meetings in Seattle Nader's group hosted an anti-biotech rally with French radical activist **Jose Bove** in front of a McDonalds resulting in a small riot, smashed windows, vandalized buses, spray-painted police cars and fires set. This was the start of a week's worth of violence in Seattle resulting in tens of millions of dollars in property damage and lost business).

Recently, the more radical **Earth Liberation Front** (also affiliated with the **Animal Liberation Front**) has taken credit for an increasing number of attacks in North America. Given the strong animal rights movement in the U.K. and the geographical link of animal-rights activists activities to anti-biotech activist activities in the U.S., it is likely that these anti-biotech attacks are being led by the same people involved in very violent animal-rights terrorism. The ALF, for example, is known for having recently sent dozens of razor-blade rigged letters to scientists involved in primate research and for sending package and pipe bombs to other researchers and their related facilities.

In addition, the anti-biotech movement has recently become more co-opted by various anarchist groups pushing extreme actions against corporations and private property -- as witnessed in Seattle. This past summer, anti-biotech activists participated in training sponsored by **The Ruckus Society** <http://www.ruckus.org> in preparation for planned actions around the Seattle, Washington WTO talks. Also, anarchist groups in Oregon, Washington State, California, Washington, DC, and Canada are increasingly participating in anti-biotech activities on the Internet and linking their traditional protest events (May Day, N-30 and other days of action) with the anti-biotech movement. These groups have published guide books on how to destroy property, be uncooperative if arrested, and other actions that have circulated on the Internet. Their activities have been promoted and supported by mainstream organizations like **Public Citizen** and The Institute for Agriculture Trade Policy (IATP). (Note: During this time period, an IATP project shared PO Box in Chicago with the radical Earth First!

revealing more direct connections between allegedly moderate ag policy NGOs and the informal aggressive "direct action" groups.)

In Europe (**Friends of the Earth**) and in the U.S. (The **Environmental Defense Fund**) some environmental groups have actually criticized Greenpeace and other extreme activists for their acts of vandalism and property destruction. However, other environmental and consumer action groups have not yet commented on these actions. Several pro-biotech farmer and consumer groups have sent letters to organizations such as Ralph Nader's Public Citizen asking that they not support these radical groups and publicly denounce their activities. Nader and the other groups have never responded to these requests.

Publicizing (promoting) this vandalism are several "front organizations." In the summer of 1999, Jeffrey Tufenkian, a natural and organic products company consultant, began to provide a free "cloaked" media services called "**Genetix Alert**" to vandals to help promote their activities with the press. He works for Towards Freedom and runs an advertising, media and consulting firm which includes clients such as Caeran Natural Products <http://www.towardsfreedom.com> and is linked to the **Direct Action Media Network (DAMN)** and **Bioengineering Action Network (BAN)**, run by a Northwest anarchist group, which also lists press releases from Tufenkian's group on the web at: <http://www.tao.ca/~ban/ar.htm> .

Other anti-biotech groups, including the pro-organic industry International Agriculture and Trade Policy group (IATP) headed by Mark Ritchie, provide Internet listservs ([Biotech\\_Activist@IATP.ORG](mailto:Biotech_Activist@IATP.ORG)) on which press releases and missives from these vandals are circulated. And The Campaign to Label Genetically Engineered Food, run by Craig Winters <<http://www.craigwinters.com>> an organic food and natural product industry representative <<http://www.thecampaign.org>>, which has helped draft anti-biotech labeling legislation sponsored by U.S. Representative Dennis Kucinich, also circulates these messages.

Examples of North American biotech crop vandalism:

(Note, a more complete list of crop vandalism and comments made regarding these activities is attached)

10/96 Atlantic, Iowa. Greenpeace destroyed 3 acres of Asgrow/Monsanto RR soybeans.

11/98 **University of California, Albany, California.** The "California Croppers & Captain Swing" destroyed the "Gill Tract" section of Novartis GM Corn and non GM Corn.

7/99 **University of California, Oxford, California.** "Reclaim the Seeds" destroyed 2 acres of Monsanto GM corn.

7/99 **University of California, Albany, California.** "California Croppers & Captain Swing" destroyed 14 rows of Novartis GM Corn and non GM corn, again at the Gill Tract.

7/99 Lodi, California. The Lodi Loppers and Cropatistas destroyed 1-2 acres of Dekalb (Monsanto) and Seed Tech GM Corn.

8/99 Wells River, Vermont. An unidentified group destroyed 50 rows of corn owned by the Knoxland Dairy. Knoxland grows both Bt and non-GMO corn and was not sure if the crops destroyed were GM or not.

**8/99 University of Maine, Old Town, ME. "Seeds of Resistance" destroyed 1/2 acre of Dekalb (Monsanto) GM Corn at the University of Maine.**

9/99 Goodhue, MN. "Minnesota Bolt Weevils" destroyed an undetermined amount of Novartis GM corn.

9/99 Mankato, MN. "Minnesota Bolt Weevils" destroyed 50 rows (and several vehicles) of Dupont/Pioneer GM corn.

9/99 **University of California, Oxford, California.** "Reclaim the Seeds" destroyed 7 acres of Monsanto GM corn.

**9/99 University of California, Davis, California.** "Reclaim the Seeds" destroyed 1000 corn plants, non of which were GM products.

**09/99 University of California, Davis.** "Reclaim the Seeds" destroyed Non-GM plants and research equipment at the Department of Plant Pathology

10/99 Eau Claire, Wisconsin US Genetix Alert (Jeffrey Tufenkian) announced that a group smashed windows and equipment at a Pioneer Hybrid Facility

**11/99 Saanich, B.C Genetix Alert (Jeffrey Tufenkian)announced that a group destroyed about 1000 NON-GM trees at the Western Forest Saanich Forestry Center**

11/99 Summerland, BC Genetix Alert (Jeffrey Tufenkian) announced that a group destroyed several hundred Fruit Trees at Okanagan Biotechnology, Inc.

11/99 Seattle, WA US Public Citizen & Jose Bove Rally at downtown McDonalds protesting biotechnology at WTO smashed windows, slashed tires on buses, spray painted police cars and set fires in the street

**12/99 Michigan State Univ, Lansing USEarth Liberation Front set fires and cause \$400,000 damage to USAID funded research project**

**01/2000 USDA, Albany, California Reclaim the Seeds (BAN/TAO)destroyed Non-GMO US Wheat hybrids at WRRC**

01/2000 Watsonville, CA Fragaria Freedom Farmers GMO strawberries destroyed at Plant Sciences Inc's

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Regarding this first act of vandalism, the Des Moines Register reported: "The farm sector greeted the event with resounding condemnation. From farm groups and country elevators to the purveyors of the new class of seeds and multinational grain processors, people were angry that the international environmental group had brought its campaign to rural Iowa, destroying a year's worth of crop research by Asgrow Seed Co. scientists."

U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman added, "We obviously always have to make sure that the products are safe and that the research is verified by health data, but time marches on," he said Thursday, during a campaign stop at a Carlisle farm on behalf of Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa. "The fact of the matter is that these crops are safe, and I hate to see bad science get in the way of real progress. ... Good science must prevail in these decisions."

The Omaha World Herald editorialized: Greenpeace claims the moral high ground in its crusades to save the environment. It severely undermines its credibility when it uses a false threat to justify its brand of agricultural terrorism.

Wayne Hoener, a soybean product manager, said from Kalamazoo, Mich., "We would never go into the Greenpeace headquarters and damage their computers and telephones. I'm just shocked that they would go into one of our research plots and destroy a year of research.

**UPDATED NOTES AFTER 2000 MEMO (DOES NOT INCLUDE EX-US ACTIVITIES)**

**Jan-Sep 2010** saw some of the most active and frequent acts of eco-terrorism against biotech crops in the U.S.; however, the 9/11 tragedy resulted in significant curbing of U.S. domestic eco-terrorism acts.

2000-

- It was "a message to those who seek to benefit from the risky endeavor of genetically engineering the food supply," according to the group calling itself Seeds of Resistance. The "message?" **They hacked down a half-acre plot of corn one dark August night with machetes. The crop's offense? The University of Maine-owned Rogers Farm was determining whether a new strain of corn would be protected from herbicides that would kill surrounding weeds.** This would reduce the need for herbicide use, saving farmers money and reducing chemical runoff into water supplies. To have these advantages, it had a specially chosen gene from another plant inserted into it... **So far this year, vandals have struck 14 crop sites in the United States, spanning the country from Maine to Minnesota to California.** And however one feels about biotech crops or biotech in general, the attacks tell us much about biotech opponents.... The American vandals directly acknowledge the inspiration from overseas, especially the U.K., where wrecking crop plots that offend one's sensibilities is commonplace. "Many thanks to our comrades in other countries for the inspiration to join them," declared a communique from **Reclaim the Seeds**, one of the more U.S. active crop- busting groups... On the last day of September, two groups wrecked various crops but also disabled an irrigation system and vandalized three greenhouses. Earlier in the month, the **Bolt Weevils** whacked a Minnesota biotech corn crop and further damaged company vehicles and sheds.... **Greenpeace's U.K.** executive director, **Lord Peter Melchett**, who was arrested for personally "decontaminating" crops, even claims it "is not lawlessness." ... The U.S. crop vandalization group **Future Farmers** has declared, "The people have the right and the responsibility to fight back." "The people," of course, is as defined by these Future Fascists. After **Reclaim the Seeds** ripped up a sugar beet field at the University of California at Davis, it proclaimed "these acts as self- defensive measures on behalf of all beings." (Emphasis added). So now they even speak for birds, bees and bacteria.<ref> Biotech crop killers, By, Michael Fumento, The Washington Times, 12 January 2000</ref>
- The victims numbered about 800 and stood about 4-feet tall. Although they had laid roots only months ago, they represented several generations. But now they're all dead. The perpetrator? **Earth Liberation Front**. The victims? Genetically altered oats plants. **ELF claimed responsibility Friday for breaking into Green Hall on the University of Minnesota St. Paul campus.** After apparently entering with a key, the suspects knocked over a couple of hundred pots, each bearing four plants. On their way out, they glued three locks, then spray painted an outside concrete wall. ... <ref> Earth Liberation Front Destroys Oats at University of Minnesota, by Judith Yates Borger,, Knight Ridder Tribune Business News, 2 February 2000</ref>
- ON New Year's Eve, Catherine Ives spotted fire trucks and police cars streaking toward the central campus of Michigan State University. As she and her husband got closer to the hubbub, she said, "That looks like where we work." The couple had been planning to visit some friends, but they headed instead to MSU's agriculture building. "Is that smoke?" asked Ives. Indeed it

was. Her office was in flames. She would spend the rest of the night at home, calling her staff to tell them they had nowhere to report for work on Monday morning. Three weeks later, in Portland, Ore., Craig Rosebraugh received an anonymous phone call. A member of the Earth Liberation Front was on the line, taking credit for the blaze, which school officials now say did more than \$1 million worth of damage. The saboteurs asked Rosebraugh to publicize a statement for them, as he had done several times before: "ELF struck back at one of the many threats to the natural world," namely, "research concerning genetically engineered sweet potatoes, corn, and other crop vegetables."... The MSU incident wasn't the first time radical greens had engaged in deliberate property destruction; it was merely the latest in a string of attacks aimed at genetics researchers around the country. Since July, underground groups with names like Future Farmers and Reclaim the Seeds have lashed out almost weekly, destroying crop fields from Maine to California. On September 13, in Mankato, Minn., they uprooted corn plants on a test plot run by Pioneer Hi-Bred, an Iowa-based company, and spray-painted "Free the Seed" on a nearby building... One website devoted to "nighttime gardening" offers a how-to manual on crop destruction. It recommends wearing disposable clothes ("cheaply purchased or easily stolen from Wal-Mart") because "a forensic scientist can tell roughly where you've been from the composition of the dirt and soil that you will have picked up on your travels." The website also relays news from the front: "One group reported that a long metal pole pushed across one or two rows of corn (dubbed the 'California Corn Cutter') worked well for quick, convenient, and energy- efficient gardening." *There's even public-relations advice: Zero in on private companies and universities rather than small farmers, because they are less sympathetic victims.* <ref> Enviro -terrorists target farms, National Review, Volume 52, Issue 4; ISSN: 0028-0038, Mar 6, 2000. </ref>

- Using darkness for cover, activists **smashed a window in a Wisconsin warehouse, crawled inside and placed incendiary devices on a propane tank. They set the timers and fled.** That same day, March 13, a group calling itself the Animal Liberation Front boasted that they'd burned the warehouse down - even though they hadn't. The devices had malfunctioned and last week's attack on the refrigerated warehouse containing gourmet dog food had failed. Acting solo or side by side, the ALF and its sister group - the Earth Liberation Front - have claimed credit for a string of costly arson attacks and other acts of sabotage across the country. In their communiques, the so-called eco-terrorists say they're on a crusade to protect animals and the environment. They also say their intentions are nonviolent.... Though their histories are murky, ELF and ALF trace their origins to the late 1970s with the founding of Earth First!, a group energized by Utah anarchist Edward Abbey's novel "The Monkey Wrench Gang."...<ref> CRUSADE OF TERROR ENVIRONMENT: Eco-terrorists who use arson and sabotage to protect animals and habitat label their intentions nonviolent., By AMALIE YOUNG, The Associated Press, The Orange County Register, 26 March 2000</ref>
- They call themselves "elves," but their activities are more like those of the Unabomber than of Santa's little helpers. And if some lawmakers around the country have their way, these radical environmental outlaws will be treated like the Mafia - as racketeers.... ...<ref> Concerns rise as ecoterrorists expand aim Biotech research and fur farms are the latest targets of fringe groups

on the far left, by Brad Knickerbocker, Christian Science Monitor, 3 April 2000</ref>

- The recent tactics of a few self-appointed protectors of the food chain endanger public sympathy for their causes. Members of GenetiX Alert **destroyed 300 grapevines, valued between \$1,000 and \$1,400 last weekend.** This follows recent arson attacks by the Animal Liberation Front on an egg farm, a poultry plant and slaughterhouse ... <ref> FOOD TERRORISTS, The Press Democrat Santa Rosa, CA, 15 April 2000</ref>
- The **elves** were just catching their breath. A week later, they torched Michigan State University's agricultural research department, destroying years of work on genetically engineered crops. Then they burned down a house in a new Indiana housing tract that purportedly threatened a local water supply. More recently, the **ELF** claimed responsibility for **vandalism at the University of Minnesota, where 800 genetically engineered oat plants were overturned.** Then they sabotaged construction vehicles - 'large yellow machines of death,' in ELF parlance - and sifted salt into piles of dry cement destined for a controversial highway project in Minneapolis. They have left no fingerprints, no identifiable tire tracks, no shoe prints likely to match anyone's feet. The gasoline mixture they use cannot be identified. **Pipe-bomb components have been traced to the stores where they were purchased,** but no one can remember who bought them.... This is the new face of radical environmentalism, which has moved beyond the simple monkey-wrenching and tree-spiking techniques of the timber wars of the 1990s. By adopting tactics from the Animal Liberation Front, known for its clandestine releases of research animals and fur-farm minks, the **ELF's intent is to inflict as much financial harm as possible on corporations whose interests are seen at odds with the environment....** Dave Foreman, co-founder of Earth First and author of the 1993 book 'Ecodefense: A Field Guide to Monkeywrenching.' Foreman has since given up radical activism to become ELF head of a mainstream group dedicated to wilderness expansion.... **Dealing with ELF and ALF activists is 'no different than dealing with other forms of terrorism,' Assistant U.S. Attorney David Schwendiman said. They work in small cells, without any central, traceable organization. Their actions are carefully planned.** They wear shoes that are much larger than their feet. Gloves, masks, hoods. The kinds of devices that leave very few, if any, traces.... <ref>Eco-terror group fights fire with fire, more fire, by Kim Murphy Los Angeles Times, 4 May 2000</ref>
- ... BRAVER: (Voiceover) In this country there has even been eco-terrorism. Underground groups have claimed credit for destroying crops in this field at the University of California and setting a fire at a Michigan State University lab where work is being done on genetically modified foods. Mr. ANDREW KIMBRELL (Center for Food Safety): I think we're seeing here really a classic, very dramatic battle, I mean, **a sort of food wars,** if you will. BRAVER: (Voiceover) Andrew Kimbrell of the Center for Food Safety is one the chief critics of GMOs. Mr. KIMBRELL: **I'm very concerned that these genetically engineered foods could create toxic effects in consumers, could create some very serious allergenic effects for people who are allergic to a variety of different kinds of foods, could lower the nutrition in our foods...** Mr. KIMBRELL: Progress is--is not an automatic, you know, and we have to--I think the jury is certainly out on these foods to--on whether they are actual progress or whether this is just one big experiment that failed.... <ref>Analysis: Food for thought; controversy still swirls around genetically engineered crops,

Charles Osgood & Rita Braver, CBS News Sunday Morning, 9 July 2000.</ref>

- July 18 -- On a police blotter, it might not look like much: **a small cornfield vandalized, a few acres of ears trampled and uprooted. But this was not just any cornfield.** The patch that was damaged here last Thursday was part of a research project at the **Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory**, a field with a distinguished scientific heritage. It was where Dr. Barbara McClintock studied Indian corn in the 1940's to learn about genes -- work that won her a Nobel Prize in 1983. Officials say they believe that the field was attacked for that very reason. The destruction, they said, appears to be the latest of several recent incidents across the country in which experimental crops have been destroyed and research centers vandalized by militant environmentalists who oppose the genetic modification of plants. **Graffiti denouncing genetic engineering were found scrawled near the trampled rows of corn.** More than 30 acts of sabotage against genetic research have been reported in the last year, according to both law enforcement officials trying to combat the practice and radical groups that encourage it. **Vandals have trampled experimental grass fields in Oregon, pruned pinot noir vines and uprooted strawberry fields in California, and hacked down cornfields in Maine...** Officials at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory said that last week's vandalism was not only misguided, but misdirected. **The corn that was trampled was not genetically modified, they said, but rather was the result of natural plant breeding....**This opposition soon led to organized protests and vandalism, first in Europe, where fear of so-called Frankenfoods is more common, and now in the United States, where groups with names like the **Cropatistas**, the **Strawberry Liberation Front**, the **Anarchist Golfing Association** and **Reclaim the Seeds** have claimed responsibility for acts of sabotage.... "We are very aware of these incidents of eco-terrorism, and when they do occur, the F.B.I. considers them to be serious violations of federal law and investigates the matters thoroughly and vigorously," said Steven Berry, a supervisory special agent for the F.B.I. in Washington.... <ref>Wave of 'Eco-Terrorism' Appears to Hit Experimental Cornfield, By MICHAEL COOPER, New York Times, 21 July 2000</ref>
- The radical group known as **Reclaim the Seeds** has once **again taken credit for the destruction of University of California-Davis crops. The group calls its latest attack the "fifth nighttime gardening visit" to UC Davis research fields.** In a communique released through the press office of **Genetix Alert**, the activists said they adorned biohazard suits and gas masks to avoid "contact with the mutant corn's dangerous pollen." The group also claims to possess videotape footage of the attack. The destruction of crops occurred on Aug. 10, but news of the attack was not released until recently for security reasons, according to the communique.... <ref>U. California-Davis: Reclaim the Seeds takes credit again for vandalism on UC-Davis crops, By Roya Aziz, The California Aggie (U. California-Davis), 5 October 2000</ref>

2001 –

- September 7 "Greenpeace activists on Thursday **exposed the location of a crop that is genetically engineered to produce human proteins for drug production... Wearing biohazard suits and marking the field with giant syringes**, the protesters warned that open-air field trials of genetically engineered (GE) pharmaceutical crops pose unacceptable risks to the food supply and the environment." <ref>California Crop Producing Human Protein, Environmental News

Service, 7 September 2001.</ref>

- July 21 "Eco-terrorists threaten biotech companies... eco-sabotage is HybriGene's number-one business challenge... **Last month, a rash of eco- sabotage swept the West Coast, including the destruction of a field of pea plants containing transplanted genes owned by Seminis Inc....** Last summer, eco-terrorists in Maine cut down \$10,000 worth of experimental poplar trees. Also last summer, HybriGene's sister company, Pure Seed Testing in Oregon, suffered \$500,000 worth of turf grass being destroyed by environmental activists.<ref>Turf wars - Eco-terrorists threaten biotech companies -making new types of grass through genetics, by ANDREA L. STAPE, Providence Journal, 12 July 2001.</ref>
- February 14 Earth Liberation Front (ELF)... since 1996 has claimed responsibility for more than \$30 million in "**ecotage**" -- actions supposedly taken to protect the environment... **says a top FBI investigator, who calls ELF the country's "most active domestic terrorism group."** ... Formed in Great Britain in the early 1990s by dissident members of the radical environmental group **Earth First!**, the Earth Liberation Front began operating in the USA about 1996. A year later, ELF formed an alliance with its cousin in militant activism, the **Animal Liberation Front**. ... **Dec. 31, 1999 -- East Lansing, Michigan: Arson at Michigan State University to protest research on genetically engineered crops. Damage: \$400,000; July 21, 2000 -- Rhinelander, Wisconsin: Destruction of thousands of experimental trees as protest against bioengineering. Damage: \$1 million...** <ref>A green crusade erupts in flames Elusive 'Earth Liberation Front' claims responsibility for \$30 million in damage, but law may be closing in, by Tom Kenworthy, USA TODAY, 14 February 2001.</ref>
- More than 40 attacks on genetic engineering alone have been carried out since November 1998**, according to **GenetiX Alert**, an organization that reports the anti-biotech movement's "**direct actions**" to the media. The actions, conducted by clandestine groups with names like "**Reclaim the Seeds**," "**Green Streets**" and the "**Earth Liberation Front**," range from the destruction of genetically engineered crops to the torching of research facilities... **There have been two anti-genetic engineering attacks in Maine. On July 22 last year, eco-saboteurs in Milo cut down 1,500 to 2,000 trees owned by the Mead Corp., claiming the trees were "brewed in the cauldron of biotechnology."** **The company denied the trees were genetically engineered.** In 1999, a group calling itself "**Seeds of Resistance**" destroyed a half-acre of genetically modified corn grown by a University of Maine researcher in Orono. **Nancy Oden**, a Jonesboro activist who is part of a loose-knit group called **Revolution Against Genetic Engineering**, or **RAGE**, says she e- mailed people about the crop, telling them where it was and that it "should not be allowed to mature." Oden views the destruction of the crop as self-defense, not environmental terrorism. "When people feel threatened - when they feel that their very life is threatened and future generations are threatened - then they will do what they need to in their defense," she said. "I wonder if this (law) is going to apply to the chemical industries and the paper companies and the incinerators, which are putting filth into our air and water and food?" <ref>ECOTERRORISM FUELS CALL FOR STIFFER PENALTIES Opponents of a new bill see a threat to free speech, but advocates want to deter activity that they say has crossed a line.



Series: STATE HOUSE 2001, by MEREDITH GOAD, Portland Press Herald (ME), 13 May 2001.</ref>

- **One fire gutted a research laboratory at the University of Washington Center for Urban Horticulture here, while the other destroyed two buildings and several vehicles at a poplar tree nursery in the northwestern corner of Oregon...** Some professors at the horticulture center here in Seattle said they found a particularly unfortunate irony in the damage. Much of the center's research is geared toward protecting or restoring the environment, and the fire may have killed a good portion of one rare species... At that time, a few days before the World Trade Organization protests here, a group calling itself the **Washington Tree Improvement Association** hacked down nearly 200 trees in a nearby nursery.... Scientists involved in the type of work done by Dr. Bradshaw and others here expressed anger today at the fires. "What's really scary is that they're attacking people like Toby and his colleagues doing top notch scientific work," said Dr. Steve Strauss, plant geneticist at Oregon State University, whose own research was vandalized in March. **"I don't call them ecoterrorists anymore. They don't deserve the 'eco.' They're terrorists against science."**... <ref> Fires Believed Set as Protest Against Genetic Engineering, By SAM HOWE VERHOVEK with CAROL KAESUK YOON, New York Times, 23 May 2001.</ref>
- **In the dark corners of recent American history, terrorists have hijacked planes, killed abortion doctors, and planted bombs. Now, they're after crops.** Shadowy, loosely organized bands of eco-terrorists are rooting up plants and setting fire to labs to stop agricultural biotechnology research. **In the past two months, radicals have burned a research lab at the University of Washington, torched a tree nursery in Oregon, and spray-painted a biotech building at the University of Idaho....** Other groups, such as the **Nighttime Gardeners**, have uprooted crops and hosted websites with instructions on how to destroy bioengineered plants in the dark without getting caught. (The site even shows how to throw crime labs off one's trail.) The **ELF** has gained the most notoriety because of its arson attacks. **"We characterize them as an underground criminal organization that uses economic sabotage," says Steven Berry, a spokesman with the FBI's national press office.** So far, the group has claimed responsibility for more than 20 violent acts - mostly arson - causing an estimated \$37 million in damages, he adds. "They've become more active in recent months." .... **On New Year's Eve, 1999, the group launched its first action against biotechnology. It set fire to offices of a global biotech project at Michigan State University in Lansing. That attack, which caused \$400,000 in damage,** served as a wake-up call to researchers. Opposition to biotech had taken a serious turn... The Michigan State fire also caught the attention of Martina McGloughlin, director of the biotechnology program at the University of California at Davis. Dr. McGloughlin has had her own run-ins with eco-terrorists. **They've trampled test plots and vandalized offices at the university half a dozen times. An angry activist hit her with a chocolate pie at a public meeting in San Francisco last year.** But the Michigan fire represented a new level of attack... In 1999, a graduate student at the University of California at Davis had her test plants trampled on and pulled up, even though her research involved natural mutations in corn, not genetic engineering. She lost a year's worth of breeding work.... <ref>Eco-vandals put a match to 'progress', by Laurent Belsie Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor, 5 July 2001.</ref>

- Scientists who work on genetically modified trees have become a target for ecoterrorist groups. **In recent years, more than 50 research projects have been attacked, and at least six groves of experimental trees have been destroyed.** Radical activists say they are responsible for the destruction. The FBI's investigating. No one has been hurt yet, but the researchers whose work has been destroyed say that's no consolation. NPR's John Nielsen reports from Corvallis, Oregon.... Attacks on controversial environmental properties seem to be more common these days. Ask any scientist who works with GM trees. In recent months, GM test plots around the country have been destroyed by activists, and at least one research lab was burned down by arsonists. **Gary Perlstein, a criminologist at Portland State University, says `terrorism' is the right word to use.** Mr. GARY PERLSTEIN (Portland State University): It meets the criteria of what goes into a terrorist attack even though nobody's died yet. Terrorism does not have to have a death. There just has to be the threat of ... NIELSEN:... He says the Internet has also made life easier for the radicals. To prove that point, he looks around on his desk for a paper he just pulled off the Web. Mr. PERLSTEIN: Ah, yes. Here we go. "Setting Fires With Electrical Timers: An Earth Liberation Front Guide," dated May 2001. And this actually says that it is free to copy and distribute the manual. And it contains all sorts of information of how to set up these arson devices. This is sort of a poor man's modern version of "The Anarchist Cookbook" of the '60s... **Mr. PICKERING: Extreme, illegal tactics has been a part of every successful social movement. State-sanctioned, legal means of protest on their own are not going to succeed and have never succeeded by themselves.** Our natural habitats are disappearing, and this is while there's a large, popular environmental movement going on. And the ELF see that as not being successful. They want to actually stop the destruction of the natural environment, and they're taking direct action in order to do that. NIELSEN: Pickering says the ELF has done \$40 million worth of property damage over the last five years, but he wouldn't call them terrorists. Mr. PICKERING: They are a sabotage organization, clearly. They believe in economic sabotage because they think that the Earth is being killed because people are making money off of its killing. So they want to take that profit motive out. They aim not to harm anybody. And in their history, they have not harmed anybody. NIELSEN: The ELF has taken credit for three arson attacks in recent months. Two did not involve genetic engineering, but one destroyed a research lab run by Toby Bradshaw, a scientist at the University of Washington. People who work out in the forest think they know where this is headed.<ref>Profile: Effects of ecoterrorism on researchers working on genetically modified trees, by Bob Edwards, NPR: Morning Edition, 3 July 2001</ref>
- Catherine Ives, director of the Agricultural Biotechnology Support Project at Michigan State University, will leave the next day for Africa. She is involved in efforts to share research there on genetically altered crops, including a strain of sweet potato that would help to feed the poorest people on the planet. A worthy goal. Yet it is a goal that has created angry enemies for Catherine Ives. She has never seen them. Nor has she talked with them. Yet **on New Year's Eve 1999, these people destroyed her life's work by setting fire to her campus office... "I hate to call it an `environmental' group," Catherine says of ELF. She considers herself an**

**environmentalist**, if you define the term as someone who sees herself as a caretaker of the land with the goal of using science to feed the hungry of the world... GMOs are the "most regulated and analyzed food that we've ever put out," she says. As Americans, "we're well fed, well clothed, well housed, so we exaggerate minute risks. People eat beef for a week and think they have mad cow disease." (She herself can't give blood in the United States because she ate beef when she was at the University of Glasgow.)... <ref>RESEARCH RAGE HER WORK WITH GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD DESTROYED BY ARSON, SCIENTIST STILL WONDER'S WHY, by SUZANNE MARTINSON, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 3 June 2001</ref>

- The misguided war on biotechnology is alive and well, as demonstrated **by last week's arson attacks on a botany lab at the University of Washington and a tree farm in northwest Oregon. Firebombs simultaneously gutted the two facilities, causing millions of dollars in damage and destroying years of research** (ironically, much of which was aimed at wetland restoration and endangered species protection). Both acts of "eco-terrorism" are believed to be the work of the **Earth Liberation Front**, a criminal environmental group opposed to genetic engineering. A more popular tactic of biotech opponents, however, is to instill in consumers an irrational fear of biotech products. The result often has been scientifically unsubstantiated regulations designed to burden or obstruct research and development.... <ref> Bombing Biotech; Eco-terrorists strike again, Wall Street Journal, 31 May 2001

## 2002

- As an environmental group claimed responsibility for **a fire at a University of Minnesota research lab and construction site**, the FBI said an anti-terrorism team will investigate. The fire early Saturday in **St. Paul** damaged several pieces of construction equipment, a construction trailer and several research labs in an adjoining building. In a message sent to university officials Wednesday, the **Earth Liberation Front (ELF)** said the fire was set to protest school-sponsored research on genetically modified crops. Activists claiming to represent the **ELF also claimed responsibility for the vandalism of a greenhouse at the university in February 2000 that destroyed experiments on genetically engineered oats**, the FBI said. .... <ref> Earth Liberation Front takes blame for 'U' fire, by Heron Marquez Estrada, Star-Tribune Newspaper of the Twin Cities Mpls.-St. Paul, 31 January 2002
- The **FBI calls the Earth Liberation Front the most dangerous domestic terrorist group in America** --- one the agency **claims is responsible for more than 600 attacks since 1996 and more than \$43 million in property damage**. Many of the ELF's self-described acts of "economic sabotage" have involved spray-painting buildings and uprooting experimental crops. But the group has also carried out high-profile attacks against research facilities engaged in genetic engineering. They include **an \$800,000 fire this year at a University of Minnesota crop genetics laboratory and a \$5.4 million fire last year at a University of Washington horticulture lab**. In claiming responsibility for the fire at Minnesota's new Microbial and Plant Genomics Center, the ELF decried efforts to "exploit and control nature under the guise of progress." The center was funded by the Cargill Corp., a major corporate player in biotechnology and agriculture.... Earth Liberation Front (ELF) ... The group has also claimed credit for the destruction of fields of

genetically modified strawberries and onions at DNA Plant Technology Corp. in southern California and other "**crop choppings**" in Maine, Wisconsin, Oregon and Hawaii. The toll from the attacks is not fully tabulated. But Charles Muscoplat, dean of the University of Minnesota's agricultural college, says in addition to damage from the fire there, the attacks are forcing the university to spend millions more to beef up security... Toby Bradshaw, a University of Washington botanist whose laboratory was firebombed by the ELF last year, has a different view of the group's tactics. **"The Earth Liberation Front is fairly long on rhetoric and fairly short on scientific understanding," he says. "And it's not ecoterrorism any more than the KKK burning a cross is Christian terrorism. It's just plain terrorism."** <ref> WHAT'S COMING TO DINNER?: Earth Liberation Front goes after gene research, by MIKE TONER, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 19 May 2002.

- In August, the Earth Liberation Front **torched a U.S. Forest Service research laboratory in Pennsylvania. The lab was researching sustainable forestry.** The group said it was protesting "proposed timber sales, oil drilling and greed-driven manipulation of nature." Worse, the ELF communique claiming responsibility for the fire declared that segments of this global revolutionary movement are no longer limiting their revolutionary potential by adhering to a flawed, inconsistent "nonviolent" ideology: "Where necessary, we will no longer hesitate to pick up the gun to implement justice."... <ref> ENVIRONMENTALISTS TURN TO TERRORISM, by Dennis Avery, The Columbian, 15 September 2002
- May 21, 2001, was a "rude awakening" for John Wott, professor of urban horticulture at the University of Washington in Seattle. Wott, director of the Washington Park Arboretum, spoke to nearly 100 students and faculty about impacts of ecoterrorism Monday afternoon. **"We woke up to find that a five-gallon can of gasoline with three devices had been exploded in the building, and within an hour or two it was gone," he said. The destroyed building was home to offices and research facilities dedicated to sustainable horticulture, wetland ecology, conservation, and urban forestry. The blaze destroyed thousands of documents and notes, research facilities and plant samples.** "We were doing really great things," Wott said. "We were saving plants. We were reintroducing them into the environment. We were saving wetlands."... Wott said ELF is responsible for \$750 million to \$1 billion in damage. He said there is now physical evidence that other groups, such as People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, have donated money to ELF. <ref> Iowa State U.: U. Washington professor speaks about ecoterrorism, by Sarah Tucker, Iowa State Daily (U-Wire), 7 October 2002
- MINNEAPOLIS (AP) - A radical environmental group claimed responsibility Wednesday for a fire that damaged the construction site of a University of Minnesota research lab. The Earth Liberation Front said in a statement that it burned a trailer and two pieces of heavy machinery at the **construction site of the Microbial and Plant Genomics Research Center on the school's St. Paul campus to protest genetic engineering.** FBI spokesman Paul McCabe said the agency is investigating the Saturday fire. No one was hurt... <ref> Group Claims Responsibility for Fire, By CHRIS WILLIAMS, Associated Press Writer, 30 January 2002</ref>

2003-

- **A growing militant movement opposed to genetic engineering in agriculture and medicine is turning to violent and criminal sabotage** - from the bombing of a Bay Area biotech company to the destruction of genetically modified crops. As a result, targeted companies aren't just taking extra security precautions but also often altering business strategies. **The violence, which the FBI says suddenly became more serious this year, stems in part from frustration that peaceful protests have failed to slow the pace of biotech's progress.** "We've seen a drastic escalation in the use of violent tactics in the past year," said Phil Celestini, head of the FBI's domestic terrorism unit in Washington. A range of militant environmental, economic and animal-rights activist groups have used the Internet to organize around biotechnology, first in Europe and now in the United States. Many fear that the technology will forever harm nature while others object to how animals are treated in drug experiments... The group that claimed responsibility for the blasts, the previously unheard of **Revolutionary Cells**, vowed more bombings to come. Authorities consider the bombings to mark a new chapter in **anti- biotech militance in 2003 that included the vandalism of a Chiron executive's car and the trashing of a biology lab at Louisiana State University last month....** <ref>PROTESTS OVER BIOTECH TAKE VIOLENT TURN, by PAUL ELIAS, AP BIOTECHNOLOGY WRITER (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette), 15 October 2003</ref>

#### 2004-

- Violent rhetoric and tactics by extremist groups have escalated nationally during the past two years, particularly among those associated with animal rights and the environment, federal law-enforcement authorities say. These "ecoterrorists" are being investigated by the FBI's counterterrorism division, which notes the emerging threat of "special-interest extremism" used by such groups as the **Animal Liberation Front (ALF)** and the **Earth Liberation Front (ELF)**. **"Special-interest terrorism differs from traditional right-wing and left-wing terrorism in that extremist special-interest groups seek to resolve specific issues,** rather than effect widespread political change," FBI Deputy Assistant Director for Counterterrorism John E. Lewis said during recent congressional testimony.... The **FBI defines ecoterrorism as criminal violence committed for "environmental-political reasons."** During testimony in May before the Senate, Mr. Lewis said **ALF and ELF have committed more than 1,100 criminal acts since 1976, resulting in damages estimated at \$110 million...** ELF or ALF hit 20 states in 2003 with arsons, bombings, destruction of biotechnology labs, damage to genetically modified food crops and freeing of livestock.... <ref>Escalation of ecoterrorism seen in recent years, by Guy Taylor, THE WASHINGTON TIMES, 8 December 2004.</ref>

NO SIGNIFICANT REPORTS 2004-2012 in U.S. most of the eco-terrorism and vandalism acts during this period were confined to Europe as detailed in Andrew Curry's 2013 report Seeds of Conflict (below) until the recent June 2013 Oregon GMO sugar beet field plot destructions.

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SEEDS OF CONFLICT. (cover story)

Authors: CURRY, ANDREW

Source: Discover. Apr 2013, Vol. 34 Issue 3, p38-46. 9p.

:\*TRANSGENIC plants

\*TRANSGENIC organisms

\*RESEARCH

\*DEMONSTRATIONS (Collective behavior)

\*GENETICALLY modified foods -- Public opinion

\*CROPS -- Genetic engineering -- Law & legislation

Abstract:

The article discusses genetically modified organisms (GMOs), focusing on political and social opposition to genetically modified foods in Europe as of April 2013. Topics include the raiding of farms by activists including the beekeeper Michael Grolm, research concerning the potential adverse health effects of transgenic crops, and the economic impact of transgenic crops for consumers and corporations. The biologist Norman Borlaug's work with wheat strains, innovations from the biologists Marc van Montagu and Jeff Schell, and an anticipated increase in global crop demands is mentioned.

SEEDS OF CONFLICT

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Genetically modified corn and soy dominate U.S. farms, but activist raids have kept Europe GMO-free. The fight over the next Green Revolution has just begun

NOT LONG AFTER MIDNIGHT ON JULY 9, 2011, six men descended on a fenced-in field at bioativ, a research facility in the northern German town of Gross Lusewitz. It was a clear, warm Saturday night, and the 115-acre farm was lit by a half moon.

Moving quickly, the men surrounded the night watchman. Shining their flashlights in his face and threatening him with pepper spray and clubs, they frisked him, took his flashlight and keys, and smashed his cell phone. Then they headed directly for their target, a potato patch the size of a tennis court. Within minutes, the potatoes -- part of a research project run by the nearby University of Rostock to see if rabbit vaccines and plastic polymers could be grown in plants -- had been ripped out of the ground or trampled.

Two nights later, at a farm 100 miles to the south, the scene repeated itself almost exactly. This time, a dozen masked men overpowered two guards at the Üplingen Plant Science Garden, hopped a waist-high wire fence and trashed a plot of genetically modified potatoes, along with part of a nearby stand of transgenic wheat. As police cars sped toward the farm, the raiders melted into the night. "It's

years of lab work and greenhouse work destroyed," says Uwe Schrader, one of the farm's two managers. "There won't be any results."

Both the farm in Gross Lusewitz and the Üplingen fields are paid by multinational seed and chemical companies like Monsanto, BASF, and Syngenta to conduct field trials with genetically modified crops. But instead of targeting corporate greed, these raids signaled something else: The wrecked potato trials, proof-of-concept experiments funded with public money and years away from any commercial application, were sponsored by university biology departments. "They targeted these particular trials to weaken research in Germany," says Kerstin Schmidt, CEO of biovativ.

The irony is thick because techniques used to insert genes from one organism into another were developed in European university labs more than 30 years ago, and the first stabs at commercial cultivation of so-called "transgenic" crops occurred in Europe's fields. Yet genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are now restricted from cultivation in Austria, Hungary, France, Luxembourg, Germany, and Greece. Of the 395 million acres of so-called "biotech" crops planted globally in 2011, 282,911 were in Europe, according to the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications, a pro-GMO nonprofit. That's 0.07 percent of the world's total. American farmers, on the other hand, planted 170 million acres of transgenic crops last year; 93 percent of the soy grown in the U.S. is genetically modified. Brazil and Argentina grow tens of millions of acres of genetically modified cotton, soy, and corn. India is climbing onto the GMO bandwagon as well.

For the labs that started it all, the impact has been devastating. "Scientists develop a trait and have something that works and they're excited about, and they simply can't afford to get the testing through," says Terri Raney, a senior economist at the Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome.

#### THE PUBLIC FACE OF PROTEST

For a hard-core group of protesters combating genetically modified crops through whatever means necessary, that's excellent news. Blue-eyed and burly, beekeeper Michael Grolm is the face of Germany's best-known anti-GMO campaign, a loosely organized network of activists called "Gendreck Weg," or "Gene Trash Gone." Since 2005, Gendreck Weg has organized well-publicized "field liberations" aimed at destroying open-air tests of genetically altered crops.

Drawing on the time-tested tactics of the civil rights movement, Grolm made sure "liberations" were announced months in advance; demonstrators arrived in photogenic convoys of tractors, wearing hazmat suits or beekeeper's hoods. After ripping up plots of genetically altered corn, wheat, or potatoes, they sometimes planted organic varieties, calling it a "corn exchange program."

"We had to go out into the fields and do it in a very public way, so the population wouldn't see us as criminals," Grolm says. "Hundreds of police show up, and it's interesting for the press too."

Activists made a point of sticking around afterward, hoping to be apprehended. Since his first arrest, in 2008, Grolm has spent more than a month in jail, for everything from trespassing and contempt of court to refusing to pay token fines. He's also been served with restraining orders from U.S. agribusiness giant Monsanto, something he was happy to violate. "If they send me to jail again, I'll go in smiling, and come out smiling," he says.

I meet Grolm at Tonndorf Castle, a dilapidated stone fortress on top of a hill near Erfurt, where he lives communally with about 60 other people. A dirt road winds up from a valley full of neatly plowed farm fields to the castle's dry moat. After a lunch of lentil soup, brown rice, and home-pressed apple juice in the castle's communal dining room, I follow the beekeeper-turned-activist to a small gatehouse where he lives with his partner and their son.

As his towheaded, red-cheeked toddler sleeps soundly on the couch next to him, Grolm tells me biotechnology research is nothing more than a stealth effort to wipe out Europe's organic farmers --

and beekeepers like him. "I don't think it's a sincere effort to do science," he says. "Their strategy is to contaminate things here to open the door for GMO agriculture. If I were a scientist that really wanted to study this, what would I do? I'd go to America, where everything's already contaminated."

Grolm accuses labs like biovativ of deliberate sloppiness, saying they intentionally mislabel test plots and allow seeds and pollen from experimental plants to contaminate nearby fields. The beekeeper says he's afraid that once genetically altered plants are set loose on the European environment, there will be no way to call them back. "There's no good gene technology. It's like atomic energy -- once you open the door, you can't close it," he says. "We can't get rid of it once it's out in the world."

I ask Grolm if Gendreck Weg had anything to do with the recent nighttime assaults in Gross Lusewitz and Üplingen. He smiles and leans back on the couch. "That's not our thing, but you can't really control it," he shrugs. "I can only tip my hat to the people who did this and congratulate them. They probably prevented a much greater form of violence by keeping these plants from contaminating humanity's seed stocks."

#### WHO NEEDS ANOTHER GREEN REVOLUTION?

Even though decades of research haven't turned up any conclusive evidence that genetically modified plants pose a health risk, barely a quarter of Europeans are willing to see them become part of the food supply. Many see no need: The continent's population is expected to peak in just 25 years, and dwindle after that.

But Europe is an exception. The world is fast approaching a breaking point. Already at 7 billion, the global population is expected to increase by 2 billion to 3 billion in the next 40 years before leveling off. With much of the world's prime farmland already under the plow, there's not much wiggle room to feed those extra mouths. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations estimates that by 2050, the world will need to produce 70 percent more food, including an additional billion tons of cereals, to keep up with population growth.

We have been here before. In the years after World War II, basic principles of public health and sanitation dramatically extended life expectancy around the world. One consequence was an equally dramatic shortfall in food supplies.

One man had a lot to do with changing that. Beginning in 1944, Iowa-born biologist Norman Borlaug spent nearly 30 years in Mexican fields, crossing different kinds of wheat strains by hand. Using conventional breeding techniques, Borlaug's crucial breakthrough was crossing stubby-stalked dwarf wheat with high-yielding varieties, resulting in a plant that was both extremely productive -- when given ample fertilizer -- and strong enough to hold up under the weight of large clusters of grain.

Borlaug's modifications increased the productivity of Mexican wheat farmers sixfold over traditional varieties. Agronomists went on to breed "semi-dwarf" rice plants using the same principles, fundamentally altering a crop that half the world relied on for daily sustenance. The world went from food shortage to food surplus; meanwhile, its population more than doubled.

Admirers called these breakthroughs the Green Revolution. But not everyone was pleased. The new crop strains were dependent on mechanization, controlled irrigation, and artificial, petroleum-based fertilizers for their astonishing productivity, making it hard for small farmers to compete and dramatically increasing the use of pesticides. In many cases, the hybrid seeds had to be repurchased from seed companies each year, helping to turn a handful of American and European seed breeders into corporate giants.

The excesses of the Green Revolution were decried by activists from the start. "In perceiving nature's limits as constraints on productivity that had to be removed," Indian physicist Vandana Shiva wrote in



1991, "American experts spread ecologically destructive and unsustainable agricultural practices worldwide."

Others have argued that the Green Revolution saved hundreds of millions of people in several nations from starvation as their numbers outstripped food production. In 1970, when Borlaug was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, he suggested that the search for more productive crops was never-ending. "We may be at high tide now, but ebb tide could soon set in if we become complacent and relax our efforts," he said.

## THE NEXT BIG THING

By the 1980s, scientists had declared gene modification the next big thing.

The breakthrough heralding the new age came from Belgium, where Ghent University biologists Marc van Montagu and Jeff Schell were studying a bacterium called *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*. Shaped like a tiny pill, the bacterium lives in the soil and causes infected plants to grow what amount to plant tumors, often called crown galls. The researchers showed that *A. tumefaciens* was altering the genetic code of infected plant cells by lending them genes, causing them to grow out of control. No one wants to give plants tumors. But if two entirely different organisms -- a bacteria and a plant -- could swap genes, then the potential for altering crops directly by gene transfer was vast.

Today, van Montagu runs a small institute out of a paper-strewn office at Ghent University dedicated to producing genetically modified crops for the developing world. A wood statue of Gandhi sits on his desk; high on a bookshelf is a bust of his great-grandfather, a founder of Belgium's Socialist party. As a student in the early 1950s, van Montagu followed in his footsteps, leading Belgium's student socialist movement and taking trips to communist Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Russia. With a lilting Flemish accent, thick glasses and a bucktoothed smile, the 79-year-old has the energy of a much younger man, eagerly reminiscing about his lab's heyday in the 1970s.

Years of research confirmed the team's early hunch. Inside each bacterium were structures called plasmids, free-floating strands of genetic code. The *A. tumefaciens* plasmids broke into the plant cell and penetrated its DNA, inserting up to 25,000 base pairs of its own. The snippet of plasmid DNA altered the cell's behavior, hijacking it and causing uncontrolled growth.

Understanding how the crown gall bacteria altered plant cells without destroying them was a critical breakthrough, one that opened an entirely new set of possibilities. It meant that researchers could take out the plasmid DNA that caused crown galls and replace it with carefully selected bits of genetic code from other organisms. Using the bacteria's hollowed-out plasmids as delivery vehicles, new genes conferring valuable traits could be slipped into a plant's DNA. With enough tinkering, it was theoretically possible to meld the massive size and speedy growth of the African miscanthus grass with, say, drought-tolerant rice.

To test the discovery, van Montagu drew on a popular organic pesticide derived from another bacteria, *Bacillus thuringiensis*, or Bt, which is still sprayed on organic farms today. Bt produces a protein that is deadly to a very narrow category of pests, including the corn borer worm.

Van Montagu first isolated the DNA responsible for producing the bug-killer protein, then spliced it into the genome of *A. tumefaciens*. He used this genetically altered version as a Trojan horse to implant the protein into tobacco plants, which could then manufacture their own pesticides.

In the three decades since van Montagu's breakthrough, transgenic crops have been adopted faster than any technology in the history of agriculture. Between 1996 and 2011, the number of acres planted with genetically modified crops worldwide went from 4 million to 395 million, a 9,000 percent increase in the space of 15 years.

## GMO-FREE ZONE

Yet Europe remains an island of determined opposition. At an experimental greenhouse I visited not far from van Montagu's Ghent University office, growing experimental transgenic rice requires biohazard protocols that seem more appropriate to culturing Ebola. Seedlings are individually bar coded and transported in locked black trunks emblazoned with a biohazard sign. Irrigation water is sterilized using ultraviolet light and trucked to purification stations. Harvested plants are steamed for two hours at over 200 degrees Fahrenheit to make sure there's no chance of a seedling surviving.

That's the way organic farmers want to keep it. Back in Germany, I visit Volker Rottstock, a sturdy, white-haired farmer who greets me at the door of his house wearing a navy T-shirt and blue work pants. His dog, a black and white Munsterlander, is by his side. Rottstock's 400 acres outside Berlin are devoted to potatoes, grain, and grass for his herd of 100 cattle. A sign in German on the barnyard gate reads, "We Work Without Genetic Technology."

On the cracked concrete floor of his barn, the year's linseed crop is spread out in a layer a few inches thick. "When I can, I dry seeds without electricity. I use the sun, the wind," he says, leading me past an ancient East German Trabant car and into an ivy-covered brick farmhouse sporting new solar panels on the roof.

In 2006, word got around that one of Rottstock's neighbors was thinking about planting a dozen acres of transgenic corn. It felt like a direct threat. If transgenic pollen drifted into his organic-certified fields, Rottstock would be unable to sell his potatoes and wheat at the premium that organic food commands. He helped rally locals to pressure his neighbor into calling off the crop and gathered signatures from some 200 area farmers who have pledged to avoid transgenic crops as well.

Gene Trash Gone leader Grolm agrees there's no room for compromise: Europe must be kept biotech-free, he insists, or he and other small organic producers like Rottstock will be wiped out. "These companies keep calling for coexistence, but I call it KO-existence," the beekeeper says. "They just want to knock us out -- it's the biological equivalent of locking a wolf and a sheep in a pen together to see which one survives."

The sheep has managed to prevail. In January 2012, Europe's anti-biotech movement won a significant battle, though not the war. In the wake of the activists' attacks, German chemical giant BASF raised a white flag, announcing it would move most of its field trials out of Europe and halt efforts to develop crops intended for the European market alone.

## POLITICAL PLANT SCIENCE

As transgenic crops have spread around the world without the apocalyptic environmental consequences activists initially foretold, objections to the technology have shifted away from science. When I asked European parliamentarian Martin Häusling, an outspoken anti-GMO activist who owns an organic farm and dairy in central Germany, whether science would ever be able to prove to him transgenic crops were safe, he said I was missing the point. "It's a social question," he told me. "What kind of agriculture do we want?"

"Decision making in this area of Germany is ideology, not science," says Hans-Jörg Jacobsen, a voluble researcher at Leibniz Universität Hannover whose specialty is transgenic legumes. Jacobsen moved his legume experiments to North America last year; he plans to follow when he retires in 2014.

The pall cast over GMO research in Europe is an outcome van Montagu never could have predicted. After his initial discoveries in the early 1980s, the area around Ghent became a biotech boomtown, attracting Monsanto, BASF, and Bayer. In the 1980s and 1990s, everything from genetically modified tobacco and chicory to sugar beets was grown experimentally in fields nearby. Researchers from around the world flocked to his lab, which swelled to over 200 staff members. In 1990, van Montagu was named a baron by the Belgian king.

Seen from the lab bench, it all made sense. To researchers like van Montagu, transgenic plants are controlled, perfected versions of what plants do all the time anyway: tweaking their DNA, switching sections of it off, and amplifying others in a constant quest for the evolutionary edge. "Studies during the past decade have clearly documented that a genome is not a static entity but a dynamic structure continuously refining its gene pool," van Montagu wrote in a recent memoir.

Humans have done their part, too -- it's taken millennia of deliberate interference to shape the crops we grow. Modern corn resembles teosinte, its wild ancestor, the way a teacup Chihuahua resembles a gray wolf. "The agricultural environment in which we produce our food doesn't exist in nature," says Swiss plant ecologist Bernhard Schmid.

But ecologists, in particular, express misgivings about transgenic crops because from their perspective, molecular biologists have a narrow view of how plants work outside the lab. By ignoring the potential that transgenic crops have to crossbreed with wild relatives, they risk imposing a monoculture on the diverse biological world. By encouraging farmers to continue planting just a handful of crop strains, critics say widespread use of a few varieties of GMO crops might limit genetic diversity and thus the ability to survive in altered form when pests or other hazards unexpectedly arrive.

On top of that, critics say, GMO crops have not been proven universally safe, and they must be evaluated one by one. Doug Gurian-Sherman, senior scientist at the Union of Concerned Scientists in Washington, D.C., and a former regulator for the Environmental Protection Agency, likens traditional breeding to rearranging the deck chairs on a familiar ship. "In most cases we're working with varieties where the genes and their products have been consumed for millennia," he says, although even then, dangerous traits can emerge.

Genetic engineering, on the other hand, can introduce genes that have never been in the food supply, with unknown consequences. "Genetic engineering is fundamentally different. It's disingenuous to say this is a new and more precise way to do breeding," Gurian-Sherman says. "I don't think it's as inherently risky as some people say, but I do think the risks are higher."

#### THE TRAIT MILL GRINDS ON

Sitting in the university conference room, looking pale and a little sad under the fluorescent lights, van Montagu seems dispirited when I ask him how things could have gone so wrong for the technology he helped pioneer. "For a scientist, science looks obvious," he says. "I guess you can say we were naïve."

Naïve, and unlucky. Wellesley College agricultural policy specialist Robert Paarlberg says transgenic plants may have been the victims of bad timing. In spring 1996, Britain was in the middle of the mad cow crisis. Food safety officials in Britain had assured consumers that bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or mad cow disease, could not be transmitted to humans by eating beef from sick cows. They were wrong. Hundreds of thousands of cows were slaughtered and incinerated, and dozens of people were infected with a deadly brain-wasting disease. "Europe was traumatized. Government regulators told consumers they had nothing to fear, and they did," Paarlberg says.

That same spring, Monsanto began selling farmers genetically modified seeds. European consumers balked. Environmental groups labeled the new crops "Frankenfoods," tying the technology to corporate behemoths like Monsanto and emphasizing the risks of biotech.

While the first transgenic plants sparked fear and controversy, suspicion seemed to stop at the fields' edge. The same basic methods are used to coax bacteria and algae to synthesize plastics and biofuel. The pharmaceutical industry uses genetically modified bacteria and animals to produce insulin, vaccines, and a wide variety of drugs. Such applications, Paarlberg argues, are widely

accepted because they provide clear benefit to consumers in the form of green fuel or reliable medicine.

"We have no problem with genomics," says Kirtana Chan-draseskaran, a campaigner for the London-based Friends of the Earth. "Our problem is with their application in GMOs."

Perhaps that is because genetically modified crops, which boost productivity and lower cost of chemicals and fuel, benefit multinational corporations and farmers, but not consumers themselves. And to scientists like Jacobsen and van Montagu, that is most frustrating of all. While the European Union has spent some \$400 million in the past 25 years on biotech crop research, the vast majority has gone toward risk-assessment studies and not improving the crops themselves. Between legal expenses and the high-security field trials needed to comply with European safety laws -- not to mention the risk that field trials will be destroyed -- bringing a product to market can cost upward of \$15 million, making developing GMOs so expensive only profit-driven agribusiness can afford it.

If they're going to fulfill their promise, next-generation transgenics will have to do more than just protect plants from pests or weeds: The race is on to create super crops that will be more fruitful while resisting droughts or floods. Others might be engineered to include nutrients like beta carotene, iron, and vitamin A. Instead of one gene to fight off insects or disease, crops will be engineered with "stacks" of resistance genes to prevent pests from evolving resistance to a single approach.

All that will require far more knowledge about how genetic modification changes a plant. In the effort to get there, Europe could still be a hub. On a frosty March day, I pull up to a sprawling, nondescript greenhouse in Ghent. Piotr Puzio, an amiable Polish biologist, asks me to leave my camera in the car. He hands me a lab coat, safety glasses, and disposable paper booties and ushers me into what may be the world's most sophisticated greenhouse.

As we step inside, I'm hit by a blast of tropical heat. Plastic conveyor belts running along waist-high steel platforms wind through the 32,000-square-foot facility. A small boombox plays Bob Marley's "Could You Be Loved" as workers in blue coveralls transplant fragile rice seedlings to transparent plastic pots filled with a proprietary soil mixture. Despite the chill outside, I soon find myself sweating as I follow Puzio down rows of grass-green plants. Inside, it's at least 82 degrees Fahrenheit, ideal for genetically modified rice.

The biotech facility belongs to a subsidiary of BASF Plant Science, and despite the European locale, the chemical giant has not pulled out. Around the clock, 365 days a year, about 8,000 plants at a time make their way through the greenhouse, each individually tracked with radio-frequency ID chips tucked into their transparent containers. The plants periodically snake through dresser-size cabinets, where a suite of imaging equipment captures the plants' growth from seven angles. "Every week they're photographed from every corner and every side, like models on the catwalk," Puzio says with pride.

Each year, the facility can analyze the changes wrought by tweaking up to 1,300 genes, each one expressed and evaluated in over 100 different model plants. Cleverly named the TraitMill, it is the centerpiece of BASF's effort to breed the next generation of genetically modified crops. The information gathered from these rice plants will be used to create drought-resistant corn and crops that will grow in depleted soil, perhaps on marginal land in the United States or Asia. If the dice roll the right way, BASF will make a lot of money.

But outside, a cold wind is blowing. Whatever comes out of this lab will likely never drink a Belgian rain, or spread its leaves under the German sun. And someday soon, the researchers here -- along with their colleagues across the continent -- will switch off the lights and move on to greener pastures.

IT'S YEARS OF LAB WORK AND GREENHOUSE WORK DESTROYED. THERE WON'T BE ANY RESULTS."

UWE SCHRADER MANAGER, ÜPLINGEN PLANT SCIENCE GARDEN

THERE'S NO GOOD GENE TECHNOLOGY. IT'S LIKE ATOMIC ENERGY- ONCE YOU OPEN THE DOOR, YOU CAN'T CLOSE IT."

MICHAEL GROLM SEEKEEPER. ACTIVIST

## RISK & RESPONSE

With debate over genetically modified foods so fierce, it's difficult for objective science to remain above the fray. Here, four recent studies illustrate the clashing viewpoints, which leave basic questions of safety and effectiveness under contention. GILLIAN CONAHAN

## STUDY

**PRO-GMO:** A review of 24 studies of GM crops, mostly corn and soy, found that they "do not suggest any health hazards" in rats, mice, or other animals. The studies monitored growth, blood chemistry, tissue health, and a number of other characteristics affecting mortality; they found only minor differences between GM and non-GM groups, with no toxic effects.

--Food and Chemical Toxicology, March-April 2012

**ANTI-GMO:** A two-year study found that rats fed GM Roundup-tolerant corn had higher rates of tumors, hormonal abnormalities, and other issues, including kidney and liver problems.

-Food and Chemical Toxicology, November 2012

**PRO-GMO:** Monitoring of fields across the Midwest showed that corn altered to produce the natural insecticide manufactured by Bt bacteria suppresses corn borers, a major pest, over a wide area. As a result, nearby conventional corn is also protected.

-Science, October 2010

**ANTI-GMO:** Reliance on herbicide-resistant crops has contributed to a global proliferation of resistant weeds, which researchers predict will lead to increased herbicide use and an environmentally costly arms race against the leafy pests.

-Bio Science, January 2012

## RESPONSE

"Each gene-crop-environment combination must be analyzed on its own merits and risks," says Doug Gurian-Sherman of the Union of Concerned Scientists, so it's impossible to generalize these results to future GM crops.

A review by the European Food Safety Authority concluded that the study was "of insufficient scientific quality for safety assessments," citing small study groups, inadequate controls, and other methodological concerns.

-EFSA Journal, November 2012

"The region-wide suppression of corn borer is a benefit, but a small one in terms of productivity," says Gurian-Sherman. "My 2009 report found about a 3 to 4 percent yield benefit from Bt insect resistance. That is OK, but is much less than from breeding and improved agronomy."

"The issue of herbicide-resistant weeds is not essentially a problem related to genetic modification. It is more a problem of a type of agriculture lacking proper management. Definitely using a short crop rotation with always the same herbicide promotes the development of tolerant or even resistant weeds."

-Hans-Jörg Jacobsen, Leibniz Universität Hannover

Belgian police subdue protesters in a field of genetically modified crops near Ghent, 2011. Opposite page, from top: Protesters storm a field of genetically modified rapeseed in Watlington, England, 1999; "No GMOs! There's enough here for everyone!" reads a protester's sign near Strausberg, Germany, 2005.

A Greenpeace activist stands in front of a giant banner hanging over the Romanian Agriculture Ministry during a protest against genetically modified organisms in Bucharest on September 11, 2007. The Romanian government has supported use of GMOs, though protest among citizens remains fierce.

Agricultural scientists pioneered genetically modified organisms in Belgium and Germany, but today, these are GMO-free or restricted zones.

Uwe Schrader points out genetically modified crops damaged in a raid.

Norman Borlaug in Mexico, 1970.

Wheat + Dwarf Wheat = Hybrid

In 2011, genetically modified crops were cultivated commercially in 29 countries. The United States led the way with 170.5 million acres of commercial genetically modified crops grown, while Brazil, Argentina, India, and Canada each grew more than 24.7 million acres.

Protesters and police clash in May 2011, in a Belgian field where Ghent University and BASF planted genetically modified crops.

~~~~~

By ANDREW CURRY

Andrew Curry is a journalist and freelance foreign correspondent based in Berlin, Germany.

**From:** Tracy Powell  
**Sent:** Thu, 29 Sep 2022 18:44:47 +0000  
**To:** Jay Byrne  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Russia / China disinformation, anti-AGRA campaign

Thanks, Jay -- sounds good. Safe travels!

Regards,  
Tracy

**Tracy K. Powell, Ph.D.**  
Agricultural Research Advisor, Center for Agriculture-Led Growth  
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On Thu, Sep 29, 2022 at 11:44 AM Jay Byrne <(b)(6)@v-fluence.com> wrote:  
I'm traveling today but can follow up tomorrow with options/ availability.

Jay Byrne  
Sent from my mobile  
(b)(6)  
(877) 835-8362 ext (b)(6)  
(b)(6)@v-Fluence.com

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On Sep 29, 2022, at 1:49 PM, Tracy Powell <[tpowell@usaid.gov](mailto:tpowell@usaid.gov)> wrote:

Hi Jay,

I hope all's well with you! Glad to see you crossed paths with (b)(6) recently.

I'm following up about (b)(6) suggestion that we bring you into USAID/RFS to deliver some briefings re: geopolitical influence campaigns in the global food security space. Would you be willing to present on the two topics he suggested (Russian/Chinese disinformation efforts pertaining to ag, then a deeper dive on AGRA campaigns in particular)? If so, feel free to let me know what your availability looks like in late October / early November, or suggest an alternative timeline.

It sounds like an in-person briefing might be preferable, but depending on where you're based these days we could explore a hybrid format. I know (b)(6) is concerned about the potential sensitivity of the briefing topics; I'd welcome your thoughts re: format preference if you think virtual engagement might pose undue risk.

Sounds like you're off to St. Louis this week... Safe travels, and I look forward to catching up sometime soon.

Regards,  
Tracy

**Tracy K. Powell, Ph.D.**

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On Tue, Sep 27, 2022 at 4:34 AM Michael Michener <[mmichener@usaid.gov](mailto:mmichener@usaid.gov)> wrote:  
Hi Jay,

So great to run into you at (b)(6) on Saturday! As discussed, it would be great to have you give two back-to-back sessions for a USG audience - the first on disinformation coming from Russia and China in the food security space, (b)(6)  
(b)(6) We are pretty busy through the World Food Prize week, so anytime after October 24 would be great for us. Given the sensitive nature of both topics, we would prefer to host an in-person briefing at our office in the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington DC, so whatever dates coincide with your next trip to DC will work for us. (b)(6) will schedule a time that works for you.

For the session on food security disinformation, you can expect some interagency colleagues to join us - and given that the two topics are related, they might stick around for the second session on AGRA as well.

Sorry I will miss you in St. Louis this weekend - safe travels!

Best,  
Mike

**Mike Michener**

Deputy Assistant Administrator  
Bureau for Resilience and Food Security  
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Room 3.09.009 RRB, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20523  
T [202-712-4123](tel:202-712-4123) | M (b)(6) | [mmichener@usaid.gov](mailto:mmichener@usaid.gov) | [USAID.gov](http://USAID.gov) | [@USAID](https://twitter.com/USAID)



**From:** Jay Byrne  
**Sent:** Tue, 25 Oct 2022 15:09:18 +0000  
**To:** Tracy Powell  
**Subject:** Re: Russia / China disinformation, anti-AGRA campaign

Thanks - I can take later flight if I have to - just a preference

Jay Byrne  
Sent from my mobile  
(b)(6)  
(877) 835-8362 ext (b)(6)  
(b)(6)@v-Fluence.com

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On Oct 25, 2022, at 9:25 AM, Tracy Powell <[tpowell@usaid.gov](mailto:tpowell@usaid.gov)> wrote:

Got it -- thanks, Jay. I think we're still leaning towards Thursday, but I'll keep your travel considerations in mind if we do need to push to Friday.

Regards,  
Tracy

**Tracy K. Powell, Ph.D.**  
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On Tue, Oct 25, 2022 at 7:08 AM Jay Byrne <(b)(6)@v-fluence.com> wrote:

Great – if this does shift to Friday, my preference would be to start on the earlier side of your window – as I'd like to catch a 5 pm flight out on Friday night. I'll be in DC Weds afternoon thru Fri so the time on Thursday is completely flexible.

Jay Byrne, president

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---

**From:** Tracy Powell <[tpowell@usaid.gov](mailto:tpowell@usaid.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 24, 2022 10:16 AM  
**To:** Jay Byrne <(b)(6)@v-fluence.com>  
**Cc:** Michael Michener <[mmichener@usaid.gov](mailto:mmichener@usaid.gov)>; (b)(6)@usaid.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Russia / China disinformation, anti-AGRA campaign

Great -- thank you, Jay, we're looking forward to hearing more about these topics! I'll follow up with (b)(6) separately to check room availability, and circle back to confirm a time (probably on Thursday).

Regards,

Tracy

**Tracy K. Powell, Ph.D.**

Agricultural Research Advisor, Center for Agriculture-Led Growth  
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On Mon, Oct 24, 2022 at 8:13 AM Jay Byrne <(b)(6)@v-fluence.com> wrote:

Either day/time works for me – just let me know and I'll be there.

Jay Byrne, president

v-Fluence

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Fax: (b)(4)

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---

**From:** Tracy Powell <tpowell@usaid.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 24, 2022 9:36 AM  
**To:** Michael Michener <mmichener@usaid.gov>  
**Cc:** Jay Byrne <(b)(6)@v-fluence.com>; (b)(6)@usaid.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Russia / China disinformation, anti-AGRA campaign

Good morning, folks! I'm circling back to schedule this pair of briefings for USAID/USG staff, on (1) disinformation coming from Russia and China in the food security space, and (2) the second focused on the campaign against AGRA.

To follow up on the original suggestions, Jay, could you do a ~2-hour visit to USAID's offices in the Ronald Reagan Building sometime:

- **Thursday (11/3)**, 1-4pm ET (*\*slight preference, to maximize attendance*)
- **Friday (11/4)**, 1-4pm ET

Please feel free to suggest some alternatives if these times don't work, or if you have any questions. I'll follow up with visitor access information once we've set a time.

Regards,

Tracy

**Tracy K. Powell, Ph.D.**

Agricultural Research Advisor, Center for Agriculture-Led Growth  
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On Tue, Oct 4, 2022 at 2:19 PM Michael Michener <[mmichener@usaid.gov](mailto:mmichener@usaid.gov)> wrote:

Thanks, Jay. The best date that week would be towards the end of the week, as we have the fertilizer summit Oct 31-Nov 3. Oct 31 will be the busiest, so Nov 2, 3, or 4 should work for us. Copying (b)(6) who can block my calendar.

Mike

On Tue, Oct 4, 2022 at 5:01 PM Jay Byrne <(b)(6)@v-fluence.com> wrote:

Mike/Tracy:

Thanks for your patience, I've been on the road and my assistant who helps with my calendar lives in Florida and has been offline due to the hurricane – so I'm a bit behind on coordinating my availability in D.C.

The best window for me right now is the first week of November (Oct.31 – Nov. 4) and I'm completely flexible any day that week with my preference being Weds or Thurs.

Let me know if that works for you. If not, please propose some other dates and I can see if I can adjust.

Regards,

Jay

Jay Byrne, president

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---

**From:** Michael Michener <[mmichener@usaid.gov](mailto:mmichener@usaid.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 29, 2022 4:55 PM  
**To:** Jay Byrne <(b)(6)@v-fluence.com>  
**Cc:** Tracy Powell <[tpowell@usaid.gov](mailto:tpowell@usaid.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Russia / China disinformation, anti-AGRA campaign

Thanks, Jay - I appreciate it!

Mike

On Thu, Sep 29, 2022 at 5:52 PM Jay Byrne <(b)(6)@v-fluence.com> wrote:

Sorry for not responding sooner, I've been traveling. I just have to catch up with my assistant on my calendar and I'll get back to you with some dates/windows that will work. Will revert tomorrow or early next week latest...

Jay

(b)(6)

Sent from my mobile phone

---

**From:** Michael Michener <[mmichener@usaid.gov](mailto:mmichener@usaid.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 27, 2022 6:34 AM  
**To:** Jay Byrne <(b)(6)@v-fluence.com>  
**Cc:** Tracy Powell <[tpowell@usaid.gov](mailto:tpowell@usaid.gov)>; Mark Huisenga <[mhuisenga@usaid.gov](mailto:mhuisenga@usaid.gov)>; Jerry Glover <[jglover@usaid.gov](mailto:jglover@usaid.gov)>; Jennifer Tikka <[jtikka@usaid.gov](mailto:jtikka@usaid.gov)>; Vera Zakem

<vzakem@usaid.gov>; Anka Lee <anlee@usaid.gov>; (b)(6)@usaid.gov  
**Subject:** Russia / China disinformation, anti-AGRA campaign

Hi Jay,

So great to run into you at (b)(4) on Saturday! As discussed, it would be great to have you give two back-to-back sessions for a USG audience - the first on disinformation coming from Russia and China in the food security space, and the second focused on the campaign against AGRA. We are pretty busy through the World Food Prize week, so anytime after October 24 would be great for us. Given the sensitive nature of both topics, we would prefer to host an in-person briefing at our office in the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington DC, so whatever dates coincide with your next trip to DC will work for us. (b)(6) will schedule a time that works for you.

For the session on food security disinformation, you can expect some interagency colleagues to join us - and given that the two topics are related, they might stick around for the second session on AGRA as well.

Sorry I will miss you in St. Louis this weekend - safe travels!

Best,

Mike

**Mike Michener**

Deputy Assistant Administrator

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**From:** Tracy Powell  
**Sent:** Mon, 7 Nov 2022 20:53:56 +0000  
**To:** Jay Byrne  
**Cc:** Michael Michener, (b)(6), Andrew Sheridan  
**Subject:** Re: Russia / China disinformation, anti-AGRA campaign

Echoing Mike's thanks, Jay! It's always a pleasure; really appreciate you coming in to speak with us.

Mike, for reference, I've stored Jay's downloaded slide presentation and other meeting materials internally [here](#) (limited access, but I've added you and have been sharing as attachments to USG folks who request them). I'm still pulling together my notes for a summary/readout, but will coordinate with Andrew to cover any follow-up discussions.

Thanks again!

Regards,  
Tracy

**Tracy K. Powell, Ph.D.**  
Agricultural Research Advisor, Center for Agriculture-Led Growth  
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On Mon, Nov 7, 2022 at 10:36 AM Jay Byrne <[Jay.Byrne@v-fluence.com](mailto:Jay.Byrne@v-fluence.com)> wrote:

Feel free to share my deck – PDF version w/ notes is attached. The full deck can be downloaded via DropBox here:

(b)(4)

I'm glad my comments were useful and well received.

I'm not going to be a NAFB in KC this year, but happy to reconnect in DC or elsewhere when we're in the same zip code next.

Regards,

Jay

Jay Byrne, president

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---

**From:** Michael Michener <[mmichener@usaid.gov](mailto:mmichener@usaid.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 7, 2022 12:24 PM  
**To:** Jay Byrne <(b)(6)@v-fluence.com>  
**Cc:** Tracy Powell <[tpowell@usaid.gov](mailto:tpowell@usaid.gov)>; (b)(6)@usaid.gov; Andrew Sheridan <[asheridan@usaid.gov](mailto:asheridan@usaid.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Russia / China disinformation, anti-AGRA campaign

Hi Jay,

Thank you so much for your presentations last week! I received a lot of positive feedback - great and timely information!

If you can share your slide decks with Tracy, Andrew and me, I would greatly appreciate it.

Will you be at NAFB in Kansas City next week? Maybe see you there!

Best,

Mike

On Tue, Oct 25, 2022 at 10:08 AM Jay Byrne <(b)(6)@v-fluence.com> wrote:

Great – if this does shift to Friday, my preference would be to start on the earlier side of your window – as I’d like to catch a 5 pm flight out on Friday night. I’ll be in DC Weds afternoon thru Fri so the time on Thursday is completely flexible.

Jay Byrne, president

v-Fluence

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**From:** Tracy Powell <[tpowell@usaid.gov](mailto:tpowell@usaid.gov)>

**Sent:** Monday, October 24, 2022 10:16 AM

**To:** Jay Byrne <(b)(6)@v-fluence.com>

**Cc:** Michael Michener <[mmichener@usaid.gov](mailto:mmichener@usaid.gov)>; (b)(6)@usaid.gov>

**Subject:** Re: Russia / China disinformation, anti-AGRA campaign

Great -- thank you, Jay, we're looking forward to hearing more about these topics! I'll follow up with (b)(6) separately to check room availability, and circle back to confirm a time (probably on Thursday).

Regards,

Tracy

**Tracy K. Powell, Ph.D.**

Agricultural Research Advisor, Center for Agriculture-Led Growth  
Bureau for Resilience & Food Security  
U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20004  
Mobile: +(b)(6)  
[www.feedthefuture.gov](http://www.feedthefuture.gov) | [tpowell@usaid.gov](mailto:tpowell@usaid.gov)

On Mon, Oct 24, 2022 at 8:13 AM Jay Byrne <(b)(6)>@v-fluence.com> wrote:

Either day/time works for me – just let me know and I’ll be there.

Jay Byrne, president

v-Fluence

Toll Free: 877-835-8362 ext. (b)(6)

USA +1 314-880-8000 ext (b)(6)

Mobile: (b)(6)

LinkedIn: [\(b\)\(6\)](http://www.linkedin.com/in/(b)(6))

Fax: (b)(4)

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---

**From:** Tracy Powell <[tpowell@usaid.gov](mailto:tpowell@usaid.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 24, 2022 9:36 AM  
**To:** Michael Michener <[mmichener@usaid.gov](mailto:mmichener@usaid.gov)>  
**Cc:** Jay Byrne <[\(b\)\(6\)@v-fluence.com](mailto:(b)(6)@v-fluence.com)> <[\(b\)\(6\)@usaid.gov](mailto:(b)(6)@usaid.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Russia / China disinformation, anti-AGRA campaign

Good morning, folks! I'm circling back to schedule this pair of briefings for USAID/USG staff, on (1) disinformation coming from Russia and China in the food security space, and (2) the second focused on the campaign against AGRA.

To follow up on the original suggestions, Jay, could you do a ~2-hour visit to USAID's offices in the Ronald Reagan Building sometime:

- **Thursday (11/3)**, 1-4pm ET (*\*slight preference, to maximize attendance*)
- **Friday (11/4)**, 1-4pm ET

Please feel free to suggest some alternatives if these times don't work, or if you have any questions. I'll follow up with visitor access information once we've set a time.

Regards,

Tracy

**Tracy K. Powell, Ph.D.**

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On Tue, Oct 4, 2022 at 2:19 PM Michael Michener <[mmichener@usaid.gov](mailto:mmichener@usaid.gov)> wrote:

Thanks, Jay. The best date that week would be towards the end of the week, as we have the fertilizer summit Oct 31-Nov 3. Oct 31 will be the busiest, so Nov 2, 3, or 4 should work for us. Copying (b)(6) who can block my calendar.

Mike

On Tue, Oct 4, 2022 at 5:01 PM Jay Byrne <(b)(6)@v-fluence.com> wrote:

Mike/Tracy:

Thanks for your patience, I've been on the road and my assistant who helps with my calendar lives in Florida and has been offline due to the hurricane – so I'm a bit behind on coordinating my availability in D.C.

The best window for me right now is the first week of November (Oct.31 – Nov. 4) and I'm completely flexible any day that week with my preference being Weds or Thurs.

Let me know if that works for you. If not, please propose some other dates and I can see if I can adjust.

Regards,

Jay

Jay Byrne, president

v-Fluence

Toll Free: 877-835-8362 ext. (b)(6)

USA +1 314-880-8000 ext. (b)(6)

Mobile: (b)(6)

LinkedIn: [\(b\)\(6\)](http://www.linkedin.com/in/(b)(6))

Fax: (b)(4)

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**From:** Michael Michener <[mmichener@usaid.gov](mailto:mmichener@usaid.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 29, 2022 4:55 PM  
**To:** Jay Byrne <[REDACTED]@v-fluence.com>  
**Cc:** Tracy Powell <[tpowell@usaid.gov](mailto:tpowell@usaid.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Russia / China disinformation, anti-AGRA campaign

Thanks, Jay - I appreciate it!

Mike

On Thu, Sep 29, 2022 at 5:52 PM Jay Byrne <[REDACTED]@v-fluence.com> wrote:

Sorry for not responding sooner, I've been traveling. I just have to catch up with my assistant on my calendar and I'll get back to you with some dates/windows that will work. Will revert tomorrow or early next week latest...

Jay

[REDACTED]

Sent from my mobile phone

---

**From:** Michael Michener <[mmichener@usaid.gov](mailto:mmichener@usaid.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 27, 2022 6:34 AM  
**To:** Jay Byrne <[REDACTED]@v-fluence.com>  
**Cc:** Tracy Powell <[tpowell@usaid.gov](mailto:tpowell@usaid.gov)>; Mark Huisenga <[mhuisenga@usaid.gov](mailto:mhuisenga@usaid.gov)>; Jerry Glover <[jglover@usaid.gov](mailto:jglover@usaid.gov)>; Jennifer Tikka <[jtikka@usaid.gov](mailto:jtikka@usaid.gov)>; Vera Zakem <[vzakem@usaid.gov](mailto:vzakem@usaid.gov)>; Anka Lee <[anlee@usaid.gov](mailto:anlee@usaid.gov)>; [REDACTED]@usaid.gov  
**Subject:** Russia / China disinformation, anti-AGRA campaign

Hi Jay,

So great to run into you at (b)(6) on Saturday! As discussed, it would be great to have you give two back-to-back sessions for a USG audience - the first on disinformation coming from Russia and China in the food security space, and the second focused on the campaign against AGRA. We are pretty busy through the World Food Prize week, so anytime after October 24 would be great for us. Given the sensitive nature of both topics, we would prefer to host an in-person briefing at our office in the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington DC, so whatever dates coincide with your next trip to DC will work for us. (b)(6) will schedule a time that works for you.

For the session on food security disinformation, you can expect some interagency colleagues to join us - and given that the two topics are related, they might stick around for the second session on AGRA as well.

Sorry I will miss you in St. Louis this weekend - safe travels!

Best,

Mike

**Mike Michener**

Deputy Assistant Administrator

Bureau for Resilience and Food Security  
U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
Room 3.09.009 RRB, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20523  
T 202-712-4123 | M (b)(6) | [mmichener@usaid.gov](mailto:mmichener@usaid.gov) | [USAID.gov](http://USAID.gov) | [@USAID](https://www.instagram.com/USAID)

**From:** Tracy Powell  
**Sent:** Wed, 2 Nov 2022 20:35:15 +0000  
**To:** Jay Byrne  
**Cc:** James Gaffney; (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: USAID disinformation briefing

Unwieldy file size strikes again! Hate it when that happens.

Thanks, that makes sense, just send it when you can. Have a safe flight!

Regards,  
Tracy

**Tracy K. Powell, Ph.D.**  
Agricultural Research Advisor, Center for Agriculture-Led Growth  
Bureau for Resilience & Food Security  
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On Wed, Nov 2, 2022 at 1:32 PM Jay Byrne <(b)(6)@v-fluence.com> wrote:  
Thanks Tracy- I am on flight now to DC. I did try to send you deck but it's too large so am going to see what u can compress / remove or send in multiple batches and will retry when I land and get to my office.

Jay Byrne  
Sent from my mobile  
(b)(6)  
(877) 835-8362 ex (b)(6)  
(b)(6)@v-Fluence.com

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On Nov 2, 2022, at 4:26 PM, Tracy Powell <[tpowell@usaid.gov](mailto:tpowell@usaid.gov)> wrote:

Hi Jay,

I hope you're having a good week! I'm just checking in before tomorrow's ag disinformation briefing at USAID.

I suggest arriving ~1:30pm ET or so (~30 minutes or so before the official 2pm briefing start time), so that we can get you set up and allow for technology-wrangling. Unfortunately we are

not allowed to connect external media (e.g. memory sticks, etc) directly to USAID's internal network. In theory, you should be able to connect to USAID's wifi for your presentation, but I believe you were going to share your slides, as a backup -- assuming you're still comfortable sharing, **could you please e-mail your deck to me and Jim?**

I've included USAID/Ronald Reagan Building access instructions below, in case you didn't already receive them. I'm working remotely these days so unfortunately I can't come down and escort you through the turnstiles, but Jim Gaffney (cc'd) will be attending in person and can help get you set up in the room; additionally, (b)(6) (also cc'd) will be helping escort our inter-Agency visitors and can be an additional POC.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I'm sorry I won't be able to join in person!

Regards,  
Tracy

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**Jim Gaffney**, (b)(6)  
(or as a backup, (b)(6)) when you arrive.

A few logistical notes for USG inter-Agency visitors to the Ronald Reagan Building:

- **Bring ID:** Bring a valid US government-issued badge or other photo ID.
- **Timing:** Arrive ~15 minutes early to allow for security screening delays. (\*Jay -- as the presenter, I suggest you arrive ~30 minutes early, to allow for presentation setup before the briefing attendees arrive).
- **COVID Safety:** As D.C.'s current COVID-19 local community transmission level for the week of October 31, 2022 is "LOW", the current guidance is:
  - **Vaccination.** Guests are currently not required to show proof of vaccination, though it is a good idea to bring it with you as a backup in case this guidance changes before your meeting date.
  - **Masks.** Use of masks is currently optional in U.S. Government buildings -- though I recommend that visitors bring a mask for optional use (or in case the guidance changes before your meeting date).

- **Symptoms.** Do not visit a USAID facility if you feel unwell.
- Note that USAID's COVID safety guidance is subject to change depending on the rate of local community transmission in the local D.C. Metro Area.

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**From:** Jay Byrne  
**Sent:** Thu, 3 Nov 2022 14:14:41 +0000  
**To:** Tracy Powell  
**Cc:** James Gaffney; (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: USAID disinformation briefing  
**Attachments:** DRIVING DISINFORMATION-RUSSIA-NOV-2022-grayscale.pdf

Let's try sharing this via DropBox? I remember you said that doesn't work, but maybe someone can figure a way to transfer between home/work systems. I've been trying to get the size small enough, removed all the videos and compressed the files, but because of the volume of images (we have lots of sample news / web reports embedded) it's still saying too large to email directly. A PDF version is attached.

- DropBox – (b)(4)  
(b)(4)

If I can access the zoom/meeting I can run from my laptop – alternatively (although a bit small screen) – my laptop also works to present (it's a "yoga" see image) – again not ideal, but not sure how to work around your firewall issues.



Jay Byrne, president  
v-Fluence

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LinkedIn: [\(b\)\(6\)](http://www.linkedin.com/in/(b)(6))  
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**From:** Tracy Powell <tpowell@usaid.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 2, 2022 3:26 PM  
**To:** Jay Byrne <(b)(6)@v-fluence.com>  
**Cc:** James Gaffney <jgaffney@usaid.gov>; (b)(6)@usaid.gov>  
**Subject:** USAID disinformation briefing

Hi Jay,

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Please let me know if you have any questions. I'm sorry I won't be able to join in person!

Regards,  
Tracy

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- **COVID Safety:** As D.C.'s current COVID-19 local community transmission level for the week of October 31, 2022 is "LOW", the current guidance is:
  - **Vaccination.** Guests are currently not required to show proof of vaccination, though it is a good idea to bring it with you as a backup in case this guidance changes before your meeting date.
  - **Masks.** Use of masks is currently optional in U.S. Government buildings -- though I recommend that visitors bring a mask for optional use (or in case the guidance changes before your meeting date).
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  - Note that USAID's COVID safety guidance is subject to change depending on the rate of local community transmission in the local D.C. Metro Area.

**Tracy K. Powell, Ph.D.**

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**From:** Jay Byrne  
**Sent:** Tue, 12 Dec 2017 22:42:38 +0000  
**To:** (b)(6) Tracy Powell  
**Cc:** Josh Gilder SMTP  
**Subject:** Update: Gene drive FOIA campaign by anti-GMO NGOs  
**Attachments:** New Breeding Techniques - MediaWiki.pdf

Several participants at our meeting asked us about the recent attack on gene drives as part of our tracking of advocacy around NBTs. I couldn't recall which people specifically asked but thought you'd know who at your agencies would be interested.

On December 1<sup>st</sup> a coalition of anti-GMO NGOs led by ETC Group and the Third World Network released claims that FOIA'd emails revealed a conspiracy by the U.S. military with multinational organizations including the Gates Foundation and Monsanto to covertly influence policy-making at the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity to allow gene drive technologies (characterized as "genetic extinction" weapons and "extreme genetic engineering") to be released without appropriate regulation or review of potential consequences. This campaign is an extension of an ETC Group led SynBio Watch coalition involving dozens of anti-GMO NGOs with financial support from EU anti-GMO foundations and U.S. natural products companies. A summary of NGO opposition to NBTs (including gene drive technology) [can be found here](#) (and attached), with links to profiles of the key NGOs involved included.

This most recent FOIA smear campaign tactic (led by [Edward Hammond](#) working under contract for [Third World Network](#) and the [ETC Group](#)) was amplified via some mainstream news sources (AFP, Guardian, NZ Herald) along with Russian state media (RT, Sputnik), conspiracy sources, anti-corporate/anti-GMO NGOs and natural product marketing sites. The reports picked up on a range of allegations made by ETC Group and some conflated these with previously alleged conspiracy claims that groups involved were using technology for eugenics, black race eradication, corporate takeover of global food supplies and the militarization of plants, animal and genetic resources.

**Monitoring summary** (latest to earliest):

[Commentary: German anti-GMO news site amplifies ETC Group's report on emails it obtained demonstrating U.S. military and Gates' Foundation's interest in gene drive technology, highlights concerns about potential ecological consequences](#)

December 12, 2017 **Source:** Informationsdienst Gentechnik | **Stakeholder:** Media/News

**Region:** Europe | **Favorability:** Negative

**URL:** <https://www.keine-gentechnik.de/nachricht/32890/>

Automated translation. US Military and Gates Foundation pushing for Gene Drives 12/12/2017 A US military research facility has so far invested \$ 100 million in the development of Gene Drives. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, with the help of a public relations firm, is trying to get the United Nations on a Gene Drive friendly

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[News: AAAS Science Magazine writer questions ETC Group-led coalition FOIA campaign conspiracy allegations over regulating gene drives; Gates Foundation funded academics and NGOs response implies](#)

anti-GMO NGOs using "nefarious" claims to thwart open dialogue and achieve stated goal of moratorium

December 12, 2017 **Source:** Science Magazine | **Stakeholder:** Media/News

**Region:** North America | **Favorability:** Neutral

**URL:** <http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2017/12/there-really-covert-manipulation-un-discussions-about-regulating-gene-drives>

Is there really a covert manipulation of U.N. discussions about regulating gene drives? By Jon Cohen It had scandal written all over it. Disclosed emails revealed that a covert coalition lobbying for relaxed regulations around a genetic extinction technology, with help from a well-funded public relations firm, Emerging Ag, was attempting to game the system and

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News: Russian state-sponsored Sputnik Radio amplifies ETC Group (called a "human rights watchdog") FOIA campaign claiming US military investing in "genetic extinction" technologies turning gene-drives into "ethnic weapons"; contrasts with quotes from Vladimir Putin noting responsible development of technology in Russia

December 11, 2017 **Source:** Sputnik | **Stakeholder:** Media/News

**Region:** Europe | **Favorability:** Negative

**URL:** <https://sputniknews.com/military/201712111059884236-darpa-genetic-research-united-nations/>

DARPA Genetic Extinction Research a Mistake – Human Rights Watchdog CCO, MILITARY & INTELLIGENCE 04:35 11.12.2017(updated 09:07 11.12.2017) The US advanced military research body – DARPA – announced that it will invest tens of millions of dollars into genetic extinction research. While the official aim of this research is said to be fighting harmful insects,

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Commentary: ETC Group's Silvia Ribeiro writes for Mexico's La Jornada, examines emails obtained by ETC Group and Third World Network showing U.S. military and Gates Foundation's investment in gene drives, argues the technology presents an unacceptable threat

December 11, 2017 **Source:** La Jornada | **Stakeholder:** NGO

**Region:** South America | **Favorability:** Negative

**URL:** <http://www.jornada.unam.mx/2017/12/09/opinion/023a1eco>

Syndicated by La Haine. Saturday, December 9, 2017 US Army, Gates and Monsanto behind transgenics to extinguish species Silvia Ribeiro \* Through requests for access to public information, a group of civil society organizations, including the [Third World Network](#) and the [ETC Group](#), obtained more than 1,200 emails from researchers from public universities in the United

---

Commentary: Motherboard VICE writers question Nature's illegal hacking characterization of Edward Hammond and TWN gene drive FOIA tactic

December 11, 2017 **Source:** VICE | **Stakeholder:** Media/News

**Region:** North America | **Favorability:** Neutral

**URL:** [https://motherboard.vice.com/en\\_us/article/d3x7z7/nature-editorial-juxtaposes-foia-email-release-with-illegal-hacking-gene-drive](https://motherboard.vice.com/en_us/article/d3x7z7/nature-editorial-juxtaposes-foia-email-release-with-illegal-hacking-gene-drive)

'Nature' Editorial Juxtaposes FOIA Email Release With Illegal Hacking: One of science's most important publications assumes science journalists don't know how to do their jobs. By Jason Koebler & Sarah Emerson Private emails between scientists working on a controversial genetic technology called "gene drive" were released last week. Obtained through a Freedom of Information Act

---

Commentary: Navdanya International official writes for Italian alt news site, says U.S. military, large companies and foundations invest millions in gene drive tech, claims they manipulate scientific debate on technology that puts the environment at serious risk

December 8, 2017 **Source:** Comune | **Stakeholder:** NGO

**Region:** Europe | **Favorability:** Negative

**URL:** <https://comune-info.net/2017/12/dichiarazione-guerra-alla-biodiversita-del-pianeta/>

This article is syndicated on Navdanya International. Biodiversity thieves now are serious Ruchi Shroff | December 8, 2017 by Ruchi Shroff \* The US military, large private companies and foundations are investing hundreds of millions of dollars on "gene drive" technology, which includes, among the various applications, the targeted extinction of living species deemed harmful to humans. This is

---

Commentary: Navdanya's (Vandana Shiva) Seed Freedom asserts "Gene Drives Files" show U.S. DARPA spending \$100 million on accelerating research into gene drive technology, Gates Foundation paying PR firm to influence UN CBD's discussions on technology as opponents call for international moratorium on technology

December 7, 2017 **Source:** Seed Freedom | **Stakeholder:** NGO

**Region:** Asia | **Favorability:** Negative

**URL:** <http://seedfreedom.info/gene-drive-extinction-technology-is-a-war-against-the-planet-and-biodiversity/>

Gene drive extinction technology is a war against the planet and biodiversity On December 7, 2017 Navdanya International, 7 December 2017 Hundreds of millions of dollars are being invested by U.S. Military, companies and foundations on gene drives, a highly controversial technology aimed at genetic extinction. This is what emerges in The Gene Drives Files

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News: Fast Company amplifies anti-GMO NGO "Independent Science News" report that emails obtained from University of North Carolina show Gates Foundation paid PR firm to influence UN's moratorium on gene drive technology, which allows for editing of genes in order to cause extinction in an animal species

December 7, 2017 **Source:** Fast Company | **Stakeholder:** Media/News

**Region:** North America | **Favorability:** Neutral

**URL:** <https://www.fastcompany.com/40504380/the-gates-foundation-hired-a-pr-firm-to-influence-the-uns-gene-drives-policy>

12.06.17 Report alleges the Gates Foundation funded a PR firm to influence the UN's gene drives policy Emails obtained from the University of North Carolina through a Freedom of Information Request show that the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation helped fund a PR firm to try to influence the UN's moratorium on the controversial new

---

News: U.K.'s Verdict reports on release of emails showing U.S. DARPA investing \$100 million in gene drive technology in bid to reduce numbers of malaria-carrying mosquitoes, notes UN Convention on Biological Diversity debating whether to halt research on gene drive technology next year

December 7, 2017 **Source:** Verdict | **Stakeholder:** Media/News

**Region:** North America | **Favorability:** Neutral

**URL:** <https://www.verdict.co.uk/darpa-gene-drive-technology/>

7th December 2017 The US is investing in gene drive technology — should we use genetic engineering to eliminate disease? Scarlett Evans Scarlett is a freelance writer and journalist Emails released this week under freedom of information rules show that the US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (Darpa) is investing \$100 million in gene drive

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Commentary: The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists amplify Guardian reporting on anti-GMO ETC Group FOIA campaign claims that U.S. military investing in "genetic extinction" technologies via gene drives  
December 7, 2017 **Source:** The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists | **Stakeholder:** NGO

**Region:** North America | **Favorability:** Neutral

**URL:** <https://thebulletin.org/darpa-invests-100-million-gene-altering-technology11331>

WHAT WE'RE READING 7 DECEMBER 2017 DARPA invests \$100 million in gene-altering technology By Elisabeth Eaves Once scientists discovered a way to permanently transform a given population of organisms, it was only a matter of time until governments and militaries started exploring what they could do with the technology. In 2012, researchers first discovered the

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Commentary: Nature editorial emphasizes importance of continued scrutiny of gene-drive technology by scientists, argues recent email release by NGOs is an "unfair attempt to create damaging and polarizing spin," notes it could damage trust in scientists

December 7, 2017 **Source:** Nature | **Stakeholder:** Academic

**Region:** North America | **Favorability:** Favorable

**URL:** <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-017-08214-4>

EDITORIAL 05 DECEMBER 2017 Gene-drive technology needs thorough scrutiny Scientists must continue to play their part in pointing out the potential environmental dangers. PDF version At a meeting in Montreal, Canada, this week, scientists and green campaigners will be among those discussing how a gene-editing technology could influence the environment. And although it might not

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Commentary: March Against Monsanto amplifies media reports about alleged attempts by Gates Foundation to manipulate UN decision-making process regarding gene drives, claims GM technology could be used to kill entire species, calls on gene drive opponents to submit comments via online forum

December 6, 2017 **Source:** March Against Monsanto | **Stakeholder:** NGO

**Region:** North America | **Favorability:** Negative

**URL:** <https://www.march-against-monsanto.com/gates-foundation-secretly-paid-experts-to-manipulate-un-over-gene-drives/>

Gates Foundation Secretly Paid "Experts" to Manipulate UN Over Gene Drives By Marcus Dorsum On December 5, 2017 FOIA requested emails recently revealed a conspiracy between the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and a PR firm named Emerging Ag, to get a secret coalition of academics to pull strings and manipulate a United Nations decision

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Commentary: Gizmodo reports on ETC Group claims that DARPA investment in gene drives lacks transparency, but counters that defense agency has been significant voice warning about gene drive risks

December 6, 2017 **Source:** Gizmodo | **Stakeholder:** Media/News

**Region:** North America | **Favorability:** Negative

**URL:** <https://gizmodo.com/why-darpa-is-investing-big-in-gene-drives-1821028638>

Why DARPA Is Investing Big in Gene Drives By Kristen V. Brown One day scientists could use technology like gene drive to engineer away pests like mosquitoes. IMAGE: Getty Images A powerful and controversial new genetic engineering technology called a gene drive offers the potential to drastically reshape our world by overriding natural selection. And the US

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News: [Russia Today \(RT\) amplifies ETC-Group conspiracy claim that U.S. military investing in gene drives to create weapons from plants and animals](#)

December 6, 2017 **Source:** RT | **Stakeholder:** Media/News

**Region:** Europe | **Favorability:** Negative

**URL:** <https://www.rt.com/usa/412019-pentagon-darpa-gene-drive/>

Pentagon revealed as top funder of controversial gene editing tech RT: 6 Dec, 2017 07:34 The US military is the world's top funder of a controversial gene editing technology capable of altering global ecosystems. Emails obtained by an environmental advocacy group show that the Pentagon has been secretly funding 'gene drive' studies. Over 1,200 emails

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News: [Survivalist conspiracy news site reports secretive U.S. military agency investing \\$100 million in gene drive research, calls it genetic extinction technology, predicts report will heighten tensions ahead of UN expert committee meeting on gene drive technology this week](#)

December 5, 2017 **Source:** SHTF Plan | **Stakeholder:** Media/News

**Region:** North America | **Favorability:** Negative

**URL:** [http://www.shtfplan.com/headline-news/us-military-invests-in-doomsday-genetics-technology-my-main-worry-is-that-we-do-something-irreversible\\_12042017](http://www.shtfplan.com/headline-news/us-military-invests-in-doomsday-genetics-technology-my-main-worry-is-that-we-do-something-irreversible_12042017)

This article was syndicated on Global Research. US Military Invests In 'Doomsday Genetics' Technology: 'My Main Worry Is That We Do Something Irreversible' Mac Slavo December 4th, 2017 SHTFplan.com Amid United Nations fears that genetic extinction technology could be used by militaries, a United States military agency has invested \$100 million in the doomsday biological

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News: [AFP reports working group under UN's Convention on Biological Diversity reviewing gene drive technology that holds promise of eradicating malaria-bearing mosquitoes, with critics warning against potential military use of technology](#)

December 5, 2017 **Source:** Agence France-Presse | **Stakeholder:** Media/News

**Region:** Europe | **Favorability:** Neutral

**URL:** <https://sg.news.yahoo.com/genetic-tool-doom-species-under-un-review-152302379.html>

This article was syndicated on Phys.org. Genetic tool that can doom a species under UN review Marlowe HOOD AFP News 5 December 2017 For some, a new cutting-edge technology called gene drive is the silver bullet able to wipe out invasive species decimating island wildlife, and eradicate the malaria-bearing mosquitos that killed nearly half ...

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Commentary: [Corporate Europe Observatory](#) NGO highlights release of "Gene Drive Files," claims they reveal how external actors with vested interest in development of gene drives trying to influence work of UN CBD's Ad-Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology

December 5, 2017 **Source:** Corporate Europe Observatory | **Stakeholder:** NGO

**Region:** Europe | **Favorability:** Negative

**URL:** <https://corporateeurope.org/food-and-agriculture/2017/12/gene-drive-files-reveal-covert-lobbying-tactics-influence-un-expert>

Gene Drive Files reveal covert lobbying tactics to influence UN expert group December 3rd 2017 This week, a UN expert group is meeting to address issues around so-called gene drives, a highly controversial genetic extinction technology with potential applications for agricultural, conservation or military use. The expert group (officially the Ad-Hoc Technical Expert Group, AHTEG,

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News: New Zealand Herald reports on U.S. military's interest in local research on gene drives to eradicate predatory rats, Landacre Research's Dan Tompkins noted importance of addressing concerns, as some see conservation use as a backdoor for ag applications

December 5, 2017 **Source:** New Zealand Herald | **Stakeholder:** Media/News

**Region:** Oceania | **Favorability:** Neutral

**URL:** [http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=11952874](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11952874)

NEW ZEALAND The Big Read: What happened when one expert killer was visited by the US military's science agency 4 Dec, 2017 6:15pm [Image] Possums, rats and stoats are predators that cause severe impact to native flora and fauna – and it's possible genetic technology could kill them all. By: David Fisher Senior writer, NZ Herald

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Commentary: Alt-health marketer and conspiracy writer Mike Adams amplifies claims U.S. developing genetic extinction weapons to exterminate populations on demand; claims Africans and blacks will be targeted

December 5, 2017 **Source:** Natural News | **Stakeholder:** Commercial

**Region:** North America | **Favorability:** Negative

**URL:** <https://www.naturalnews.com/2017-12-05-darpa-developing-genetic-doomsday-weapon-exterminate-populations-gmo-wmd.html>

DARPA developing "genetic doomsday" weapon to exterminate populations on demand... GMOs to become WMDs Tuesday, December 05, 2017 by: [Mike Adams](#) (Natural News) The U.S. military agency known as DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) is investing \$100 million into so-called "genetic extinction technologies" that could be deployed to exterminate targeted human populations. Emails acquired under

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Commentary: Sustainable Pulse amplifies gene drive FOIA attack claiming U.S. military engaged in genetic extinction technology research promoted by Gates Foundation at CBD

December 6, 2017 **Source:** Sustainable Pulse **Stakeholder:** NGO

**Region:** Europe **Favorability:** Negative

**URL:** <https://sustainablepulse.com/2017/12/04/gene-drive-files-show-us-military-as-top-funder-of-genetic-extinction-technology/#.WjBRO0qnE2w>

**Gene Drive Files Show US Military as Top Funder of Genetic Extinction Technology**

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News: Germany's Frankfurter Rundschau reports Gates Foundation spent \$1.6 million to recruit gene drive advocates to influence UN-convened expert group on synthetic biology, prevent moratorium on gene drives called for by 170 groups including Friends of the Earth International, La Via Campesina

December 5, 2017 **Source:** Frankfurter Rundschau | **Stakeholder:** Media/News

**Region:** Europe | **Favorability:** Neutral

**URL:** <http://www.fr.de/wirtschaft/gates-foundation-lobbyarbeit-fuer-gentechnik-statt-fuer-gerechtigkeit-a-1400391>

Auto-translation from German. Lobbying for genetic engineering instead of justice The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is officially fighting for more justice in the world, while financing a public relations firm to help break up controversial genetic engineering. 03.12.2017 By Kathrin Hartmann Crispr / Cas 9 – behind this acronym is a technology that promises incredible

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Commentary: French NGO Inf'OGM's Christophe Noisette amplifies ETC Group's release of 1,200 documents showing U.S. military funding for research on gene drives, and Gates Foundation's lobbying activities to promote their use, notes Inf'OGM will continue its analysis

December 4, 2017 **Source:** Inf'OGM | **Stakeholder:** NGO

**Region:** Europe | **Favorability:** Negative

**URL:** <https://www.infogm.org/6405-forcage-genetique-finance-armee-us-fondation-gates?lang=fr>

Automated translation. United States – Genetic Fortification Funded by the Army and the Gates Foundation PDF VERSION by Christophe NOISETTE Publication date: 4 December 2017 Following a lawsuit, the NGO ETC Group managed to obtain 1200 documents that show, in particular, that the US military heavily funds research on genetic forcing and that the Bill and

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News release: ETC Group announces over 1,200 released emails reveal U.S. military is the top funder of gene drives, as well as Gates Foundation's \$1.6 million lobbying campaign, highlights allegations that PR Firm Emerging Ag seeks to influence UN discussions

December 4, 2017 **Source:** ETC Group | **Stakeholder:** NGO

**Region:** North America | **Favorability:** Negative

**URL:** <http://www.etcgroup.org/content/gene-drive-files>

Amplified by GMWatch. The news release was also syndicated on Sustainable Pulse, Organic Consumers Association. The Gene Drive Files Disclosed Emails Reveal Military as top funder. Gates Foundation paying \$1.6 million to influence UN Expert Process Submitted on 04 December 2017 WASHINGTON, D.C. —Over 1,200 emails released under open records requests reveal that the U.S. military is now the

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Commentary: Anti-GMO NGO "Independent Science News;" Jonathan Latham criticizes Gates Foundation for hiring PR firm Emerging Ag to allegedly manipulate UN decision-making process on gene drives, according to FOIA-obtained emails

December 4, 2017 **Source:** Independent Science News | **Stakeholder:** NGO

**Region:** North America | **Favorability:** Negative

**URL:** <https://www.independentsciencenews.org/news/gates-foundation-hired-pr-firm-to-manipulate-un-over-gene-drives/>

Amplified by GMWatch. BIOTECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT, NEWS DECEMBER 4, 2017 Gates Foundation Hired PR Firm to Manipulate UN Over Gene Drives by Jonathan Latham, PhD The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation this year paid a PR firm called Emerging Ag \$1.6 million to recruit a covert coalition of academics to manipulate a UN decision-making process over gene drives, according to emails

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Commentary: ETC Group-led SynBio Watch post alleges FOIA campaign reveals major U.S. military role in gene drive development; cites connections with Monsanto, "spooks" and targeting of Africans with "nefarious" and "dual-purposes" gene drives to "militarize" the environment

December 2, 2017 **Source:** SynBio Watch | **Stakeholder:** NGO

**Region:** North America | **Favorability:** Negative

**URL:** <http://genedrivefiles.synbiowatch.org/2017/12/01/us-military-gene-drive-development/>

Gene Drive Files Expose Leading Role of US Military in Gene Drive Development. DECEMBER 1, 2017 BY ADMIN A trove of emails (The Gene Drive Files) from leading U.S. gene drive researchers reveals that the U.S. Military is taking the lead in driving forward gene drive development. Emails obtained through a freedom of Information request by U.S.–based

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News Release: **ETC Group-led SynBio Watch** press release claims FOIA reveals **Gates Foundation PR firm "secretly" stacked UN expert panel** to prevent CBD moratorium for "extinction technology" gene drives; allegations include "covert" collaboration with governments and U.S. military

December 2, 2017 **Source:** SynBio Watch | **Stakeholder:** NGO

**Region:** North America | **Favorability:** Negative

**URL:** [http://genedrivefiles.synbiowatch.org/2017/12/01/gates\\_foundation\\_pr/](http://genedrivefiles.synbiowatch.org/2017/12/01/gates_foundation_pr/)

Gates Foundation paid PR firm to secretly stack UN Expert process on controversial extinction technology DECEMBER 1, 2017 BY ADMIN Documents received under Freedom of Information requests reveal that the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation 2 paid a private agriculture and biotechnology PR firm \$1.6 million 1 for activities on Gene Drives. This included running a covert 'advocacy coalition' 3 which appears to have

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Commentary: David King, credited as one of the founders of the anti-GM food campaign, writes for The Ecologist, summarizing successes in the movement over the past 20 years, looking ahead to future challenges in opposition to gene editing

December 1, 2017 **Source:** **The Ecologist** | **Stakeholder:** NGO

**Region:** Europe | **Favorability:** Negative

**URL:** <https://theecologist.org/2017/dec/01/anti-gm-food-campaign-celebrates-20-years-success-we-cant-be-complacent-argues-dr-david>

The anti-GM food campaign celebrates 20 years of success – but we can't be complacent David King 1st December 2017 The Big Gene Gathering took place Herefordshire during 1997 and the following December the UK's anti-GMO movement was born. DR DAVID KING has been an activist in the movement since the beginning. Here, he explores

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Commentary: Third World Network amplifies article by **Edward Hammond** of Prickly Research on International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture's (ITPGRFA) meeting in Kigali, Rwanda, examining its decision on genetic sequence information

November 21, 2017 **Source:** **Third World Network** | **Stakeholder:** NGO

**Region:** Asia | **Favorability:** Negative

**URL:** N/A

Title : TWN Info: Plant Treaty to Address Genetic Sequence Information Date : 2017-11-21 Contents: TWN Info Service on Biosafety, Sustainable Agriculture, IP, Biodiversity and TK 21 November 2017 Third World Network [www.twn.my](http://www.twn.my) Dear friends and colleagues, The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) has decided to begin serious work

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Jay Byrne, president  
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