



NO! GMO Campaign

Nikken Bldg 2F, 75 Waseda-machi, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-0042, JAPAN

Phone: (81)-3-5155-4765 / Fax: (81)-3-5155-4767

E-mail: no-gmo@jca.apc.org

<http://www.no-gmo.com/>

Statement by the "No! GMO Campaign" of Japan

We demand that the application for GM wheat be rejected

Japanese consumers have opposed the introduction of GM food. The "No! GMO Campaign" is an organization formed by groups and individuals in order to give concrete expression to our opposition to GM food. We were first very concerned about the distribution of GM food without labeling, and demanded that the rights of the consumer to know what is in the food and to be able to make an informed choice be respected. Although we consider that the labeling system now in force is inadequate, we were successful in helping to bring that system into existence.

Further, we have been successful in appealing to farmers not to plant GM crops in Japan. Thus far, no GM food crops have been planted and harvested in Japan.

We have also been successful in stopping cultivation trials of GM rice carried out by the Monsanto Company, and have also prevented further development of GM crop varieties in Japan. As a result, all private Japanese companies have withdrawn from GM food crop development. Our activities have thus put a stop to all development of GM food crops inside Japan.

However, we have thus far not been able to prevent the cultivation and export to Japan of GM crops from the United States and Canada, and GM soybeans, corn, canola, and cotton have entered the Japanese market. Nevertheless, because foods which undergo only a small degree of processing, such as *tofu* and *miso* (traditional Japanese foodstuffs manufactured from soybeans), must be labeled, we have been able to exclude GM crops from these foods.

We have recently learned that the Monsanto Company has applied for approval of its GM wheat varieties in the United States and Canada, and that there is a possibility that approval will be granted. Wheat is an important staple food not only for the consumers of the United States and Canada, but also for the Japanese, who consume wheat in a large number of food products, including bread, noodles, cakes and cookies, and so on. If GM wheat is grown, it will inevitably enter the Japanese market.

The outcry against GM wheat is now spreading among Japanese consumers. We are transmitting this outcry to the governments of your countries through the submission of the results of a "group petition". We have been appealing to flour manufacturers, distributing organizations, bread manufacturers, and other companies that use or handle wheat in order to spread the outcry against GM wheat. Our petition now includes the declaration of intent of flour manufacturers to oppose GM wheat.

If GM wheat is approved by the governments of the United States and Canada, and it is cultivated and harvested, we will have no option but to initiate a consumer boycott. Flour manufacturers are in agreement with us on this point. We believe that this would be a very unfortunate thing for the relationship between our countries, which has been built up over the span of many years.

We demand that GM wheat not be approved in order to maintain goodwill and friendly relations between our countries.