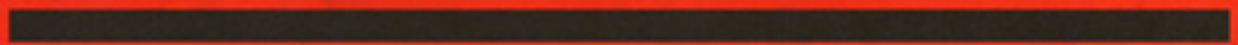

BRAZIL'S BIODIVERSITY IS BEING POISONED



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Brazil, one of the planet's most biodiverse countries, is being systematically poisoned by agribusiness which every year dumps around **ONE BILLION litres/tonnes of pesticide** in the country's environment.

The consequences for human health and the environment are terrifying. Studies conducted by independent scientists relate increased incidence of cancer, allergies, poisoning, cases of depression and suicide and malformed foetuses to exposure to and consumption of pesticides. Moreover, a variety of other studies indicate the **harmful effects** of the use of pesticides on the environment, such as contaminated water and loss of aquatic biodiversity, the extinction of some species of bees and so forth ¹.

Soybean and maize are champions in pesticide use in Brazil and the areas in which their production is concentrated coincide with the country's largest aquifers. Recent studies performed by researchers from the Brazilian Agriculture and Cattle Raising Research Company reveal the occurrence of water contaminated by pesticides in several Brazilian states. The studies show pesticide concentrations above permitted limits and the presence of substances prohibited in Brazil in the samples analysed.

SINCE THE ADVENT OF TRANSGENIC CROPS IN BRAZIL IN THE EARLY 2000S, PESTICIDE USE HAS INCREASED DRAMATICALLY. BETWEEN 2000 AND 2012, PESTICIDE USE IN BRAZIL INCREASED 288%.

¹ The ABRASCO Dossier: Impacts of pesticides on health, available in Portuguese and Spanish through the following links, contains a series of studies indicating the harmful effects of pesticides on human health and the environment <http://abrasco.org.br/dossieagrotoxicos/> · <http://abrasco.org.br/dossieragrotoxicos/>

THE PROMISE OF THE DEFENDERS OF TRANSGENIC PLANTS THAT THE CULTIVATION OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS WOULD REDUCE PESTICIDE CONSUMPTION, IS A HUGE LIE!

- In Brazil, **out of 58 transgenic plants** approved by CTNBio, the technical commission responsible for assessing requests for permission to commercialize GMOs in the country, **48 have been modified** so as to acquire resistance to pesticides.
- As a general rule, the same companies that produce transgenic seeds also produce the associated pesticides. The control of 65% of the global pesticide market and 61% of the seed market is concentrated in the hands of **just six companies!**
- **Soybean, maize and cotton** plantations, the main focus of the large transgenic crop companies, today lead pesticide consumption in Brazil. Alongside sugar cane, these three crops account for some 80% of agrochemical sector sales.

THE INTRINSIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TRANSGENIC CROPS AND PESTICIDES IS BEING NEGLECTED BY BRAZIL'S GMO REGULATION AND INSPECTION BODIES!

- The analyses of genetically modified organisms do not take into consideration the **harmful effects on health and the environment** of pesticides associated with their technology package.

In March 2015, CTNBio (National Biosafety Technical Commission), the consultative and deliberative body responsible for approving requests for permission to commercialize OGMs in the country, approved a species of transgenic maize resistant to 2,4 D, the active ingredient of one of the world's oldest weedkillers, classified by the National Health Surveillance Agency as being extremely toxic. The impacts relating to increased use of this pesticide in Brazil were not so much as considered in the technical body's decision.

- Risk analyses of genetically modified organisms ignore the potential consequences of applying multiple pesticides in the same area simultaneously or in sequence, which can result in synergetic or additional adverse effects known as **PYRAMID EFFECTS**.

COUP AGAINST BRAZILIAN BIODIVERSITY

In 2016, Brazil suffered a coup d'état when President Dilma was removed from office. The agendas of the conservative sectors of society that headed and supported the coup d'état have gained even more force.

In the legislative sphere, longstanding discussions and bills of law have been rekindled regarding the **relaxation of pesticide regulation** in Brazil, making the above scenario even worse.

Relaxation of pesticide regulation is part of the strategy of large multinational agricultural commodity companies to mitigate the effects of the economic crisis. By doing so they aim to broaden their market and consolidate their empire in so-called third world countries which are turned into nothing less than dumping grounds for toxic products and obsolete technologies already rejected in "developed" countries.

[backsliding]

THE POISON LAW

A Bill of Law is underway in the Brazilian National Congress which aims to relax the regulation of pesticides in the country. The Bill alters the procedure for approving requests for permission to commercialize pesticides, transferring responsibility for registering pesticides to a technical commission, similarly to what happens with transgenic crops. It permits the registration of pesticides found to have **teratogenic, carcinogenic and mutagenic characteristics, as well as causing hormone disorders and harm to the reproductive system.**

Furthermore, the Bill facilitates registration of equivalent pesticides and allows the sale of pesticides without an agronomic prescription.

All 7 varieties of transgenic soybean approved in Brazil are resistant to pesticides, and 2 of them are resistant to more than one pesticide. Out of 30 varieties of transgenic maize approved in the country, 30 are pesticide-resistant and 20 are resistant to more than one pesticide.

THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVIMENTS RESISTANCE

The Brazilian Permanent Campaign against Pesticides and for Life brings together social movements, non-governmental organizations, scientists, teachers and students from all over Brazil in the fight against the advance of agribusiness, **the main cause of the erosion of the country's biodiversity.**

We demand of the Brazilian State:

- The incorporation into the evaluation of GMO risks of tests needed to **analyse the impacts and adverse effects** for the environment and health of the use of pesticides associated with transgenic crops, in accordance with The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (COP-MOP) decisions and Ad Hoc Technical Experto group (ATHEG) recommendations on risk analysis, thus keeping in line with the global trend in dealing with the technology pact;
- The strengthening of public policies aimed at promoting **agroecology**, as a socially and environmentally fair alternative to the agribusiness model;
- The adoption of public policies aimed at **reducing pesticide consumption** in Brazil;
- The carrying out of **monitoring actions** following commercial release, incorporating the potential adverse effects of the use of pesticides associated with genetically modified plants, in accordance with COP-MOP decisions and recommendations;
- The Banning of the Banned – **prohibition** of the importation, production and commercialization of pesticides prohibited in other countries.



The ABRASCO Dossier: Impacts of pesticides on health, available in Portuguese and Spanish through the following links, contains a series of studies indicating the harmful effects of pesticides on human health and the environment

More information on
abrasco.org.br/dossieragrotoxicos



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