



COMMUNIQUE de PRESSE

Ne contaminez pas les semences traditionnelles du Vanuatu !

à Nouméa, le 06 avril 2015

STOP OGM Pacifique avait **interrogé publiquement la Chambre d'Agriculture** de la Nouvelle-Calédonie, le 24 mars 2015, sur le contenu des « kits » agricoles destinés à aider le Vanuatu dans la période post-PAM (voir le [communiqué](#)). Notre demande de transparence sur la nature, la quantité, la provenance des semences, et le détail des coûts, est restée **lettre morte**.

STOP OGM Pacifique, en lien avec ses membres ni-vanuatu, **s'est donc rendue sur place** pour obtenir des réponses à ces questions, faire un état des lieux de la situation, et proposer une aide adaptée aux besoins.

Accréditée par le NDMO (National Disaster Management Office), notre association a réussi à obtenir sur place des informations partielles :

- ✓ sur la tonne de semences annoncée par la Chambre d'Agriculture de Nouvelle-Calédonie, **seulement 300kg** ont été importés (800kg avec les emballages),
- ✓ **aucune semence reproductible** n'est incluse dans le lot,
- ✓ les semences sont **toutes des hybrides**, de marques françaises (Technisem, Tropica, Vilmorin, Gauthier Semences, Hortical), d'Europe (Rijk zwann) et d'autres d'Australie (Terra Nova) et d'Asie (T'akii seeds) : non adaptées aux conditions locales (climat et sols), non reproductibles, et nécessitant des intrants chimiques pour produire (engrais, pesticides),
- ✓ des **semences de papaye** en provenance de Taïwan (Known You), de "France" (Technisem), de Fiji, et de l'Université d'Hawaii,
- ✓ le représentant de la Chambre d'Agriculture **n'a pas été en mesure de fournir les certificats non-OGM** des semenciers.

Concernant les papayes :

- ✓ **au vu de la provenance des semences, et après vérifications, nous affirmons de façon certaine la présence de semences de papaye OGM dans le lot importé.** Hawaii produit depuis 1998 des papayes OGM et exporte largement fruits et semences qui ont contaminés le grand Pacifique jusqu'en Asie.
- ✓ les pieds de papayers locaux n'ont que très peu été affectés par le cyclone PAM : **on trouve sur place des fruits et des graines de papayes à profusion.**

L'introduction massives d'hybrides et d'OGM, non adaptées aux pratiques d'agriculture traditionnelle rend les agriculteurs dépendants aux intrants, compromet l'agrobiodiversité locale adaptée aux sols et aux climat. Les variétés locales et traditionnelles, cultivées depuis des millénaires vont être contaminées par ces hybrides et OGM, mettant ainsi en péril la **souveraineté alimentaire** du Vanuatu.

Nous rappelons que **le Vanuatu ne dispose pas actuellement de réglementation sur l'importation des semences OGM.**

STOP OGM Pacifique réitère sa demande de transparence sur les semences distribuées (quantités, marques, certificats de garanti non-OGM) et les coûts associés.

**QUI SONT LES REELS BENEFICIAIRES DE CETTE OPERATION :
LES AGRICULTEURS NI-VANUATU OU LES SEMENCIERS ?**

Farmers warned about genetically modified seeds

By Anita Roberts

UNLESS THERE IS A REGULATION at this time on the importation of Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) seedlings, local farmers are left to decide whether to preserve traditional agriculture or accept the

imported seedlings which could put the country's food sovereignty in grave peril. GMO, the result of a laboratory process where genes from the DNA of one species are extracted and artificially forced into the genes of an unrelated plant or animal is has been

frowned upon by many countries.

Experts have confirmed to have found 300kg of pawpaw seeds packaged as humanitarian aid to be GMO and was expected to be distributed to farmers today.

These pawpaw seedlings,

if farmers here in Vanuatu grow will only pose great danger to traditional seeds, the lives of indigenous people and livestock even could diminish local market opportunities, Daily Post was told.

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An example of GM pawpaw. 85% of the Hawaiian pawpaw trees are GMO. Hawaii has been exporting pawpaw fruits and seeds around the Pacific, where they are now grown due to massive importation of seeds. It is not allowed to be exported in Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Europe.

Farmers warned about genetically modified seeds

□ From Front Page

Experts from the STOP GMO Pacifique, a Noumea based organization revealed this to the Daily Post.

"Only 1kg GMO pawpaw seed grown in ten years' time could contaminated thousands of traditional plants in Vanuatu," revealed the head of STOP GMO Pacifique, Frederic Guerin, who is also an agrobiologist.

Following the passage of Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu, agriculture was severely-hit and food security is a priority. Stocks of seeds for gardening such as corn, cabbage, pumpkin, cucumber, bean, tomato, lettuce, watermelon and pawpaw were imported for the struggling farmers.

Majority of Vanuatu farmers who lack knowledge of GMOs are left without knowing if these imported seeds are safe for growing.

The Daily Post was told the Minister of Health, David Tosul, and authorities have been consulted on the matter and it remains to be seen whether the seeds are banned from distribution.

According to the experts, the massive introduction of the GMO seeds is a short term response that could unfortunately cause farmers to depend upon the companies, push aside the local agro-biodiversity and contaminate thousands of local varieties and traditions.

Experts explained GMO seeds are produced by private enterprises and thus are patented, undermining farmers' right on seeds.

This means once cultivated, the farmer has to buy seeds from companies every time.

In effect, the farmer loses seed sovereignty and become dependent on the enterprise.

On the other hand, GM seeds requires chemicals such as pesticides and fertilizers that are harmful to the environment.

"It is important to keep and protect traditional seeds to maintain food security and sovereignty. In a few weeks' time the local seeds will be growing back," stressed the experts.

Registered under New-Caledonian regulations, STOP GMO Pacifique aims at informing about GMOs in food, agriculture, environment, and advocates for the adoption of a specific regulation on GMOs in New Caledonia and the Pacific region.

The organization's representatives were on a mission visiting countries in the pacific to educate and discourage islanders from using GMO seeds.

Unless there is a regulation, Vanuatu is an open door for seed lobbyists and agrochemical companies to introduce their various types of hybrid and GM seedlings.

STOP GMO Pacifique pointed out the cyclone has brought an opportunity for authorities to consider implementing policies that control GMO products. STOP GMO Pacifique says it is happy to assist.

Article du Daily Post Vanuatu du 3 avril 2015

http://www.dailypost.vu/news/image_83a2fa76-6023-5931-af53-dbc19164ecb9.html