

Currently, several varieties of transgenic products and imported processed food products are being distributed in food aid. The REDSSAG maintains a permanent monitoring of GMOs in food aid and has repeatedly denounced the presence of varieties unfit for human consumption, like the yellow corn Stalink distributed in 2005 in Camotán y Jocotán, when a famine occurred in that east area of the country. In 2007 the presence of 3 varieties of transgenic corn and 2 transgenic varieties in an "atol" (beverage with flour, solved in water or milk, very common in South America), usually delivered by the government, called Vitacereal, where the lab found a 62% concentration of transgenic products.

All these complaints have been submitted to the Ministry of Public Health and Welfare and to the Secretary of Food Safety, who have not reacted; there is even testimonies from people who are using this "atol" for nutritional recovery of their children under 5, saying that children who use it have strong dysentery. However we cannot yet say that allergic reactions are caused by the consumption of transgenic food, because people with these levels of malnutrition can have reactions to food for many other reasons.

The World Food Programme continues their policy of distributing food aid without guaranteeing minimum safety for the products, stipulated by the newly adopted law of the food and nutritional security system. They should certify that such food does not cause harm to those who consume it and label the products containing transgenic for people who are receiving these products to be informed and able to decide if they will or not consume them. For this reason we believe the right to food is being violated, and we are preparing a complaint, together with the affected communities. We are also looking for FIAN's support, as the cases need to be well documented in order to be considered as a violation to the Right to food.

We have been also monitoring the seeds, and to date only some tests on corn, papaya and tomato were authorized by the Standards and regulations UNIT of MAGA on farms belonging to the company Cristiani BurKar and to the University Rafael Landivar, to try these experiments under "controlled conditions". We also know that Monsanto and Syngenta, have had several lobbying meetings with the government for asking permission for marketing GMOs in the country, but as we still don't have a legal regulatory framework, it has not been granted. According to some environmentalists, the companies are just waiting for some ministerial resolutions, so they can sell their products, even though we do not have legislation to regulate it.

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