

Document 1: Supporting information for the Company "Soyunsanto".**Press release from Soyunsanto related to transgenic foods:**

The first transgenic plant, a tobacco plant, was created in 1983. We have been **researching** and practicing **for over 35 years now**. We carry out exhaustive tests in fields of controlled crops and authorized areas for experimentation. **Only after a large amount of tests**, we propose the approval of the GMO and a GMO can be commercialized.

Currently, the transgenic crops available in the international market have been designed using one of the three basic characteristics: **resistance to insect damage**; resistance to **damage by viruses**; and **resistance to herbicides**. Crops or cultivations with a **higher nutrient content** (such as golden rice) or drought-resistant (some varieties of corn) have also been studied.

With respect to the possible health risks of genetically modified foods, the **WHO (World Health Organization)** has said: "GM (genetically modified) foods currently available on the international market **have passed safety assessments** and are **unlikely to present risks for human health**. In addition, no effects on human health have been demonstrated as a result of the consumption of such foods by the general population in the countries where they have been approved".

On the other hand, the use of transgenic plants resistant to pests has **allowed reducing the use of insecticides** and are, therefore, a benefit for the environment. In addition, transgenic plants normally **produce more food than normal crops**.

Golden rice contains vitamin A, a key component so that children in populations that rely on rice for food do not suffer from certain diseases. **Our company will give for free** rice seeds to families with incomes of less than € 10,000 and a **branch of the company** will be installed **in the municipality**, which will **create many jobs**.

Document 2: Supporting information for the small producers association "Farm life".**Report of the Farm Life association to its members:**

In response to the invitation received to participate in the meeting announced by the municipal corporation to decide on the approval of the cultivation of transgenic rice in our municipality, we have collected some data on transgenic crops:

Transgenic crops **are not allowed by organic agriculture**, so if we want to continue as organic farming we cannot grow that rice. In the case of transgenic rice fields close to ours, we must bear in mind that some scientific studies have confirmed that **transgenic genes have invaded fields of crops** that were not transgenic. There is also scientific evidence that **some insects and weeds have developed resistance to the herbicides and pesticides** to which transgenic crops are resistant. We have to think how this could affect our crops.

As for the **seeds**, those seeds of the transgenic crops are patented by the companies that have created them. This means that the seeds that are patented **cannot be saved or keep, they can not be re-sown (plant them again)**. In case of using these seeds, the Company could report us to the Authorities and we could be fined or arrested.

We have also studied the **economic benefits** that transgenic crops have reported to farmers. It seems that there are economic benefits during the first years but later, to maintain them, **aid and grants would be necessary**.

Document 3: Supporting information for the environmental organization “Green Action”.

Press release of Green Action in relation to genetically modified foods:

As an environmental group, we strongly oppose the approval of the cultivation of golden rice in this territory. Our opposition responds to environmental reasons and also to social reasons.

We want to first of all remember that this company “Soyunsanto” owns about 80% of the transgenic plant patents. Since there is almost no competition from other companies, **the seeds can reach very high prices**. It is also known that the **farmers can not save (keep) or produce seeds**, so they depend completely on the company.

Regarding the environment, we are worried about the **introduced genes because they can pass to wild populations, contaminating them**. Other plants could, for example, become resistant to herbicides. We are also worried about the **use of larger quantities of herbicides and pesticides**, which can **contaminate** water and the soil where our food is grown.

Furthermore, **we do not believe** that golden rice **is the solution to hunger or lack of vitamin A**. The main causes of vitamin A deficiency are poverty and lack of access to a healthy and balanced diet. Transgenic rice is a solution that **can generate new problems**, such as the **loss of varieties** that have been grown for generations and are perfectly adapted to climate and soil. The solution is **to eat a balanced diet**: the combination of vitamin supplements and domestic horticulture in Bangladesh, where this disease was considered one of the most serious public health problems 20 years ago, has had very good results.

Document 4: Supporting information for the independent science group (scientific consulting).

Report of the scientific advice Independent Science to the municipality of Madarquillos:

Our group of scientific experts has been reviewing a large amount of information and scientific studies related to the topic of genetically modified foods. We have to say that, in general, **there is not a generalized agreement on some issues**. It is the case, for example, of the studies on damage to health in animals: some studies say that they do not find any harm, while others talk about malformations in some animals fed with transgenic food.

According to a report by the **WHO (World Health Organization)**, genetically modified foods available in the international market have passed safety assessments and are not likely to present risks to human health. No effects on human health have been demonstrated as a result of the consumption of these foods. This organization **recommends**:

- **evaluating case by case**
- **do not make general statements about the safety of GM foods.**

Science does seem to agree on some issues:

- There are no definitive conclusions about its long-term consequences.
- Transgenic genes have invaded fields that are not transgenic.
- There are insects and plants that are developing resistance to pesticides and herbicides used in the fields with transgenic crops.
- There is no evidence that transgenic plants produce a greater amount of food than non-transgenic plants.
- Both FAO and some Scientific Academies of international relevance agree that the escape of genes could have uncontrollable consequences.

Document 5: Supporting information document for the Food Assembly Association.

Notification of the “Melocomotó” association to its buying groups (people from the Food assembly):

According to the sources consulted by our association, one of the biggest controversies is whether transgenic foods would be harmful to human health or not. **There are short and medium term studies that have not found significant damage, although others have.** The laboratories carry out tests with animals for 90 days. A group of scientists did a more long-term study, in which some rats which were fed with transgenic corn, began to have problems after 120 days. The rats had liver and kidney damage, and hormonal disorders. This study was published, withdrawn, republished, and again withdrawn...

In this regard, **the WHO** (World Health Organization) indicates:

Genetically modified (GM) foods and their safety **must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis**

It is not possible to make general statements about the safety of genetically modified foods.

There seems to be consensus about the **increase in the use of chemical products**, especially herbicides and pesticides, in the fields of transgenic crops.

Document 6: Supporting information for the Local Corporation “Madarquillos en transición”.

Recommendations for Madarquillos en Transición, the Local Corporation:

In the municipality of Madarquillos **there are no deficiencies of Vitamin A** in food. It is a rural municipality with a **non-polluted environment** and in which many people have their small vegetables garden.

There are no industries or many services in the town. **Young people have to leave because of unemployment**, they cannot find a job. Farm Life association is trying to generate more jobs by promoting the change of land use towards **organic farming**. There is also some initiative to set up a rural tourism business. If the golden rice is approved, with **the opening of a branch** of "Soyunsanto", the unemployment in the municipality would end.

Regarding the issue of transgenic foods, we know that **there is a scientific consensus**: if genes "escape" to other organisms and spread freely, it will be impossible to recover them. That is, they will be free in nature to spread with unknown consequences.

As a local corporation, we must reach an agreement as consensual as possible, taking into account all the pros and cons that approval would imply, both for the current inhabitants and for future generations.