



生活協同組合連合会
グリーンコープ連合

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Seikatsu Club Consumers' Co-operative Union

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September 1, 2011
Honourable Colin Barnett MLA
Premier
197 Geprges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000
E-mail: WA-Government@dpc.wa.gov.au

Dear Premier:

Thank you for your letter of 28 April 2011 outlining your position on Mr. Steve Marsh's case, who lost his organic certification because his property was contaminated with GM canola. We are still following his case very closely.

Now we are writing to you to express that the Seikatsu Club Consumers' Co-operative Union and the Green Co-op Consumers' Co-operative Union are greatly concerned over the spill of GM canola on the Albany Highway at Williams after a fire split the truck trailer on Tuesday, 9 August 2011. Our co-operatives have consistently imported non-GM canola from Australia, mainly from Western Australia, since 1998. Especially since 2008, when commercial cultivation of GM canola was first allowed in Western Australia, we have had meetings with CBH and other organizations in Western Australia. We asked them to implement stringent risk management strategies for the segregation of GM canola to avoid all negative impacts on non-GM canola production and distribution. We also asked you for the same assurances.

However, the regrettable accident and GM canola spill have now occurred in Williams. The Seikatsu Club Consumers Co-operative Union contracted with farmers in Williams to buy non-GM canola. We started the actual purchases this year after one year of trials. We chose to buy directly from non-GM farmers in Williams because a majority of farmers around Williams backed GM-free farming and the Shire Council of Williams asked the state government to retain the ban on GM canola. A dozen growers in Williams also asked the state government to revoke the exemption from the law that allows GM canola to be grown and recently also asked to be put on the new Sensitive Sites Register. We are very disappointed that the government did not respect and act on their requests.

Here in Japan, although we do not grow GM canola, imported GM canola grows wild every year around ports and along roads from canola seeds spilled during transportation. We also have evidence that this GM canola has cross-pollinated with its wild and weedy relatives. Judging from our experience here, the non-GM properties in the surrounding areas of the accident at Williams will inevitably be contaminated with GM canola if the spilled GM seeds are

not fully cleaned up. The ability of non-GM farmers to continue producing canola for us is now in danger. We are greatly concerned that this incident could hurt our relationships with CBH and with farmers in Williams, destroying what we have worked very hard to build.

Clean-up measures should be taken in a broad area including the site of the GM spill and potentially contaminated surrounding areas to which GM canola seeds were carried by wind, water and so on. The affected areas should be classified according to the contamination level and measures that are appropriate to the level should be taken. If you will not take such detailed measures, non-GM farmers will be deprived of their right to grow non-GM crops.

We know that spilled canola seed can continue to germinate for years so it is essential to intensively monitor a broad area of potential contamination in the long term and to implement a continuous clean-up program.

Therefore we ask you to reply to our following questions:

1. We request a full public accounting of how this accident occurred. What are your plans for government investigations to this end?
2. What measures do you intend to take to deal with the accident? How long do you plan to implement these measures?
3. What measures are you going to take to require the grains industry to improve its GM canola segregation programs throughout grain and oilseed supply chains, including GM transportation?
4. Will you reinstate the moratorium on growing GM canola, at least until the parliament passes farmer protection laws to automatically compensate any producer who suffers GM contamination?

Please respond to this request. We await your prompt reply.

Yours sincerely,

Koichi Kato
Chairperson
Seikatsu Club Consumers Co-operative Union

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Yuko Tanaka
Chairperson
Green Co-op Consumers' Co-operative Union

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