



Deutscher Naturschutzring

Dachverband der deutschen
Natur- und Umweltschutz-
verbände (DNR) e.V.
German League for Nature
and Environment

WWF International
Gland
Avenue du Mont-Blanc
CH-1196 Gland

☐ **DNR-Geschäftsstelle Bonn**

Koblenzer Straße 65
D-53173 Bonn
☎ +49/228/35 90 05
☎ +49/228/35 90 96
✉ info@dnr.de
Internet: www.dnr.de

☐ **Geschäftsstelle Berlin**

Marienstraße 19-20
D-10117 Berlin
☎ +49/30/67 81 775-70
☎ +49/30/67 81 775-80
✉ info-berlin@dnr.de

Bonn, 9. Februar 2011
Rö/Be/6/13

Call for immediate Withdraw of WWF from the RTRS

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

The results of the new study *GM Soy: Sustainable? Responsible?*¹ published in September 2010 by nine eminent scientists, most of them from South America, are alarming! Their key finding is: GM soy cultivation is neither sustainable nor responsible but just the opposite. It has led to an enormous increase of glyphosate use, because of the spread of glyphosate-resistant superweeds. These have led to devastated farmland and forced farmers onto a chemical treadmill of using even more toxic herbicides in an attempt to control the weeds.

According to the research of Andrés Carrasco², one of the authors and professor and director of the laboratory of molecular embryology at the University of Buenos Aires Medical School, Argentina, glyphosate causes malformations in frog and chicken embryos at doses far lower than those used in agriculture. Carrasco also noted in his study, that he was prompted to carry out his research by reports of dramatic rises in rates of human birth defects located in areas of Argentina where glyphosate is sprayed on crops.

Carrasco's study is just the latest in a long series, showing that glyphosate and Roundup have serious toxic effects on health. These effects have been found at levels far lower than those used in agriculture.

¹ Antoniou, M., Brack, P., Carrasco, A., Fagan, J., Habib, M., Kageyama, P., Leifert, C., Nodari, R., Pengue, W. 2010. GM Soy: Sustainable? Responsible? GLS Gemeinschaftsbank and ARGE Gentechnik-frei.
<http://bit.ly/9D9J2k>

² Paganelli, A., Gnazzo, V., Acosta, H., López, S.L., Carrasco, A.E. 2010. Glyphosate-based herbicides produce teratogenic effects on vertebrates by impairing retinoic acid signalling. Chem. Res. Toxicol., August 9.
<http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/tx1001749>

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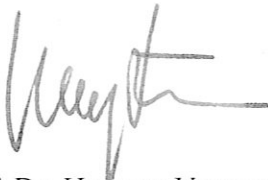
All these damages to the environment and human health are endorsed by the RTRS and WWF International as one of its founders. We are writing to you to urge WWF International to withdraw from the RTRS. Deutscher Naturschutzring (DNR), German League for Nature and Environment – cannot accept that WWF International protects a failed system of agriculture and secures the profits of companies like Monsanto and BP. At the RTRS it is WWF International that plays the key role. It wouldn't make any sense if biotech and oil companies assure each other that the GM soya they produce or use is sustainable. But if WWF international blesses GM soya as "sustainable" or "responsible" it protects narrow business interests and not people and the environment.

Please be aware that the evidence of the irresponsibility of GM soya production is so immense that sooner or later the reputation of WWF International as an environmental organisation will be affected and perhaps ruined on the long run. These activities of WWF International are in contradiction to the "Basler Kriterien", produced and published jointly by WWF Switzerland and COOP, in which a demand for production free of GMOS is explicitly expressed.

A similar problem is also located in the "better cotton initiative". WWF participates in this. This initiative understands itself as "technical neutral" and doesn't foreclose gene-modified cotton.

We are looking forward to hearing from you soon.

With kind regards



Prof. Dr. Hartmut Vogtmann
First Vice President DNR

Attachment:
Study GM Soy Sustainable? Responsible?