

ETC Group - Monitoring Power, Tracking Technology, Strengthening Diversity.

Terminator & Traitor



The genetic modification of plants to produce sterile seeds (dubbed "Terminator" technology by RAFI - now ETC Group -- in 1998) has been widely condemned by civil society, scientific bodies and many governments as an immoral application of biotechnology. If commercialized, Terminator would prevent farmers from re-using seed from their harvest, forcing them to return to the commercial seed market. "Traitor" technology refers to the use of an external chemical inducer to turn "on or off" a plant's genetic traits - the same mechanism used to control seed sterility in Terminator plants. The development of chemically-dependent plants and genetic seed sterilization threatens farmers, food security and the environment. The ETC Group is campaigning with CSO partners world-wide to ban Terminator and Traitor technologies.

Latest Publications

[Terminating Food Sovereignty in Ecuador?
President opens door to Terminator seeds](#)

Type: News Item
Date: 04/17/2009
Language: English

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104.1KB

ETC Group News Release April 17, 2009 www.etcgroup.org

Terminating Food Sovereignty in Ecuador? President opens door to Terminator seeds

On February 18, 2009, the Ecuadorian Congress approved a new Law on Food Sovereignty, which, among other important points, declared the country "free of transgenic crops and seeds." However, in spite of vocal popular opposition, the legislation left the door open to approvals of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in "exceptional" cases. Now, President Rafael Correa has proposed several changes to the legislation – in what is known in Ecuador as a partial-veto – and sent it back to the Congress. The president's changes dangerously weaken the law and open the door to Terminator seeds.

Terminator technology is designed to make "suicide seeds," genetically engineered to be sterile in the second generation. The technology has been widely... [Read more](#)

Categories:

[Captain Hook Awards for Biopiracy 2008](#)

Type: News Item
Date: 05/20/2008
Language: English

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110.8KB

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News Release Coalition Against Biopiracy Wednesday, 21 May 2008 www.captainhookawards.org www.etcgroup.org

Captain Hook Awards for Biopiracy 2008

The Coalition Against Biopiracy* exposes Hooks and celebrates Cogs

Winners announced at the UN's Biodiversity Convention in Bonn

Today the world learned which corporations, governments, institutions and individuals earned a spot in biopiracy's hall of shame when the Coalition Against Biopiracy (CAB) announced the winners of the 5th Captain Hook Awards at a lunch-time ceremony during the Ninth Conference of the Parties (COP9) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Bonn, Germany.


"The Maritim Hotel, where the CBD meets this week and next, was the perfect place to... [Read more](#)

Categories:

[Terminator – La suite](#)

Type: Communiqué Date: 06/14/2007 Language: French

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 5.3MB

Terminator – La suite

Même si les États ont réitéré et renforcé le moratoire des Nations unies sur Terminator (les technologies de restriction génétique, ou GURT) en mars 2006, des chercheurs du public et du privé préparent une nouvelle génération de semences-suicide – des plantes GM (génétiquement modifiées) dont la fertilité peut être activée ou désactivée par des commutateurs chimiques


L'enjeu : Sous couvert de biosécurité, le projet triennal Transcontainer de l'Union européenne consacre des millions d'euros à des stratégies incapables de garantir le confinement absolu de transgènes des cultures GM, mais qui peuvent cependant agir comme Terminator et constituent donc un risque inacceptable pour les agriculteurs, la biodiversité et la... [Read more](#)

Categories:

[Les semences-suicide – La suite : le Transcontainer de l'UE transforme Terminator en zombie](#)

Type: News Item Date: 06/13/2007 Language: French
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 133.8KB

ETC Group lance aujourd'hui [Terminator -La suite](#), un communiqué sur une nouvelle recherche en rapport avec les semences-suicide et autres technologies relatives aux semences GM (génétiquement modifiées) qui constituent une menace inacceptable pour les agriculteurs, la biodiversité et la souveraineté alimentaire.

biosécuritaire à la dissémination non désirée des transgènes de cultures, arbres et plantes pharmaceutiques GM. En pratique, la commercialisation de ces technologies permettra aux multinationales des semences d'affermir leur emprise sur les semences exclusives et de gruger les droits des agriculteurs.


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Categories:

[Terminator: The Sequel](#)

Type: Communiqué
Date: 06/13/2007
Language: English

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 1.1MB

* [also available in french](#)*

Despite the fact that governments re-affirmed and strengthened the United Nations' moratorium on Terminator technology (a.k.a. genetic use restriction technology [GURTs]) in March 2006, public and private sector researchers are developing a new generation of suicide seeds – using chemically induced “switches” to turn a genetically modified (GM) plant's fertility on or off.


Issue: Under the guise of biosafety, the European Union's 3-year Transcontainer Project is investing millions of euros in strategies that cannot promise fail-safe containment of transgenes from GM crops, but could nonetheless function as Terminator, posing unacceptable threats to farmers, biodiversity and food sovereignty. Terminator technology – genetic seed sterilization – was initially developed by the multinational seed/agrochemical... [Read more](#)

Categories:

[Suicide-Seed Sequel: EU's "Transcontainer" Turns Terminator into Zombie](#)

Type: News Item
Date: 06/13/2007
Language: English

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 142.0KB

* [also available in french](#)* ETC Group today releases “Terminator: The Sequel,” a Communiqué reporting on new research related to “suicide seeds” and other genetically modified (GM) seed technologies that pose unacceptable threats to farmers, biodiversity and food sovereignty.


Today ETC Group reports on a new crop of genetic engineering technologies that are being promoted as a biosafety solution to the unwanted spread of transgenes from GM crops, trees and pharmaceutical-producing plants. In practice, these technologies, if commercialized, will allow the multinational seed industry to tighten its grasp on proprietary seeds and to restrict the rights of farmers.

The 28-page Communiqué begins with an examination of [the European Union's...](#) [Read more](#)


Categories:

Date: 05/30/2007
Language: English

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 83.7KB

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 76.2KB

News Release ETC Group May 31, 2007 www.etcgroup.org

Bill to Ban Terminator Introduced in Canada


A bill to prohibit field testing and commercialization of Terminator seed technology was introduced in the Canadian Parliament today. Terminator refers to plants that are genetically engineered to render sterile seeds at harvest - a technology that aims to maximize seed industry profits by preventing farmers from re-planting harvested seed. "Canada needs to pass this bill into law because genetic seed sterilization is dangerous and blatantly anti-farmer - suicide seeds threaten to intensify corporate control over Canadian agriculture and offers no benefits for farmers," said Colleen Ross of the National Farmers Union. Initially developed by the US Department of Agriculture and multinational seed companies, "suicide seeds" have not been commercialized anywhere... [Read more](#)

Categories:

[REVOKED!! Monsanto Monopoly Nixed in Munich](#)

Type: News Item
Date: 05/03/2007
Language: English

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 111.8KB

ETC Group News Release 3 May 2007 www.etcgroup.org

REVOKED!! Monsanto Monopoly Nixed in Munich

but little joy in foiling soy ploy at this late date


Munich – The European Patent Office today put the brakes on Monsanto's over-the-top corporate greed by revoking its species-wide patent on all genetically modified soybeans (EP0301749) – a patent unprecedented in its broad scope. ETC Group, an international civil society organization based in Canada, won its 13-year legal challenge against Monsanto's species-wide soybean patent when an EPO appeal board ruled that the patent was not new or sufficient (i.e., the invention claimed was not sufficiently described for a skilled person to repeat it). The patent challenge was supported by Greenpeace and "No Patents on Life!" Dr. Ricarda Steinbrecher of UK-based EcoNexus also joined the opposition team in Munich as a... [Read more](#)

Categories:

[Monsanto prend le contrôle de Delta & Pine Land et de la technologie des semences Terminator](#)

Type: News Item
Date: 08/16/2006
Language: French

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 252.6KB

Categories:

[Monsanto Acquires Delta & Pine Land and Terminator](#)

Type: News Item
Date: 08/16/2006
Language: English

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 416.2KB

News Release ETC Group 16 August 2006 www.etcgroup.org www.banterminator.org

Monsanto Announces Takeover of Delta & Pine Land and Terminator Seed Technology (again)

In a quest to expand its corporate seed empire - Monsanto, the world's largest seed enterprise - announced yesterday that it will buy the world's leading cotton seed company, Mississippi-based (USA) Delta & Pine Land, for US\$1.5 billion. Monsanto and Delta & Pine Land (D&PL) together account for over 57% of the US cotton seed market. With D&PL subsidiaries in 13 countries - including major markets such as China, India, Brazil, Mexico, Turkey and Pakistan - the takeover means that Monsanto will command a dominant position in one of the world's most important agricultural trade commodities and that millions of cotton farmers will be under increased pressure to accept genetically... [Read more](#)

Categories:

[WCC Demands Action to Stop Terminator Seeds](#)

Type: News Item
Date: 05/15/2006
Language: English

15 May 2006

The General Secretary of the World Council of Churches today issued a strong condemnation of Terminator seeds and called on churches and ecumenical partners to take action to stop the technology. The Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia warned that sterile seed technology would increase economic injustice all over the world.


[The WCC's news release is available here.](#) 15.05.06 World Council Of Churches Take Action to Stop Terminator Seeds Demands WCC General SecretaryThe general secretary of the World Council of Churches, Rev. Dr Samuel Kobia, called upon churches and ecumenical partners to take action to stop "terminator technology". "Applying technology to design... [Read more](#)

Categories:

[UN Upholds Moratorium on Terminator Seed Technology](#)

Type: News Item
Date: 03/31/2006
Language: English

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 122.5KB [Ban Terminator Campaign News Release 31 March 2006](#) www.etcgroup.org www.banterminator.org

UN Upholds Moratorium on Terminator Seed Technology Worldwide Movement of Farmers, Indigenous Peoples and Civil Society Organizations Calls for Ban

It's official. Governments at the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) have unanimously upheld the international de facto moratorium on Terminator technology - plants that are genetically engineered to produce sterile seeds at harvest. The 8th meeting of the CBD ended today in Curitiba, Brazil.

"The CBD has soundly rejected the efforts of Canada, Australia and New Zealand - supported by the US government and the biotechnology industry - to undermine the moratorium on suicide seeds," said Maria Jose Guazzelli of Centro Ecologico, a Brazil-based agro-ecological organization.


"By... [Read more](#)

Categories:

[A ONU Mantém a Moratória sobre a Tecnologia das Sementes Terminator](#)

Type: News Item Date: 03/31/2006 Language: Portuguese
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Campanha Terminar Terminator Comunicado de Imprensa 31 de março de 2006 www.etcgroup.org www.banterminator.org

Movimentos de Agricultores, de Povos Indígenas e de Organizações da Sociedade Civil ao Redor do Mundo Exigem Banimento

É oficial. Os governos na Convenção de Diversidade Biológica das Nações Unidas (CDB), de forma unânime, mantiveram a moratória internacional de facto sobre a tecnologia Terminator - plantas que são geneticamente engenheiradas para produzirem sementes estéreis na colheita. A 8ª reunião da CDB foi encerrada hoje, em Curitiba, Brasil.


"A CDB, acertadamente, rejeitou as tentativas do Canadá, Austrália e Nova Zelândia - apoiados pelo governo dos Estados Unidos e pela... [Read more](#)

Categories:

[Captain Hook Awards for Biopiracy 2006](#)

Type: Communiqué Date: 03/29/2006 Language: English
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The Coalition Against Biopiracy exposed the globe's nastiest biopirates and rewarded the most steadfast resisters at the Captain Hook Awards on 24 March during the meeting of the 8th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological


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Categories:

[Terminator Rejected! A victory for the people](#)

Type: News Item
Date: 03/27/2006
Language: English

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[Ban Terminator](#) & ETC Group News Release 24 March 2006

Terminator Rejected! A victory for the people

A broad coalition of peasant farmers, Indigenous Peoples and civil society today celebrates the firm rejection of efforts to undermine the global moratorium on Terminator technologies - genetically engineered sterile seeds - at the meeting of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Curitiba, Brazil.

"This is a momentous day for the 1.4 billion poor people worldwide, who depend on farmer saved seeds," said Francisca Rodriguez of Via Campesina a global movement of peasant farmers. "Terminator seeds are a weapon of mass destruction and an assault on our food sovereignty."


"Terminator directly threatens our life, our culture and our identity as Indigenous Peoples," said Viviana Figueroa of the Ocumazo indigenous community in Argentina, on behalf of the International... [Read more](#)

Categories:

[News Release: Ban Terminator Campaign -- Terminator Seed Battle Begins: Farmers Face Billions of Dollars in Potential Costs](#)

Type: News Item
Date: 03/22/2006
Language: English

Download PDF:

 133.6KB

Ban Terminator Campaign News Release www.banterminator.org 22nd March 2006

Terminator Seed Battle Begins: Farmers Face Billions of Dollars in Potential Costs


Curitiba, Brazil. After a week that has seen a worldwide mobilisation against Terminator technology, the issue of Suicide Seeds is about to hit the negotiating floor of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) meeting in Curitiba, Brazil. Known to the CBD as GURTs (Genetic Use Restriction Technologies), Terminator crops are genetically modified to create sterile seeds at harvest so that farmers must buy new seed every season. Today the Ban Terminator Campaign, a global coalition of over 500 organisations, released new financial calculations indicating that Terminator seeds will impose a burden of billions of extra dollars in seed costs on some of the world's poorest nations.

The calculations,... [Read more](#)

Categories:

Date: 03/02/2006
Language: English

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 170.3KB

A 21 February news release from the Ban Terminator Campaign reported on Monsanto's revised pledge on Terminator. Whereas the company made a public commitment in 1999 not to use Terminator technology, its new pledge suggests that it would use Terminator seeds in non-food crops and does not rule out other uses in the future. Now Monsanto's Director of Public Policy has written an apology to the Ban Terminator Campaign and concedes that it didn't really mean it would consider using Terminator in non-food crops.


[Read more](#)

Categories:

[Monsanto May Commercialize Terminator](#)

Type: News Item
Date: 02/21/2006
Language: English

Download PDF:

 111.2KB

Ban Terminator www.BanTerminator.org News Release, 21 February 2006

Monsanto May Commercialize Terminator Biotech Giant Revises Pledge on Sterile Seed Technology as Global Alliance Calls for a Ban.

Monsanto, the world's largest seed and agbiotech company, made a public promise in 1999 not to commercialize 'Terminator Technology' - plants that are genetically engineered to produce sterile seeds. Now Monsanto says it may develop or use the so-called 'suicide seeds' after all. The revised pledge from Monsanto now suggests that it would use Terminator seeds in non-food crops and does not rule out other uses of Terminator in the future. (1) Monsanto's modified stance comes to light as the biotech and seed industry confront peasant and farmer movements, Indigenous peoples and their allies in an escalating battle at the United Nations over the future of Terminator.


In 2000 the United Nations... [Read more](#)

Categories:


[Granada's Grim Sowers Plow Up Moratorium on Terminator, Clear the Path for its Approval at UN](#)

Type: News Item
Date: 01/26/2006
Language: English

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Granada's Grim Sowers Plow up Moratorium on Terminator, Clear the Path for its Approval at UN

Terminator Opponents Prepare for Battle at COP8 in Curitiba, Brazil March 20-31, 2006


Indigenous peoples were betrayed and Farmers' Rights trampled at a UN meeting this week when the Australian, New Zealand and Canadian governments - guided by the US government and a brazen cabal of corporate Gene Giants - took a major step to undermine the existing moratorium on Terminator technology (i.e., plants that are genetically modified to produce sterile seeds at harvest). The damaging recommendations from the meeting in Granada, Spain, now go to the upcoming 8th biennial meeting of the UN's Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in... [Read more](#)

Categories:

[Cresce a Ameaça do Terminator: Encontro intergovernamental para atacar o problema das sementes suicidas](#)

Type: News Item
Date: 01/23/2006
Language: Portuguese

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Release de Imprensa do Grupo ETC, janeiro de 2006

www.etcgroup.org

Cresce a Ameaça do Terminator: Encontro intergovernamental para atacar o problema das sementes suicidas

O Grupo de Trabalho da CBD sobre o artigo 8(j) reúne-se em Granada, Espanha, de 23 a 27 de janeiro

"... a esterilidade das sementes ameaça a biodiversidade, os sistemas indígenas de conhecimento e a soberania alimentar."

Os povos indígenas, as organizações de agricultores e os representantes da sociedade civil estão se unindo para defender uma moratória de fato das Nações Unidas sobre a tecnologia de esterilização de sementes - a moratória está atualmente sob ataque da indústria multinacional de semente e biotecnologia. Uma reunião da Comissão sobre Diversidade... [Read more](#)

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