

GM-LINK MAY SPELL 'END OF ORGANIC'

In the United Kingdom (UK), Ceredigion MP Simon Thomas, the party's Parliamentary spokesman on the environment, food and rural affairs, said research showed Genetically Modified Foods (GM) contamination of supermarket and health store food could spell the end of organic farming. A report by Glamorgan University scientists found 40% of foods tested from Welsh supermarkets and health food stores contained GM material. It appears GM has entered into the British food chain and they have done nothing to prevent it.

A team led by Professor Denis Murphy of Glamorgan University's Biotechnology Unit found GM in 10 of 25 products tested from Welsh supermarkets and health stores, eight of which were marked GM-free or organic.

The research will be published in the British Food Journal. Plaid deputy leader and Euro MP Jill Evans said it highlighted the problems of GM contamination.

Professor Mark Partridge and Professor Denis Murphy, from the biotechnology unit at the University of Glamorgan in Wales tested 25 products containing soya using an EU approved method for detecting traces of GM ingredients. 'We have recently observed that many soya products now carry 'GM free' or 'organic' labels, both of which imply an absence of GM ingredients in these foods,' said Professor Murphy. 'However, most of the soya now produced in the world comes from GM varieties.

'Given that GM soya production is set to increase even more over the coming years, it is difficult to see how 'GM free' labels can be justified unless there is much more rigorous testing of such foods,' he concluded. Full findings of the study will be published in 2 April issue of the British Food Journal (Vol 106 (3) 2004).

Steve Dube,"GM-link may spell 'end of organic'", The Western Mail, Feb 10 2004

www.icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/

<http://www.foodnavigator.com/news/news-NG.asp?id=49768>