

Werner Baumann
Chief Executive
Bayer CropScience

Dear Werner Baumann

An advertisement that Bayer placed in Politico and the Farmers' Guardian on 19/12/2018¹

“Transparency creates trust. At Bayer, we embrace our responsibility to communicate how we assess our products' safety — and we recognize that people around the world want more information around glyphosate. This month, we published more than 300 study summaries on the safety of glyphosate on our dedicated [transparency website](#).“

Bayer CropScience has never been transparent in its life. Formerly IG Farben, the private German chemicals company allied with the Nazis, that manufactured the [Zyklon B](#) gas used to commit genocide against millions of European Jews in the [Holocaust](#). It built a factory next to Auschwitz, Poland, so it could exploit Jewish slave labour in its oil and rubber production plant. In total, some 300,000 detainees from Auschwitz were employed in IG Farben's workforce, supplying the company with free labour. The company housed the workers in its own concentration camp, with the horrendous conditions there and in the factory leading to an estimated 30,000 deaths. On top of this, an unknown number of workers deemed unfit to continue working at the factory were sent to the death camp at Auschwitz. Alongside the brutal conditions of the labour camp, IG Farben also sanctioned drug experiments on live, healthy inmates. IG Farben was probably the most well-known corporate participant in the Holocaust, and the company's history sheds a chilling light on how genocide became tied in with economics and business.²

At the end of the war, after the Nuremberg Trials, the company itself was dissolved into three separate divisions, Hoescht, Bayer, and BASF. Monsanto was a firm created by the Rockefeller Foundation.³ Monsanto partners with [I.G. Farben](#), makers of Bayer aspirin and the Third Reich's go-to chemical manufacturer producing deadly Zyklon-B gas during World War II.

Monsanto purchases Searle, the manufacturer of aspartame, a neurotoxic sweetener

Aspartame was first synthesised in 1965 in the US. It is an addictive, excite-neurotoxic, carcinogenic, genetically engineered drug and adjuvant that damages the mitochondria and interacts with drugs and vaccines. For the first 16 years the FDA banned it. Aspartame was shown by FDA scientists to cause brain tumours, epilepsy and neurotoxic effects in rats. However, the CEO of Searle that manufactured aspartame was a man called Donald Rumsfeld. He and President Ronald Reagan (a man famed for his deregulation of the US EPA) between them managed to get it passed for use in a wide number of fizzy diet drinks in 1982. It has been approved for use in Britain since then. In 1985 (when Monsanto purchased Searle, that held the patent to aspartame) the late FDA toxicologist, Dr Adrian Gross, confirmed to congress that it was highly neurotoxic (1985, Senate) and that aspartame violated the Delaney Amendment because it caused brain tumors and brain cancer.⁴ Many independent researchers have confirmed its dangers but industry studies and chemical regulators claim it is safe.

In 2007 an independent Review was published in *Nature*: Direct and indirect cellular effects of aspartame on the brain.⁵ *“Aspartame is composed of phenylalanine (50%), aspartic acid (40%) and methanol (10%). Phenylalanine plays an important role in neurotransmitter regulation, whereas aspartic acid is also thought to play a role as an excitatory neurotransmitter in the central nervous system. Glutamate, asparagines and glutamine are formed from their precursor, aspartic acid. Methanol, which forms 10% of the broken-down product, is converted in the body to formate, which can either be excreted or can give rise to formaldehyde, diketopiperazine (a carcinogen) and a*

¹ <https://www.cropscience-transparency.bayer.com/en/News/News-Bucket/2018/11/20181121-Glyphosate>

² <https://www.newhistorian.com/ig-farben-opens-factory-at-auschwitz/3822/>

³ <https://www.globalresearch.ca/the-complete-history-of-monsanto-the-worlds-most-evil-corporation/5387964>

⁴ <http://www.mpwhi.com/main.htm>

⁵ <http://www.nature.com/ejcn/journal/v62/n4/full/1602866a.html>

number of other highly toxic derivatives.”

The UK is the Rapporteur Member State for aspartame Monsanto’s controversial sweetener. EC rules specify that the RMS be chosen by Industry.⁶ It appears that the Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in foods (CoT) had only consulted industry literature, since they have allowed aspartame to be approved since 1982. Professor David Coggon was Chairman at the time of the latest reassessment of aspartame.

*“At its meeting on 29 October 2013, the Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in foods (CoT) discussed a paper, describing results from a study led by scientists at Hull York Medical School” ... CoT POSITION PAPER ON A DOUBLE BLIND RANDOMIZED CROSSOVER STUDY OF ASPARTAME.*⁷ No one is allowed to see this study until it has been accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. *“The Committee judged the delay acceptable since the results presented did not indicate any need for action to protect the health of the public.”* The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) also re-evaluated the safety of aspartame.⁸ As a result, it concluded in December 2013 that *'aspartame and its breakdown products are safe for human consumption at current levels of exposure'*. Independent scientist Erik Millstone, Professor in Science & Technology Policy, Sussex University sent a 67-page detailed response to the Head of EFSA ‘Food Ingredients and Packaging’ Unit and the Senior Scientific Officer.⁹ He strongly disputed their re-assessment. EFSA ignored his response, just as the US EPA ignored evidence from Dr Betty Martini and Dr John Olney.¹⁰

Evaggelos Vallianatos worked for the US EPA for 25 years and then became a whistleblower. He wrote ‘Poison Spring; the Secret History of Pollution and the EPA’ in 2014¹¹

At the end of WW2, factories that had made nerve gases for the purposes of war were turned into factories that made neurotoxic chemicals for agriculture.

He wrote in 2018: **Toxic morality is killing honeybees**¹² *“Despite this magnificent and tangible gift of bees: boosting our food and a healthy and a beautiful natural world teeming with wild flowers, we return the kindness with warfare. Morally bankrupt governments, regulatory agencies, and farmers have been poisoning honeybees for decades. These “farmers” claim to be following science-based agricultural practices. But what kind of “science” would be blessing farmers spraying their crops with chemicals, which in reality are chemical and biological weapons? If this surprises you, let me assure you that most pesticides are relatives of chemical warfare agents. A weed killer like glyphosate (Roundup) devastates life in the soil, killing the bacteria that make the crops healthy and enhances the power of the bad bacteria giving disease to crops. But the chemicals that cause outright destruction to honeybees are the so-called neonicotinoids, products of the giant German company Bayer. Neonicotinoids or neonics are terrible nerve and brain poisons. They decimate honeybees. You may rightly ask what kind of governments and their agents allow such silent but persistent warfare to go on down at the farm?*

These governments are usually elected “democratic” governments just like our government in the United States. These governments follow a long tradition in supporting farming dependent on chemicals. The habit of farmers spraying their crops is so well established that governments, universities and international organizations proclaim chemical farming to the world as the product of science, modernity, and advanced technology. But they remain silent on the unexpected effects of the chemicals that make modern industrialized farming possible. This mentality of showing only one part of the farm story but hiding the deleterious effects of chemical agriculture dominates environmental and public health “protection” in both America, Europe and the rest of the world in 2017. Under the name of science, agribusiness, universities and governments have been hiding the human health

⁶ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32009R1107>

⁷ <http://cot.food.gov.uk/pdfs/cotposponaspar.pdf>

⁸ <http://www.food.gov.uk/news-updates/news/2013/dec/efsa-aspartame#.UuAtV3xFDcs>

⁹ http://sro.sussex.ac.uk/43821/1/EM_Letter_to_EFSA_on_Aspartame_22Feb2013.pdf

¹⁰ <http://www.scribd.com/doc/6669992/Dr-John-Olney-Statement-Aspartame-1987> Dr. John Olney's letter to the Senate in 1987.

¹¹ <https://www.independentsciencenews.org/health/poison-spring-the-secret-history-of-pollution-and-the-epa/>

¹² https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/toxic-morality-is-killing-honeybees_us_593c867fe4b0b65670e56b21

effects of contaminated food and drinking water, much less, dead honeybees. This blatant deception causes no moral anxieties to most scientists and decision makers because these scientists and politicians and regulators have almost lost their sense of right and wrong.”

The Sixth Mass Extinction and chemicals in the environment

The Rockefeller Foundation funded the initial research on genetically modified organisms in the early 1940s and founded the science of molecular biology a highly reductionist programme aimed at “understanding” life. The Rockefeller Foundation’s early involvement in eugenics research and their subsequent support for depopulation are unlikely to be achieved before the sixth mass extinction.¹³

The creator of GMO potatoes reveals the dangerous truth¹⁴

‘Pandora’s Potatoes: The Worst GMOs’

The Ex-Director of J.R. Simplot and team leader at Monsanto, Caius Rommens, has revealed the hidden dangers of the GMO potatoes he created, in a wide ranging interview for Sustainable Pulse, on the same day that his book ‘Pandora’s Potatoes: The Worst GMOs’ was released [on Amazon](#). Here is an extract from the interview.

How many years did you spend working on creating GM potatoes? Was this all lab-based work or did you get out to see the farms that were growing the potatoes?

“During my 26 years as a genetic engineer, I created hundreds of thousands of different GM potatoes at a direct cost of about \$50 million. I started my work at universities in Amsterdam and Berkeley, continued at Monsanto, and then worked for many years at J. R. Simplot Company, which is one of the largest potato processors in the world. I had my potatoes tested in greenhouses or the field, but I rarely left the laboratory to visit the farms or experimental stations. Indeed, I believed that my theoretical knowledge about potatoes was sufficient to improve potatoes. This was one of my biggest mistakes. I dedicated many years of my life to the creation of GMO potatoes, and I initially believed that my potatoes were perfect but then I began to doubt. It again took me many years to take a step back from my work, reconsider it, and discover the mistakes. Looking back at myself and my colleagues, I believe now that we were all brainwashed; that we all brainwashed ourselves. We believed that the essence of life was a dead molecule, DNA, and that we could improve life by changing this molecule in the lab. We also assumed that theoretical knowledge was all we needed to succeed, and that a single genetic change would always have one intentional effect only. We were supposed to understand DNA and to make valuable modifications, but the fact of the matter was that we knew as little about DNA as the average American knows about the Sanskrit version of the Bhagavad Gita. We just knew enough to be dangerous, especially when combined with our bias and narrowmindedness. We focused on short-term benefits (in the laboratory) without considering the long-term deficits (in the field). It was the same kind of thinking that produced DDT, PCBs, Agent Orange, recombinant bovine growth hormone, and so on. I believe that it is important for people to understand how little genetic engineers know, how biased they are, and how wrong they can be. My story is just an example.”

Letter of warning to Bayer on 24 July 2017

I wrote to you, Werner Baumann, Chief Executive Bayer CropScience and David Fischer Director, Environment Toxicology and Risk Assessment Bayer CropScience and Tom Moriarty Risk Manager, US Environmental Protection Agency, on 24 July 2017. I warned Bayer against acquiring Monsanto’s portfolio. I pointed out that they concealed the dangers of Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) for many years in order to make money. I attached the Main.pdf which details the meeting held on **October 15 1969 Report of the Aroclor ‘ad hoc’ Committee**. In this meeting it was shown that PCBs were

¹³ <http://www.amsi.ge/jbpc/31515/15-3-abs-5.htm>

https://www.academia.edu/17783363/The_sixth_mass_extinction_and_chemicals_in_the_environment

¹⁴ https://sustainablepulse.com/2018/10/09/the-creator-of-gmo-potatoes-reveals-the-dangerous-truth-exclusive-interview/#.W70H-i97E_V

found to have contaminated wildlife around the globe, up to the Arctic and the communities of Inuit people. Cynical discussions were held between Monsanto executives on whether or not to come clean with the public about the extent of PCBs contamination and the fact that it caused Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (NHL), a serious and often fatal type of haemopoietic cancer in humans.

This 1969 Report on PCBs was released after the US Court case when Monsanto, Solutia, Pharmacia and Pfizer were found guilty of negligence in the causation of NHL on 26/05/2016 and 3 plaintiffs were awarded \$46.5 million.¹⁵ The minutes of the meeting had been completely hidden from public scrutiny for 37 years. In handwritten notes at the end was: **"Subject is snowballing where do we go from here? Alternatives: Go out of business: Sell the hell out of them as long as we can and do nothing else. What do we tell our customers? The Big Question!"** They kept silent for more than 37 years. In fact, Monsanto knew already in 1955 that PCBs were fatal to rats.

Monsanto on trial in Anniston, Alabama in 2002¹⁶

*David Baker, a resident of Anniston, who blames Monsanto for both his bad skin and his brother's death. He is among some 3,540 people suing the company, now called Solutia Inc., in an environmental pollution case set for trial in January 2002. During the Birmingham trial, lawyers for the residents said once-secret company documents showed Monsanto knew the chemicals were hazardous by the 1960s yet continued making them without proper safeguards. Also, they said, neither the company nor state environmental regulators warned residents of a health risk. Plaintiffs contend the company knowingly poisoned mostly poor west Anniston with PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, for years, then covered up the damage with the help of state regulators. "They lied, and they got away with lying for 25 or 30 years," said Baker, who started Community Against Pollution, an activist group. **The claim that the company concealed the danger** angers Baker the most, especially when he remembers how he and his late brother played in areas now fenced off because of PCB pollution. "We played in the ditches all the time. We ate plums from this area. We ate the dirt," he said. "If they didn't think it was a problem for the people, why did they hide it for so long? You don't hide something that's not a problem."*

His brother, Terry Baker died in 1971 at age 16; an autopsy found he had a brain tumor, lung cancer and hardening of the cardiac arteries. David Baker, 50, suffers from skin cysts and boils. In 2002 an Alabama jury found that Monsanto Co. engaged in outrageous behavior by releasing tons of toxic PCBs into the city of Anniston and covering up its actions for decades, handing 3,500 residents a huge victory in a landmark environmental lawsuit.

When in 1971 they had to clean up their act in Alabama, Monsanto asked the Westminster Government under Ted Heath to ramp up the production of PCBs at Monsanto's factory in Newport, Wales.¹⁷ The Westminster Government agreed to it, even though they were aware of the dangers to human health and biodiversity. Alabama is more than 50 million square miles: Wales is 8,000 square miles. England had grand delusions that it is still running an Empire and the people of Wales were its slaves. Monsanto was found to be dumping toxic waste in the River Severn, public waterways and sewerage. After that they paid a contractor to illegally dump "thousands of tons of cancer-causing chemicals - among them *PCBs, dioxins and Agent Orange derivatives*" at two quarries in Wales: Brofiscin (80,000 tonnes) and Maendy (42,000 tonnes) between 1965 and 1972. According to engineering company WS Atkins, in a report prepared for the agency and the local authority in 2005 **but never made public**, Brofiscin Quarry contains at least 67 toxic chemicals. Seven PCBs have been identified, along with vinyl chlorides and naphthalene. The unlined quarry is still leaking, the report says. "Pollution of water has been occurring since the 1970s, the waste and groundwater has been shown to contain significant quantities of poisonous, noxious and polluting material, pollution of ... waters will continue to occur."

¹⁵ <https://www.ecowatch.com/monsanto-ordered-to-pay-46-5-million-in-pcb-lawsuit-in-rare-win-for-pl-1891143419.html>

¹⁶ <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/pcb-trial-begins-in-alabama/>

¹⁷

http://www.theecologist.org/The_Brofiscin_Monsanto_Files/777777/burying_the_truth_the_organic_ecologist_investigation_into_monsanto_and_brofiscin_quarry.html

P.S. Why is Brett D Begemann, Chief Operating Officer for Monsanto, on the Management Board of Eastman Chemical Company which took over the old Solutia site at Lliswerry? Why did they receive a grant of £4.1million from the Welsh Government in 2012?

The PCB conspiracy – new evidence in the current lawsuit against Monsanto reveals that Dr George Levinskas was involved in both the cover up for glyphosate and for PCBs¹⁸

In 2000 in an article from Alabama US: *The people versus Monsanto* Nancy Beiles wrote: “Problem: Damage to the ecological system by contamination from polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB). Legal liability: Direct lawsuits are possible...In 1975 the lab submitted its findings from a study using rats. An early draft said that in some cases, PCBs had caused tumours. George Levinskas, a Monsanto manager, wrote to the lab's director: "May we request that the report be amended to say 'does not appear to be carcinogenic'." The final report dropped all references to tumours.”

The now deceased Dr. Levinskas has now been shown to have also been a lead player in hiding glyphosate’s carcinogenic potential. He wrote an [internal company letter](#) in 1985 stating the following: “*Senior management at the EPA is reviewing a proposal to classify glyphosate as a class C “possible human carcinogen” because of kidney adenomas in male mice. Dr. Marvin Kuschner will review kidney sections and present his evaluation of them to the EPA in an effort to persuade the agency that the observed tumors are not related to glyphosate.*”¹⁹

Is this advert about transparency and the release of 300 summaries of the safety of glyphosate to defend Bayer against the second batch of lawsuits in the US in February 2019?

[Baumhedlundlaw.com](#) have announced the schedule of court cases against Monsanto²⁰

“*Monsanto Company (now Bayer) is facing thousands of lawsuits across the United States filed by individuals who allege exposure to Roundup weed killer caused them to develop non-Hodgkin lymphoma. The first trial against Monsanto ended on August 10, 2018 with a unanimous jury verdict of \$289 million for a Benicia, California school district groundskeeper, Dewayne “Lee” Johnson. Most of the Roundup cancer lawsuits are filed in various state courts. Others have been consolidated in a federal multidistrict litigation (MDL) in Northern California. Below you will find the Monsanto Roundup trial schedule for cases throughout the U.S. This page will be updated on a monthly basis.*”

Federal Monsanto Roundup Multidistrict Litigation (MDL) Schedule

Federal MDL in Roundup Products Liability Litigation

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California

San Francisco, CA

Lead Case No. 3:16-md-02741

The Honorable Judge Vince Chhabria is the presiding judge. As of October 2018, 1,654 plaintiffs with non-Hodgkin lymphoma had filed cases in federal courts across the country. These cases are consolidated before the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

Missouri: Thousands of cases are filed in St. Louis City Court and St. Louis County Court.

The UN expert on Toxics, Baskut Tuncak wrote in the Guardian on 06/11/2017: The EU and glyphosate: it's time to put children's health before pesticides²¹

“A pending decision on Monsanto’s ubiquitous weedkiller is a crucial opportunity to protect our children from the toxic cocktail of pesticides polluting their food, water and play areas.”

“*Our children are growing up exposed to a toxic cocktail of weedkillers, insecticides, and fungicides. It’s on their food and in their water, and it’s even doused over their parks and playgrounds. Many*

¹⁸ <https://www.theguardian.com/theguardian/2000/jun/05/features11.g2>

¹⁹ <https://sustainablepulse.com/2017/05/19/us-court-documents-show-monsanto-manager-led-cancer-cover-up-for-glyphosate-and-pcbs/#.XDJdmC10fUo>

²⁰ <https://www.baumhedlundlaw.com/toxic-tort-law/monsanto-roundup-lawsuit/monsanto-court-papers/monsanto-roundup-trial-schedule/>

²¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/nov/06/the-eu-and-glyphosate-its-time-to-put-childrens-health-before-pesticides>

governments insist that our standards of protection from these pesticides are strong enough. But as a scientist and a lawyer who specialises in chemicals and their potential impact on people's fundamental rights, I beg to differ. Last month it was revealed that in recommending that glyphosate – the world's most widely-used pesticide – was safe, the [EU's food safety watchdog copied and pasted pages of a report directly from Monsanto](#), the pesticide's manufacturer. Revelations like these are simply shocking.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the most ratified international human rights treaty in the world (only the US is not a party), makes it clear that states have an explicit obligation to protect children from exposure to toxic chemicals, from contaminated food and polluted water, and to ensure that every child can realise their right to the highest attainable standard of health. These and many other rights of the child are abused by the current pesticide regime. These chemicals are everywhere and they are invisible. The only way to protect citizens, especially those disproportionately at risk from exposure, is for governments to regulate them effectively, in large part by adhering to the highest standards of scientific integrity.

Paediatricians have referred to childhood exposure to pesticides as creating a “silent pandemic” of disease and disability. Exposure in pregnancy and childhood is linked to birth defects, diabetes, and cancer. Because a child's developing body is more sensitive to exposure than adults and takes in more of everything – relative to their size, children eat, breathe, and drink much more than adults – they are particularly vulnerable to these toxic chemicals. Increasing evidence shows that even at “low” doses of childhood exposure, irreversible health impacts can result. But, most victims cannot prove the cause of their disability or disease, limiting our ability to hold those responsible to account. In light of revelations such as the copy-and-paste scandal, a careful re-examination of the performance of states is required. The overwhelming reliance of regulators on industry-funded studies, the exclusion of independent science from assessments, and the confidentiality of studies relied upon by authorities must change.”

Weedkiller found in 43 out of 45 popular breakfast cereals marketed for US children

A short piece was published in the Guardian on 15th August 2018. “Significant levels of the weedkilling chemical glyphosate have been found in an array of popular breakfast cereals, oats and snack bars marketed to US children, a new study has found.²² Tests revealed glyphosate, the active ingredient in the popular weedkiller brand Roundup, present in all but two of the 45 oat-derived products that were sampled by the Environmental Working Group, a public health organization. Nearly three in four of the products exceeded what the EWG classes safe for children to consume. Products with some of the highest levels of glyphosate include granola, oats and snack bars made by leading industry names Quaker, Kellogg's and General Mills, which makes Cheerios. In April, internal emails obtained from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) showed that scientists have found glyphosate on a wide range of commonly consumed food, to the point that they were finding it difficult to identify a food without the chemical on it. The FDA has yet to release any official results from this process. **The UK Guardian reported:** “There was no indication that the claims related to products sold outside the US.”

In order to test this statement by the *Guardian*, we sent samples of four oat-based breakfast cereals marketed for children in the UK to the Health Research Institute, Fairfield, Iowa, an accredited laboratory for glyphosate testing. The Director said the levels of weedkiller were shockingly high. Dr Fagan said: “These results are consistently concerning. The levels consumed in a single daily helping of any one of these cereals, even the one with the lowest level of contamination, is sufficient to put the person's glyphosate levels above the levels that cause fatty liver disease in rats (and likely in people).

²² <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/aug/16/weedkiller-cereal-monsanto-roundup-childrens-food>

Type of breakfast cereal marketed for children Product description	Glyphosate level ng/g	AMPA ng/g	Effective glyphosate level ng/g
Kelloggs No added sugar granola with Apricot & pumpkin seeds	499.90	ND	499.90
Quaker/Oat So simple/Original Microwaveable Oats	464.23	24.04	500.28
Weetibix Oatibix 100% wholegrain oats	318.85	16.96	344.28
Nestle Multigrain Cheerios Whole Grain Oat Flour 29.6% Whole Grain Wheat 29.6% Whole Grain Barley Flour 17.9% Whole Grain Corn Flour 2.1% Whole Grain Rice Flour 2.1%.	137.29	ND	137.29

We sent the results to the Editor of *Guardian* Letters, Paul Chadwick, so the public would be informed, but he never published it. However, the *Daily Mail* did report it.²³

UN Rapporteur: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food: Pesticides are “global human rights concern” and UN experts urge new treaty²⁴

The United Nations received a [report](#) by the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, presented to the United Nations Human Rights Council, focused more narrowly on agricultural chemicals. The UN report states unequivocally that the storyline perpetuated by companies like Monsanto—the one that says we need pesticides to feed the world—is a myth.²⁵ The Report presented to the UN human rights council on 08/03/2017, is severely critical of the global corporations that manufacture pesticides, accusing them of the “*systematic denial of harms*”, “*aggressive, unethical marketing tactics*” and heavy lobbying of governments which has “*obstructed reforms and paralysed global pesticide restrictions*”.

GENEVA (7 March 2017) – Two United Nations experts are calling for a comprehensive new global treaty to regulate and phase out the use of dangerous pesticides in farming, and move towards sustainable agricultural practices. They say: “*excessive use of pesticides is very dangerous to human health, to the environment and it is misleading to claim they are vital to ensuring food security.*” - Chronic exposure to pesticides has been linked to cancer, Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases, hormone disruption, developmental disorders and sterility. Farmers and agricultural workers, communities living near plantations, indigenous communities and pregnant women and children are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and require special protections. – The experts warn that certain pesticides can persist in the environment for decades and pose a threat to the entire ecological system on which food production depends. The excessive use of pesticides contaminates soil and water sources, causing loss of biodiversity, destroying the natural enemies of pests, and reducing the nutritional value of food. The impact of such overuse also imposes staggering costs on national economies around the world.

The experts say the use of neonicotinoid pesticides is particularly worrying because they are accused of being responsible for a systematic collapse in the number of bees around the world. **For example, heavy use of these insecticides has been blamed for the 50 per cent decline over 25 years in honeybee populations in both the United States and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.** Such a collapse, they say, threatens the very basis of agriculture as 71% of crop species are bee-pollinated.

UN Report statements on pregnant women and children

Para. 24. Children are most vulnerable to pesticide contamination, as their organs are still developing and, owing to their smaller size, they are exposed to a higher dose per unit of body weight; the levels

²³ <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-6315209/Revealed-UK-cereals-contain-potentially-harmful-amounts-WEEDKILLER.html>

²⁴ <http://www.pan-uk.org/site/wp-content/uploads/United-Nations-Report-of-the-Special-Rapporteur-on-the-right-to-food.pdf>

²⁵ <http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/254678/1/WHO-FWC-IHE-17.01-eng.pdf?ua=1>

and activity of key enzymes that detoxify pesticides are much lower in children than in adults. Health impacts linked to childhood exposure to pesticides include impaired intellectual development, adverse behavioural effects and other developmental abnormalities. Emerging research is revealing that exposure to even low levels of pesticides, for example through wind drift or residues on food, may be very damaging to children's health, disrupting their mental and physiological growth and possibly leading to a lifetime of diseases and disorders."

Children in the UK and the US are been exposed to toxic chemicals at home (and at school) from the earliest stage of development *in utero* when their brain is only the size of an insect

Dr Henk Tennekes was the first independent researcher to recognise the extreme toxicity of low levels of systemic neonicotinoid insecticides that have become widespread in the environment.²⁶ They cause a virtually irreversible blockage of postsynaptic nicotinic acetylcholine receptors (nAChRs) in the central nervous system of insects (to which the human foetus is also exposed). He said the damage is cumulative, and with more exposure more receptors are blocked. He predicts that there may be no safe level of exposure.

Many independent scientists have demonstrated that the neonicotinoid insecticides have effects on the mammalian brain, particularly on the foetus. In 2000, Tomiwaza *et al.* showed that neonicotinoids acted on mammalian nicotinic acetylcholine receptors as well as those of insects, but considered that the selective nature of its binding (i.e. less affinity than in insects) made them safe for human exposure.²⁷ However, they are long-acting and are now widespread in the environment. Clothianidin, for example, has a half-life in soil of up to 1386 days so it accumulates in the soil. The neonicotinoids aren't measured in groundwater in the EU. Farmers apply clothianidin and thiamethoxam blindly the following year. There are several papers that have shown harmful effects of neonicotinoids on mammalian nicotinic acetylcholine receptors. (Li *et al.*,²⁸ Abou-Donia *et al.*²⁹ and Kimura-Kuroda *et al.*³⁰) A prevalence case study has reported neurological symptoms in humans that have been correlated with neonicotinoids and their metabolites.³¹ In a Review, Taira has published Human neonicotinoids exposure in Japan,³² where seven neonicotinoid insecticides are in use.

The former 'top scientist' of the European Commission defended the registration of clothianidin, a chemical with a long half-life in soil

According to (EC) 1107/2009 clothianidin should never have been registered in the first place because it failed to the EU criteria for half-life in soil; this should be no greater than 120 days. However, when challenged, Michael Flüh former Head of Unit Pesticides and Biocides for the European Commission defended this. *"The allegation as regards the illegality of the registration of clothianidin is strongly rejected. The assessment of clothianidin, carried out by a Rapporteur Member State (RMS), and peer reviewed by experts from all Member States, concluded that safe uses for this substance exist. The assessment covered the persistence of the substance in soil as well as its toxicity and leaching potential."* Michael Flüh wasn't even a scientist but depended on industry for its science.

Bayer CropScience, as part of the European Glyphosate Task Force, excluded many of the papers from South America from re-assessment. Monsanto had forced GM crops Roundup Ready crops on them in 1996

Declaration of the 3rd NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PHYSICIANS IN THE CROP-SPRAYED TOWNS of Argentina 26/11/2015³³

²⁶ http://farmlandbirds.net/sites/default/files/Tennekes_2010_2.pdf

²⁷ <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/jf000873c>

²⁸ <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/15287390701613140#.VdmL8fVhHw>

²⁹ <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/15287390701613140#.VdmL8fVhHw>

³⁰ <http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0032432>

³¹ <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26535579>

³² http://www.asahikawa-med.ac.jp/dept/mc/healthy/jsce/jjce23_1_14.pdf

³³ <http://reduas.com.ar/declaration-of-the-3rd-national-congress-of-physicians-in-the-crop-sprayed-towns/#more-1541>

Extracts: “Five years since the first meeting at the Faculty of Medical Sciences of Córdoba, scientists, doctors and members of health teams for sprayed villages of Argentina, gathered in the Aula Magna of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Buenos Aires (UBA), we verify that what we said then is dramatically true and getting worse by the day: the current system of agricultural production in the country pollutes the environment and Argentine food, sickening and killing human populations in agricultural areas. In the last 25 years the consumption of pesticides increased by 983% (from 38 to 370 million kilos), while the cultivated area increased by 50% (from 20 million ha to 30 million ha). A production system based on the systematic application of agricultural poisons means, inevitably, that nature responds by adapting, forcing farmers to apply greater quantities of pesticides in the field to achieve the same objectives. Over the years a system has been created by and for sellers of pesticides, who every year increase their net sales (in 2015 the increase was 9%) while our patients, too, year after year are being exposed to this pesticide pollution more and more.

There is no doubt that the massive and growing exposure to pesticides changed the disease profile of Argentine rural populations and that **cancer is the leading cause of death among them (and the worst way to die).**

Research presented at the congress show studies at different scales, which highlight a consistent pattern of toxicity. From small towns to larger populations at the provincial level (as in Chaco and Córdoba) or national level, different levels of exposure to glyphosate or agricultural poisons in general are compared, showing that reproductive health is affected by increases in spontaneous abortions and birth defects, also increased endocrine disorders such as hypothyroidism, neurological disorders or cognitive development problems and soaring of cancer rates to a tripling of incidence, prevalence and mortality which are directly related to pesticide exposure. In parallel, data from studies in experimental models show that the genotoxicity of glyphosate and other pesticides is an underlying biological mechanism that explains its relationship with disease that doctors have found in our patients. Furthermore, genotoxicity has been verified in agricultural populations (adults and children) exposed to pesticides while being absent in populations that are not fumigated.

All these elements in the field of public health are a warning to the toxic nature of agriculture in general and GM agriculture in particular, they have grown in our country as a result of the immense influence of large multinational pesticide companies like **Monsanto, Bayer, Syngenta, Down, Dupont, etc.**, who are just looking to increase their sales regardless of the damage to environmental and public health from this system.

This is not only an Argentine problem, identical situations occur in other countries with reproducible results in Brazil, Uruguay, Central America, Paraguay, etc. Everywhere there is growing resistance to toxic agriculture and honest doctors and scientists all sides accompany these struggles with their diagnoses and providing technical studies as inputs there to.

Struggles that seek to prioritize values such as health and the environment over economic and commercial interests of large biotech companies and sowing pools in defence of human rights violated by heavily extractive, productivist policies that destroy the environment into a collective health crisis.”

Tom Theobald, Colorado, after 44 years of beekeeping, has lost his hives to clothianidin (Bayer CropScience) and Glyphosate-based Herbicides (Bayer and Monsanto)

Clothianidin (half-life in soil 545 (13-1386) days.

“Almost every problem we face can be traced to a Criminal Corporatism and an out of control Capitalism. If there is a profit to be made there is little regard paid to the consequences and if challenged we get denial, diversion, excuses and junk science. It simply doesn't matter how many people are sickened or die, how many species are pushed to extinction or how seriously the planet is compromised. In pursuit of their objectives they have taken over our governments, have written the laws which legitimize their crimes and have infiltrated the regulatory system that we depend on to protect us, but which instead has become a marketing agent for their products.

Following the court decision last summer which recognized that Monsanto had given the California groundskeeper cancer and had lied for years, a multi-million-dollar fine was assessed. I was in my local Home Depot a few weeks after the decision and there was a floor display pushing every imaginable Roundup product. Fines have little effect on this Criminal Corporatism, they don't care if

*you and I and our loved ones die and fines aren't the answer. **We need to put some of these decision makers behind bars or the only change will be for the worse.***

I've had a honey producing business for 44 years and have fought these chemicals from the beginning. I've tried everything I can to recover from the damages the chemicals inflict on bees, beekeepers and the larger environment, but after 4 decades they have finally won. I can't keep enough colonies alive to sustain what was once a thriving family business.

Knowingly killing people comes under my definition of premeditated murder and these corporate decision makers must be held to account for their conduct. What we need is a revolt, a peaceful one hopefully, but a revolt that will put the fear of the people in these criminals' minds."

Tom Theobald – Colorado Beekeeper December 2018

Cancer Research UK protects the Agrochemical Industry: the CRUK website claims '*there is little evidence that pesticides cause cancer*'

Michael Pragnell former Chairman of Cancer Research UK (2010-2017), founder of Syngenta and former Chairman of CropLife International was awarded a CBE in 2017 for services to cancer research. CropLife International was founded in 2001.³⁴ As of 2015 CropLife International's member list includes the following 8 companies: [BASE](#), [Bayer CropScience](#), [Dow AgroSciences](#), [DuPont](#), [FMC Corp.](#), [Monsanto](#), [Sumitomo](#) and [Syngenta](#). Many of these corporations make their own formulated glyphosate. CRUK said that there was little evidence that pesticides caused cancer. CRUK, the CMO England and PHE, linked cancer to alcohol, obesity and smoking. They blamed the people for 'lifestyle choices'.

In the UK there were 13,605 new cases of Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma in 2015 (and 4,920 deaths in 2016)³⁵

There were 41,804 new cases of bowel cancer in 2015 (and 16,384 deaths in 2016); 12,547 new cases of kidney cancer in 2015 (and 4,619 deaths in 2016); 5,736 new cases of liver cancer in 2015 (5,417 deaths in 2016); 15,906 new cases of melanoma in 2015 (2,285 deaths in 2016); 3,528 new cases of thyroid cancer in 2015 (382 deaths in 2016); 10,171 new cases of bladder cancer in 2015 (5,383 deaths in 2016); 8,984 new cases of uterine cancer in 2015 (2,360 deaths in 2016); 7,270 cases of ovarian cancer in 2015 (4,227 deaths in 2016); 9,900 new cases of leukaemia in 2015 (4,712 deaths in 2016); 55,122 new cases of invasive breast cancer in 2015 (11,563 deaths in 2016); 46,388 new cases of lung cancer in 2015 (and 35,620 deaths in 2016); 47,151 new cases of prostate cancer in 2015 (11,631 deaths in 2016); 9,211 new cases of oesophageal cancer in 2015 (8,004 deaths in 2016) and 5,540 new cases of myeloma in 2015 (3,079 deaths in 2016); 2,288 new cases of testicular cancer in 2015 (57 deaths in 2016); 9,921 new cases of pancreatic cancer in 2015 (9,263 deaths in 2016); 11,432 new cases of brain cancer in 2015 (5,250 deaths in 2016). In the US in 2014 there were 24,050 new cases of myeloma.

In 2011, CRUK began donating money (£450 million/year) to the Government's Strategy for UK Life Sciences and AstraZeneca provided 22 compounds to academic research to develop medicines.

US Scientist Anthony Samsel has analysed more than 100,000 pages of Monsanto's secret sealed studies: one of Monsanto's studies showed glyphosate caused cataracts and eye damage

Samsel and Seneff wrote paper IV on Glyphosate: Glyphosate, pathways to modern diseases IV: cancer and related pathologies³⁶ and concluded that: "*significant evidence of tumours was found during these investigations*". In the paper by Ridley and Mirly (1988), commissioned by Monsanto, Table 11 Page 127 shows the distribution and bioaccumulation of ¹⁴C labelled glyphosate in blood, marrow, and glands including the thyroid, testes and ovaries, as well as major organs, including the

³⁴ https://www.vinci.com/vinci.nsf/en/management-board-directors/pages/michael_pragnell.htm

³⁵ <https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/health-professional/cancer-statistics/statistics-by-cancer-type/non-hodgkin-lymphoma>

³⁶

https://www.academia.edu/17751562/Glyphosate_pathways_to_modern_diseases_IV_cancer_and_related_pathologies <http://www.amsi.ge/jbpc/31515/11SA15R.pdf>

heart, liver, lungs, kidneys, spleen and stomach and other tissues of Sprague Dawley rats. The eye is included in this list. (Table 8 Page 126): Incidence and occurrence of ophthalmic degenerative lens changes by glyphosate.

Table 9 Page 126: Data on unilateral and bilateral cataracts (all types) and Y-suture opacities, excluding “prominent Y suture”, following glyphosate exposure to rats: this Stout & Ruecker (1990) study was commissioned by Monsanto.³⁷ A Monsanto scientist had claimed that glyphosate didn’t accumulate but was excreted unchanged from the body³⁸ and referred to the glyphosate re-assessment in Europe in 2002. However, Monsanto’s secret studies revealed otherwise.

The increase in cataracts has been confirmed by epidemiological studies in England, by a 2016 WHO Report and by the European Chemicals Agency classification

Annual rates of admission for cataract surgery in England rose 10-fold from 1968 to 2004: from 62 episodes per 100,000 population in 1968 to 637 in 2004.³⁹ A 2016 study by the WHO also confirmed that the incidence of cataracts had greatly increased.⁴⁰ ‘A global assessment of the burden of disease from environmental risks’ it says that cataracts are the leading cause of blindness worldwide. Globally, cataracts are responsible for 51% of blindness – an estimated 20 million individuals suffer from this degenerative eye disease. The European Chemical Agency’s harmonised classification said glyphosate was a substance causing serious eye damage.⁴¹

Anthony Samsel gave Testimony to the California Environmental Protection Agency

Glyphosate nitrosamine contaminants. There are no safe levels of the N-nitrosamines of glyphosate found in every glyphosate product and which are also produced in vivo. The N-nitrosamines of secondary amines are known to be carcinogenic. The nitrosamines of glyphosate are formed on a secondary amine. I now raise the issue of the N-nitrosamines of glyphosate of which there are several, because they are carcinogens and have all been essentially ignored. It appears that Monsanto and the US EPA have hidden the N-nitrosamines of glyphosate from discussion even to the point of editing and redacting data from crucial documents concerning a number of N-nitrosamines of glyphosate.

There are no safe levels of glyphosate. Glyphosate is a synthetic amino acid and analogue of our canonical amino acid glycine and participates in plant and animal biology.

One microgram of glyphosate technical acid (N-phosphonomethyl glycine) contains 3.561 trillion molecules each capable of integrating with a protein altering shape, folding and function.

I am a US scientist and hazardous chemicals materials consultant and expert on the subject of Glyphosate. I am one of few people to have received all of the Monsanto’s trade secret sealed studies on glyphosate from the US EPA. The federal agency supplied these documents in excess of 100,000 pages to me under the FOIA with special consideration for my research into this chemical. I now have six peer-reviewed papers on the subject of glyphosate and several more papers on the glyphosate in progress, a short list to some of these studies links are appended. The full series of peer-reviewed glyphosate papers may be found at ResearchGate in the author file under Anthony Samsel.

Babies and young children are now stricken with cancers and these have not a chance at a normal life, with many not cured but extinguished. Something is causing these maladies and I suspect N-nitrosamines of glyphosate may be to blame. This is not chronic long-term exposure. I strongly believe that long-term exposure is not necessary for the induction of cancer.”⁴²

³⁷ Stout, L.D. & Ruecker, F.A. Chronic study of glyphosate administered in feed to albino rats. Unpublished Study, Project No. MSL-10495. Monsanto Agricultural Company (2,175 pp.) EPA MRID 416438-01 (26 September 1990)

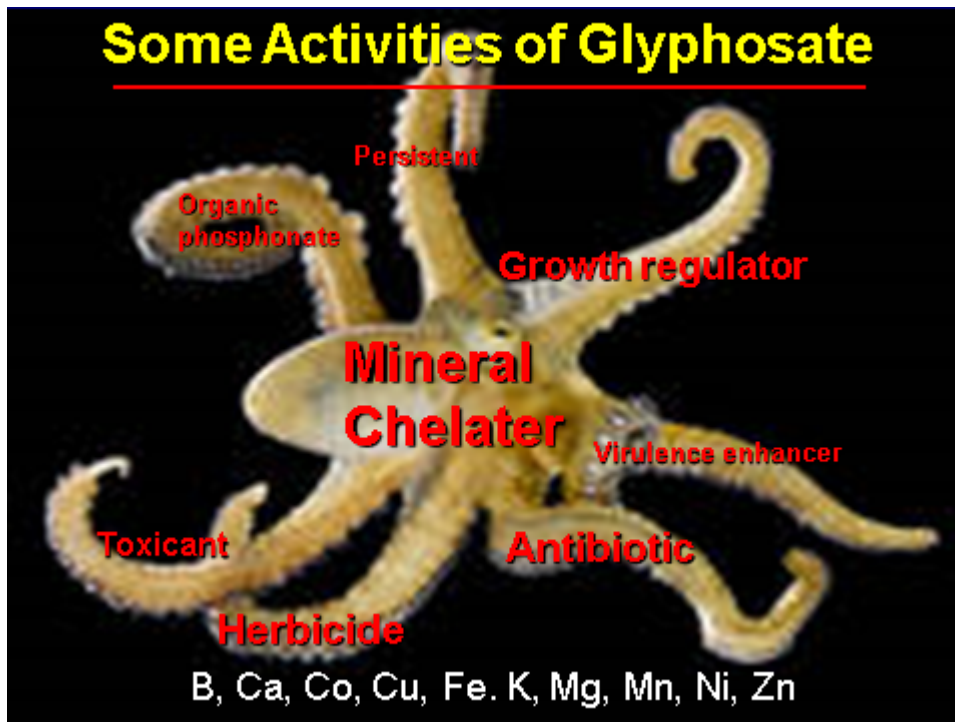
³⁸ <https://gmoanswers.com/ask/hi-does-senior-monsanto-scientist-dan-goldstein-still-maintain-if-ingested-glyphosate-excreted>

³⁹ <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1955650/>

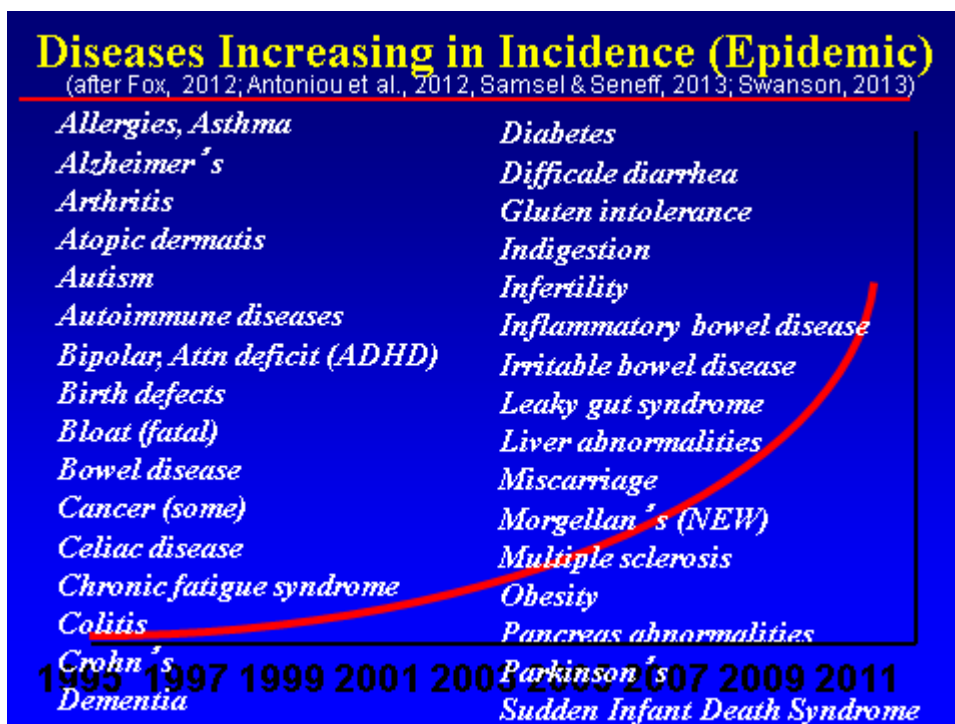
⁴⁰ http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/204585/1/9789241565196_eng.pdf

⁴¹ <https://echa.europa.eu/-/glyphosate-not-classified-as-a-carcinogen-by-echa>

⁴² https://oehha.ca.gov/media/dockets/8594/9423-anthony_samsel/letter_ca_epa_june_16_2017_n-nitrosamines_pdf_002.pdf



Antibiotic-resistant diseases are an apocalyptic threat to humans; but when Monsanto is to blame, UK public health doctors, the UK Science Media Centre, the Wellcome Trust, BBSRC and the Media Corporations are unaccountably silent



Dr Huber's second slide shows diseases which have increased in incidence since 1995, correlated with the red line, which represents the increasing use of glyphosate in the US

British women live shorter lives than most other Europeans and nearly 20 years in poor health
Spanish women live the longest, with UK longevity ranked 17th out of 28 EU nations, according to Public Health England's annual health profile

“There is no reason why we shouldn't be as healthy as anywhere in Europe,” said Prof John Newton, director of health improvement at PHE.⁵² *“Many of the causes of chronic, long-term diseases in the UK which shorten lives are preventable. **Obesity** is causing a big surge in the numbers of people developing type 2 diabetes. The report shows the numbers with diabetes are expected to rise swiftly, from just under four million last year to nearly five million in 2035. Along with alcohol, obesity is also one of the factors behind the rise in breast cancer. Apart from the human cost, the bill for the NHS will be huge... The list of the most common site-specific cancers remained unchanged from 2015 in both sexes. Lung cancer, colorectal and anal cancer, and leukaemia and lymphomas were all in the top ten leading causes of death in 2016... Prostate cancer and breast cancer remained amongst the top ten leading causes of death for males and females respectively, both ranked seventh, the same as in 2015. Lung cancer deaths remained the third most common cause of death for males and sixth most common for females in 2016. There has also been an increase in the death rate from lung cancer (8%), kidney disease and other diseases of the urinary system (38%) and chronic lower respiratory disease (18%). When deaths from all cancers are grouped together, cancer accounted for 25.6% of all deaths in females and 30.3% of all deaths in males in 2016. This would make it the leading cause, in 2016, for both sexes. The leading cause of death for women is dementia and Alzheimer's disease, responsible for 15.8% of deaths, with heart disease second at 8.3%. There has been an increase in the death rate from dementia and Alzheimer's of more than 60% and deaths from liver disease have increased by 12%.*

***Women in 2014-16 were spending nearly 20 years of their life in poor health (19.3 years), while men spent just over 16 years in poor health,** according to data from the Office for National Statistics included in the report. The leading cause of poor health, responsible for more than 22% of the pain and suffering, is low back and neck pain, which can be caused by a number of things, including injury and rheumatoid arthritis. After that come skin diseases such as acne and psoriasis, says the report. Third for men is sight and hearing loss, while for women it is migraine. Fourth for both is depressive disorders. Long-term conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure and cancers underlie some of these problems.”*

The International Monsanto Tribunal in The Hague with regard to ecocide⁵³

The Monsanto Tribunal is an international civil society initiative to hold Monsanto accountable for human rights violations and ecocide. Eminent judges heard testimonies from victims and experts. Then, they delivered a legal opinion following procedures of the International Court of Justice (on April 18th 2017, The Hague).

They concluded that Monsanto's activities have a negative impact on basic human rights. Besides, better regulations are needed to protect the victims of multinational corporations. Eventually, international law should be improved for better protection of the environment and include the crime of ecocide. Now, it is up to us, the civil society, to spread the conclusions of the Monsanto Tribunal and push for these essential changes.

During the hearings that took place on October 15th and 16th in The Hague, **judges** heard testimonies related to **the six questions** posed to the Tribunal. The ensuing legal opinion delivered by the Tribunal includes a legal analysis of the questions asked, with respect to both existing international law and to prospective law in order to improve international human rights and environmental law. The advisory opinion is structured in three parts:

- I.** The introductory section details the conditions within which the Tribunal was initiated.
- II.** The middle section examines the **six questions** posed to the Tribunal. Looking at the broader picture.
- III.** The final section tackles the growing asymmetry between the rights conceded to corporations and

⁵² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-profile-for-england-2018/chapter-2-trends-in-mortality>

⁵³ <http://www.monsanto-tribunal.org>

the constraints imposed upon them to protect local communities and/or future generations, wherever corporations operate.

Question 6 asked the Tribunal if the activities of Monsanto could constitute a crime of ecocide, understood as causing serious damage or destroying the environment, so as to significantly and durably alter the global commons or ecosystem services upon which certain human groups rely. Developments in international environmental law confirm the increased awareness of how environmental harm negatively affects the fundamental values of society. Preserving dignity for present and future generations and the integrity of ecosystems is an idea that has gained traction in the international community. As evidence of these developments, and according to the Policy Paper on Case Selection and Prioritisation from September 2016, the **Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court in The Hague wants to give particular consideration to Rome Statute crimes involving the illegal dispossession of land or the destruction of the environment.** However, despite the development of many instruments to protect the environment, a gap remains between legal commitments and the reality of environmental protection... the large-scale use of dangerous agrochemicals in industrial agriculture; and the engineering, production, introduction and release of genetically engineered crops. Severe contamination of plant diversity, soils and waters would also fall within the qualification of ecocide. Finally, the introduction of **persistent organic pollutants such as PCBs** into the environment causing widespread, long-lasting and severe environmental harm and affecting the right of the future generations could fall within the qualification of ecocide as well.

The Opinion of the Judges of the International Monsanto Tribunal ⁵⁴

In brief, the five judges of the Monsanto Tribunal agreed that:

- **Monsanto has violated human rights to food, health, a healthy environment and the freedom indispensable for independent scientific research.**
- **‘ecocide’ should be recognized as a crime in international law.**
- **human rights and environmental laws are undermined by corporate-friendly trade and investment regulation.**

Extract from top of page 3: “Thirdly, the use of GMO seed raises multiple questions. There is a distinct lack of scientific consensus about the impacts of GMOs on human health. The controversy is embedded in a context of opacity on GMO studies, and even on the inability of researchers to conduct independent research. The "Monsanto Papers" cast light on practices of systematic manipulation of scientific studies, and on the influence exerted on experts by Monsanto. There is no political consensus on the cultivation of GMOs either. The UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, an independent expert, calls for the need to follow the precautionary principle at the global level. The Tribunal concludes that Monsanto has engaged in practices that negatively impacted the right to health.”

In an opinion issued on the 15th of March 2017 and related to the classification of glyphosate, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) indeed estimated that this product could not be classified as a carcinogen, as a mutagen or as toxic for reproduction. The Tribunal however stresses that this classification does not take into account the risks of exposure, with residues found in food, drinking water and even in human urine.

The Monsanto Tribunal: Next steps: Amsterdam 14th June 2017. After the presentation of the Advisory Opinion of the Monsanto Tribunal judges on April 18, much work is ahead of us.

- 1) The 60-page Advisory Opinion, that for thousands of attorneys worldwide will be an important legal instrument for prosecuting these crimes, is to be spread as widely as possible in legal circles, including UN agencies, environmental organizations and governments. But there is also activity at other levels: courts in some countries are considering hearing individual judges from the Tribunal, because they are evaluating if they can incorporate

⁵⁴ http://www.monsanto-tribunal.org/upload/asset_cache/1016160509.pdf

ECOCIDE as a criminal offense in their national legislation. Likewise, deliberations are underway to address the United Nations to extend the Rome Statute, on which the International Criminal Court is based, to include the criminal offense of ECOCIDE.

- 2) The comprehensive documentation from the hearings of the Monsanto Tribunal is to be provided for a worldwide study on the evaluation of the environmental damage caused by Monsanto over the last 60 years. In particular, long-term damage to health and nature will be considered. The planned collective study is under the supervision of renowned economists. Even today experts estimate that the sum of damages could far exceed the price of the merger with Bayer. This study will provide a basis for launching further collective accusations against Monsanto. Werner Baumann has to ask himself whether he would expect his shareholders, in addition to the high purchase price for Monsanto, to agree with accruals in the two or even three-digit billion range in order to meet all the claims of damage against the firm. The purchase of Monsanto could become a Trojan Horse for Bayer. The Bayer-Monsanto merger will not be as smooth as that of Union Carbide and Dow Chemical after the Bhopal disaster in 1984, where the victims and their relatives are still waiting for reparation.
- 3) And perhaps the most important: Several witnesses of the Tribunal have expressed their intention to engage in real lawsuits against Monsanto. If these trials come about, witnesses expect us to support them logistically, politically and financially. We will of course, do this, as a promise from the very beginning to help the witnesses after the Tribunal to take legal actions against Monsanto.

The parents of a disabled French boy testified how they believe the popular herbicides glyphosate caused their son's health problems

Sabine Grataloup was the first person to testify during the Monsanto Tribunal hearings in October 2016. She described the birth defects her son Theo is suffering from, after she was exposed to a glyphosate-based herbicide during the beginning of her pregnancy. Meeting other witnesses in similar situations motivated Theo's parents to go one step further. Together with William Bourdon (Monsanto Tribunal's lawyer who plead on the freedom indispensable to scientific research), **Sabine and Thomas Grataloup have announced their intention to start a legal action against several glyphosate-based herbicides manufacturers, including Monsanto**. They want the justice system to recognize a causal link between those products and Theo's issues. They are now investigating the different legal options to do so, and are getting ready for a difficult, yet necessary legal battle.⁵⁵ Theo was born in 2007 with his oesophagus linking his stomach to his lungs instead of his throat, while his trachea was so malformed it had to be removed at birth. Mrs Grataloup, who runs a travel agency with her husband near Lyon, said she didn't know that she was three to four weeks pregnant when she used a glyphosate-based weedkiller and there was no warning on the container that you shouldn't use it while pregnant. She said that important development takes place on the foetus' organs including the oesophagus and trachea at this stage.⁵⁶

Maria Liz Robledo from a small village in the Crop-sprayed Towns of Argentina described how she and a neighbour had similar malformations and remembered seeing cans of Roundup between the houses and a crop-sprayer (see page 2). She realised that they were spraying Roundup in the villages between the houses. The European Glyphosate Task Force (of which Bayer CropScience was one member) in their reassessment of glyphosate excluded the literature from South America.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague is extending its remit to include ecocide⁵⁷

The UN-backed court, which sits in The Hague, has mostly ruled on cases of genocide and war crimes since it was set up in 2002. It has been criticized for its reluctance to investigate major environmental and cultural crimes, which often happen in peacetime. In a change of focus, the ICC announced on

⁵⁵ https://en.monsantotribunal.org/main.php?name=main&obj_id=384283593

⁵⁶ <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/Glyphosate-caused-our-son-s-health-issues>

⁵⁷ <https://www.theguardian.com/global/2016/sep/15/hague-court-widens-remit-to-include-environmental-destruction-cases>

15/09/2016 that it would also prioritize crimes that result in the “destruction of the environment”, “exploitation of natural resources” and the “illegal dispossession” of land. Environmental destruction and land-grabs could lead to governments and individuals being prosecuted for crimes against humanity by the international criminal court.⁵⁸

Baumhedlundlaw.com have announced the schedule of court cases against Monsanto⁵⁹

“Monsanto Company (now Bayer) is facing thousands of lawsuits across the United States filed by individuals who allege exposure to Roundup weed killer caused them to develop non-Hodgkin lymphoma. The first trial against Monsanto ended on August 10, 2018 with a unanimous jury verdict of \$289 million for a Benicia, California school district groundskeeper, Dewayne “Lee” Johnson. Most of the Roundup cancer lawsuits are filed in various state courts. Others have been consolidated in a federal multidistrict litigation (MDL) in Northern California. Below you will find the Monsanto Roundup trial schedule for cases throughout the U.S. This page will be updated on a monthly basis.”

Federal Monsanto Roundup Multidistrict Litigation (MDL) Schedule

Federal MDL in Roundup Products Liability Litigation

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California

San Francisco, CA

Lead Case No. 3:16-md-02741

The Honorable Judge Vince Chhabria is the presiding judge. As of October 2018, 1,654 plaintiffs with non-Hodgkin lymphoma had filed cases in federal courts across the country. These cases are consolidated before the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

Missouri: Thousands of cases are filed in St. Louis City Court and St. Louis County Court.

The UK plans for farming after Brexit

George Eustice MP, Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food was interviewed by the Guardian European Environment Correspondent on 30/05/2016 about Brexit

Eustice said: “*The birds and habitats directives would go,*” (referring to two key pieces of European environmental law). “*A lot of the national directives they instructed us to put in place would stay. But the directives’ framework is so rigid that it is spirit-crushing.*” On **pesticides**, he said “*the EU’s precautionary principle needed to be reformed in favour of a US-style risk-based approach, allowing faster authorisation. A precautionary approach is the right thing to do but it should be based on realistic assessments of risk and not just theoretical hazards,*” he said. “*That is the wrong way to go about it.*” The principle has underpinned bans **on GM foods**, **neonicotinoid insecticides** linked to bee colony declines and **endocrine disrupting chemicals**.⁶⁰

Defra is quoted as saying that after Brexit

“The most promising crops suitable for introducing to England would be Roundup Ready GA21 glyphosate tolerant crops, which synergises well with herbicides already widely used in the UK. Empowering farmers to use the cutting-edge crop science innovations that are available is certainly one opportunity presented by shifting the responsibility for licencing domestically post-Brexit. Although the blanket spraying of herbicides like Roundup present challenges regarding their impact on the environment and animals, the more obvious solution would be to regulate the technique, not the actual product because it would make that possible.”⁶¹

⁵⁸ <https://www.icc-cpi.int/Pages/item.aspx?name=pr1238>

⁵⁹ <https://www.baumhedlundlaw.com/toxic-tort-law/monsanto-roundup-lawsuit/monsanto-court-papers/monsanto-roundup-trial-schedule/>

⁶⁰ <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/may/30/brexit-spirit-crushing-green-directives-minister-george-eustice>

⁶¹ <https://www.politicshome.com/news/uk/foreign-affairs/brexit/opinion/dods-monitoring/95900/future-food-will-defra-embrace-gmos>

Michael Gove placed genome editing and synthetic biology at the heart of farming after Brexit⁶²

At the Oxford Farming Conference and the Oxford Real Farming Conference in January 3 2019, Environment Secretary Michael Gove placed genome editing and synthetic biology at the heart of what he called “[the world’s fourth agricultural revolution](#)”. He presented a vision for a science- and technology-driven agriculture that can “*guarantee the future of the United Kingdom as a major global food producer*” as it alleviates poverty and scarcity, restores natural capital, tackles waste, pollution and climate change at the same time as “*taking advantage of the opportunities provided by Brexit and continues to export great British produce*”.

Defra, the NFU, the Farming Minister, the Environment Minister, the Health and Safety Executive and the Chemicals Regulation Division are totally dependent on what the Agrochemical Corporations say. The three statements above are absolute nonsense. They will further destroy human health and biodiversity.

See comments by Caius Rommens ex-Monsanto scientist on the dangers of GM crops (page 3).

“Indeed, I believed that my theoretical knowledge about potatoes was sufficient to improve potatoes. This was one of my biggest mistakes. I dedicated many years of my life to the creation of GMO potatoes, and I initially believed that my potatoes were perfect but then I began to doubt. It again took me many years to take a step back from my work, reconsider it, and discover the mistakes.

Looking back at myself and my colleagues, I believe now that we were all brainwashed; that we all brainwashed ourselves. We believed that the essence of life was a dead molecule, DNA, and that we could improve life by changing this molecule in the lab. We also assumed that theoretical knowledge was all we needed to succeed, and that a single genetic change would always have one intentional effect only.”

Rosemary Mason MB, ChB, FRCA

7 January 2019

⁶² <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/oxford-farming-conference-2019-address-by-the-environment-secretary>