

## **Workshop B2: Health risks of GM food and environmental risks in agriculture: state of the arguments.**

### Chair person:

Andreas Lang, University of Basel

### Speakers:

Gilles-Eric Séralini, University of Caen, France: Health problems involved with transgenic herbicide-tolerant crops and associated pesticides.

Mae-Wan Ho, Institute of Science in Society, London, UK: The Golden Rice scandal - a case study of the gm health risks ignored.

Gábor Lövei, Research Centre Flakkebjerg, Slagelse, Denmark: Effects of transgenic IR crops on natural enemies.

Andreas Lang, University of Basel, Switzerland: Adverse effects of genetically modified maize on butterflies and moths (Lepidoptera) – state of the art.

In the morning session G.-E. Seralini and M.-W. Ho reported on health problems associated with the consumption of transgenic crops, while the afternoon session was dedicated to possible environmental problems involved with the cultivation of gm crops in the field, in particular to adverse effects on non-target invertebrates. The results of both sessions and discussions were quite similar: there do exist possible health as well as environmental problems, and some of them have already been demonstrated in scientific studies. However, these problems are often not fully recognised and/or considered by e.g. the agro-industry, scientific community and regulatory authorities. In the discussion, there was a general agreement that existing data about the health and environmental risks of transgenic food and crops are not sufficient so far. Therefore, the application of the 'precautionary principle' was deemed to be adequate. It was also noticed that original data and results of concerning risk assessment studies are often not well controlled and are not available to public and independent scientists. Chronic long-term tests, and labelling and traceability of gmo products was considered paramount, too.