

# BÖLW

Bund Ökologische Lebensmittelwirtschaft

## **BÖLW-Herbsttagung am 25.11.2003 in Berlin**

„Wenn das Gentechnik-Moratorium fällt – wie handelt die Lebensmittelwirtschaft?“

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### **„The UK food industry: from selling to opposing GM food“**

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Powerpoint-Präsentation des 2. Vortrages von Gundula Azeez  
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**Soil Association**

**THE UK FOOD INDUSTRY:  
FROM SELLING TO OPPOSING  
GM FOOD**

# AstraZeneca's GM tomato paste

- The only fresh GM food sold in Europe
- Sold by two UK supermarkets, 1996-1999
- Labelled as genetically modified
- Initial success: sold at 29p for 170g vs. 29p for 142g for non-GM ie. 'value for money'!
- But safety concerns emerged and no investment in tube packing > sales stopped

# Supermarket non-GM policies

- **Tesco:** “In the UK, Tesco has removed GM ingredients from all own brand products.”
- **Sainsbury’s:** “In response to overwhelming customer concern we have eliminated GM ingredients from all our own brand food, pet food and dietary supplements.”
- **Safeway:** “We listen carefully to our customers’ comments and concerns and we have removed GM soya and maize ingredients from our own brand products. This was achieved in 1999.”
- **Waitrose:** “No Waitrose own label product produced since the end of March 1999 contains GM ingredients as defined by law...”, “ ...With effect from the end of September 1999, all the soya and maize used in the production of the oils and additives for Waitrose products came from ‘traditional’ crops.”
- **ASDA:** Since October, has removed GMOs & derivatives from all its own label products.
- **Iceland:** “As pioneers in the food retail industry, Iceland were the world’s first to ban GM ingredients in our own label range in May 1998.”
- **Marks & Spencer:** “All Marks & Spencer food products are made without Genetically Modified ingredients or derivatives, and an increasing range of the animals we use in food production are fed on non-GM diets.”
- **Co-op:** “No Co-op Brand products will be made using any genetically modified ingredient.”
- **Somerfield:** none of their products contain GM ingredients
- **Morrison’s:** has removed GM ingredients & derivatives from all its own label products

# Food manufacturing companies

Those with non-GM policies for ingredients include:

- Danone (world's 7th largest food manufacturer)
- Heinz
- Mars
- Kraft Foods (one of biggest US food manufacturers)
- St Ivel (make Cadbury products)
- Nestle
- Muller
- Onken
- Baxters

# Non-GM animal feed policies

- UK's largest chicken producer (Grampian chickens) does not use GM feed.

However, the following are still not covered by non-GM feed policies:

- Dairy products: a majority
- Convenience foods: just over half
- Companies: Dairy Crest, Oxo Cubes, Mr Kipling, Danepak, Keyy Foods and Bachelor's Soup



## THE SHOPPER'S GUIDE TO GM



### GO SHOPPING

SEARCH  GO!

- ▶ BREAD
- ▶ CAKES
- ▶ CEREALS
- ▶ DAIRY
- ▶ BABY FOOD
- ▶ VITAMINS
- ▶ DRINKS
- ▶ OILS
- ▶ MARGARINES
- ▶ CONDIMENTS
- ▶ SAUCES ETC...
- ▶ CRISPS
- ▶ SWEETS
- ▶ BISCUITS
- ▶ MEAT
- ▶ MEAT SUBST.
- ▶ POULTRY
- ▶ EGGS
- ▶ FROZEN
- ▶ FOODS
- ▶ CONVENIENCE FOODS,
- ▶ CANS
- ▶ AND JARS

### MEAT, POULTRY...

- ◆ Asda (Farmed) Fish
- ◆ Asda Beef
- ◆ Asda Chicken
- ◆ Asda Eggs
- ◆ Asda Lamb
- ◆ Asda Organic Bacon
- ◆ Asda Organic Beef Mince
- ◆ Asda Organic Lamb Chops
- ◆ Asda pork/bacon
- ◆ Bernard Matthews Turkey Products
- ◆ Brandons Turkey Fresh
- ◆ Brandons Tutbury Turkey
- ◆ Bridgeway Farm Free Range eggs
- ◆ Butterball Turkeys
- ◆ Buxted Turkeys
- ◆ Cauldron Organic Smoked Tofu
- ◆ Cauldron Organic Vegetarian Sausages
- ◆ Chicken Run Eggs
- ◆ Co-op Beef
- ◆ Co-op Eggs
- ◆ Co-op free range eggs
- ◆ Co-op fresh chicken
- ◆ Co-op fresh Pork
- ◆ Co-op Lamb
- ◆ Co-op New Zealand Lamb
- ◆ Co-op salmon
- ◆ Co-op trout

### BERNARD MATTHEWS



PRODUCTS INCLUDE  
Bernard Matthews Turkey Products

### GREEN

Green for companies or products where we have had written assurances that they are non-GM, including non-GM in animal feed.

Position on GM

Position on GM in animal feed Bernard Matthews are now committed to feeding their turkeys on non-GM crops. All fresh turkeys and turkey products have been non-GM fed since March 2001.

# GM public debate results

- 95% worried about contamination of non-GM crops
- 93% believe not enough known about long-term health effects
- 84% believe is unacceptable interference with nature
- 86% are unhappy with the idea of eating GM foods; only 8% are happy to eat GM food.
- 54% said GM crops should never be grown; another 18% said only if no risk of contamination.
- The pro-GM lobby tried to discredit the results , but confirmed by the focus groups



# Thresholds for contamination

- Supermarkets GM contamination thresholds are more important than legal labelling thresholds
- Some UK supermarkets are using 1%, but many are using lower levels including some using 0.1%
- Reasons: need a safety margin and contamination also occurs during transport and processing
- Co-existence measures will need to take these market requirements into account

# Government Economic Review

- Existence of a market is more important for the economic impacts than the impact of GM crops on farm production
- Consumer hostility to GMOs and government strategy is for agriculture to reconnect with the market
- “producing GM products ... could leave farmers facing a low market price, or, in the extreme, no market at all”
- segregation is important for consumer choice, but ‘co-existence’ measures would introduce new costs and some contamination would still occur, risking product recalls
- Conclusion: there is currently no economic case for introducing GM crops in the UK