

Consolidated weekly report

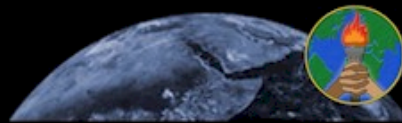
POLICY: Agriculture

Focus article coming soon

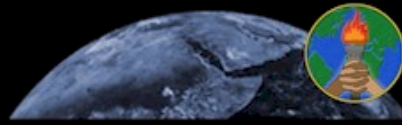
Hazard Level

Change Codes
↓ Deteriorated
• Steady
↑ Improved
↗ Alert

week-ended	See daily list of news items
2007 Jul 01	• Some fear <i>African</i> farmers are being tricked into growing GM crops --"GM technology forces Africa into high-input, chemical-dependent agriculture which impacts on biodiversity and creates debt burdens for small farmers."
2007 Jun 24	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 Jun 17	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 Jun 10	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 Jun 03	• New diet shrinks calories, carbon footprint -- a trend certain to range from the useful to the puerile may influence what is popular based on "carbon footprint". [Unfortunately water-greedy cotton would be the first to go on a strict criterion.]
2007 May 27	• The once robust Kenya maize industry has become precarious due to deregulation and the intrusion of GM seed -- a case study relevant beyond Kenya; Growing maize is not what it used to be .
2007 May 20	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 May 13	• The melamine food contamination scandal has now widened to aquaculture fish feed. [If caused by ' terrorists ', rather than big business greed and negligent officials, this would be a round-the-clock news story.]
2007 May 06	• A federal judge has declared a GM crop project illegal -- " <i>The USDA's role with respect to regulating transgenic crops should be that of <u>watch dog</u>, not <u>lap dog</u></i> " says an activist.
2007 Apr 29	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 Apr 22	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 Apr 15	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 Apr 08	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 Apr 01	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 Mar 26	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 Mar 19	↓ According to Greenpeace , a new study shows GM corn can harm human organs -- "rats fed with the genetically-altered corn Monsanto 863 YieldGard Rootworm displayed kidney and liver diseases."
2007 Mar 12	↓ Major US rice seed stocks have been contaminated with genetically-modified varieties -- "the tremors going through the U.S. long-grain rice industry ... have revealed how vulnerable a \$1 billion agricultural sector can be ..." US embargoes on trade with Iran has not prevented Iran receiving the benefits of US tobacco , exempt because it is an agricultural product -- "from 2002 to 2005, tobacco made up nearly <u>half</u> of the value of all U.S. exports to Iran."



2007 Mar 05	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 Feb 26	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 Feb 19	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 Feb 12	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 Feb 05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genes from “seed libraries” may be able to be used in breeding a <i>salt-tolerant wheat</i> -- “our aim is to eventually produce <i>wheats</i> able, like <i>barley</i>, to grow in highly <i>saline soils</i>.” The US cut billions from farm subsidies hoping it would send “a strong signal to countries considering whether to resume the <i>Doha Round</i> of world trade talks.” The EU said rather promptly that the new US <i>Farm Bill</i> would not be enough to revive Doha.
2007 Jan 29	↓ Australia, the European Union, Argentina and Brazil have joined Canada in the WTO complaint over US <i>corn [wheat] subsidies</i> .
2007 Jan 22	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 Jan 15	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 Jan 08	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 Jan 01	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2006 Dec 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal <i>farm subsidies</i> are again criticized as cynically misspent public money -- “The very policies touted by Congress as a way to save <i>small family farms</i> are instead helping to accelerate their demise ...” It’s official: <i>Cannabis sativa (marijuana)</i> is the most valuable crop grown in the US -- the 10,000 tonne of marijuana worth \$35.8B grown each year (with much higher street value) dwarfs the \$23B of <i>corn</i>, \$17.6B of <i>soybeans</i>, and all without benefit of <i>farm subsidies</i>.
2006 Dec 18	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2006 Dec 11	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2006 Dec 04	• [nothing significant to report]
2006 Nov 27	↑ The big players are talking again -- if the EU reciprocates to the US-Japan promise of “ <i>deeper reductions in trade-distorting farm support</i> ”, the <i>Doha Round</i> may get another chance.
2006 Nov 20	• [nothing significant to report]
2006 Nov 13	• [nothing significant to report]
2006 Nov 06	• [nothing significant to report]
2006 Oct 30	• [nothing significant to report]
2006 Oct 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lurking threat of <i>Asian soybean rust</i> now in 15 US states may reduce US <i>soybean</i> output. Some wasteful absurdities are revealed in US <i>crop insurance</i> and <i>subsidies</i>; “We would probably be better off just giving the farmers the money directly” says an economist. Thailand’s biggest <i>rice</i> exporters say the anti-GM position should be confirmed to keep Thailand as a favored supplier for <i>non-GM</i> rice world-wide.
2006 Oct 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India, China and other Asian nations have agreed to develop new <i>rice hybrids</i> but this does “not necessarily mean development of GM crops”. The <i>green revolution</i> has run out of miracles and grain shortfalls are looming in India which is now reluctantly considering GM grains. A poor <i>wheat</i> [US: <i>corn</i>] harvest in Australia due to drought will “send jitters through the grains market”. It was revealed that in the US farmers often get paid twice by the government for the same disaster, once in subsidized <i>disaster insurance</i> and then again in <i>disaster assistance</i>.
2006 Oct 09	↓ In the <i>e. coli</i> outbreak that claimed lives, the FBI is seeking criminal evidence against those who “may not have taken all necessary steps to ensure that their



	<p><i>spinach</i> was safe before they were placed into interstate commerce". An issue of global importance, Australia's semi-government <i>wheat</i> exporter [the one disgraced in the Iraq oil-for-food scandal] reports shortfalls with Australia's grain harvest. Farmers groups say Monsanto is "unpatriotic" in filing dozens of infringement lawsuits asserting <i>agricultural patents</i>.</p>
2006 Oct 02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Batches of US rice contaminated with "safe" yet non-approved GM rice has been refused entry to Britain.
2006 Sep 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [nothing significant to report]
2006 Sep 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [nothing significant to report]
2006 Sep 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [nothing significant to report]
2006 Sep 04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [nothing significant to report]
2006 Aug 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following revelations that <i>genetically-modified rice</i> has (accidentally) entered the US rice supply, the EU has restricted imports.
2006 Aug 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantities of GM rice invented by Bayer have inadvertently entered the US food supply - it is not approved for human consumption but is said to be "safe".
2006 Aug 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [nothing significant to report]
2006 Aug 07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many informed parties said the failure of the Doha Round was largely due to the US commitment to its Farm policies — but the next meeting of the Cairns Group may be able to make progress on this.
2006 Jul 31	
2006 Jul 24	
2006 Jul 17	[Category not active]
2006 Jul 10	
2006 Jul 03	
Commencement of Service	

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