



Press Release – For Immediate Distribution  
1 September, 2010

## **Large Unions Negotiate the Contamination of Romanian Agriculture** *No Genetically Modified Organisms in Our Fields!*

The signers of this document wish to express worry about the fact that the large farming unions FNPARG<sup>1</sup> and AGROSTAR<sup>2</sup> have revealed that they are promoting genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in Romanian agriculture. FNPARG and AGROSTAR are large unions which represent the interests of large agribusiness and the biotechnology industry in Romania.

FNPARG and AGROSTAR recently made a public call mobilizing Romanian farmers to participate in demonstrations which will take place in Bucharest on the second of September. In the official document<sup>3</sup> which states the list of demands of the two unions the seventh demand made is „The introduction of cultivation of genetically modified plants, especially genetically modified corn and soy.”

Another supporter of the request, the Bio Romania Association<sup>4</sup>, which initially signed the request proposed by FNPARG and AGROSTAR, has now disassociated itself publicly<sup>5</sup> from the pro-GMO position of these unions, because of what it represents in a legal and moral sense for organic agriculture in Romania. We feel that this change of position is a positive signal for small farmers. The Bio Romania Association has a responsibility to protect the interests of clean and organic agriculture, in which GMOs are strictly forbidden.

### *Proposals for sustainable agriculture*

Romanian farmers face serious problems. Unhappiness with the actions of the governmental authorities is completely justified. However this must be reflected on in a correct way, with many factors being considered, including the needs of more than three million small farmers. Equitable subsidies which are not slanted towards large agricultural producers and a ban on genetically modified organisms are principles which are needed for traditional and organic agriculture in our country and indeed, everywhere. Also, the negotiations of these unions on the problems of agriculture must be democratic, transparent and open to the needs of small farmers.

„As a small organic farmer, I feel directly threatened by the large unions, because they promote the interests of the biotechnology industry. If my corn becomes contaminated with genetically modified corn, I would lose my organic certification. In Romania the cultivators of genetically modified organisms can be counted on two hands. The fact is that these cultivators have succeeded in imposing their interests at the expense of the majority of farmers, putting organic agriculture in danger, with a complete lack of evidence of democracy. This is the moment when we, the small farmers have to act!” declares Willy Schuster, vice president of the Eco Ruralis Association.

„The agro-business lobby receives too much at the expense of small farmers. The future of Romanian agriculture can not be built except through small family farms which need equitable subsidies and thus an equal chance with the few large farmers which monopolize most of the market. In a world in which large farmers are favored from the start through huge subsidies, small farmers are condemned to disappear. We hope that on Thursday, as part of the actions in Bucharest, we can make the voice of the

1 The National Federation of Agricultural Producers in Romania - FNPARG ( [www.fnpar.ro](http://www.fnpar.ro) )

2 The Federation of Unions from Agriculture, Food, Tobacco, and Connected Services – AGROSTAR ([www.federatiaagrostar.ro](http://www.federatiaagrostar.ro) )

3 Official Document FNPARG and AGROSTAR, Page 1, point 7  
<http://www.infomg.ro/storage/Photos/Probleme%20sector%20agricol.pdf>

4 The Association of operators in Organic Agriculture Bio Romania [www.bio-romania.org](http://www.bio-romania.org)

5 Decision of BIO Romania <http://www.infomg.ro/web/ro/Home/Stiri/3/1131>

small farmers heard, and not only as a means to an end for large farmers to achieve their goals.” declares Gabriel Gib, president of the farmers association COZIA.

„It has already been demonstrated that genetically modified organisms are not safe and that they do not bring economic benefits on the medium or long term. They are contrary to all of the principles of sustainable agriculture. If today we don’t defend against GMO contamination, tomorrow we will not be able to talk about agriculture, only about genetic manipulation.” says Ramona Duminicioiu, president of the Genetically Modified Organisms Information Centre – InfOMG.

For more information, please contact us:

**Willy Schuster – Vice  
President**

Eco Ruralis – in support of  
Romanian peasants  
Phone/Fax: +40 264 599 204  
Mobile: +40 752 108 184  
E-mail: [ecoruralis@gmail.com](mailto:ecoruralis@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.ecoruralis.ro](http://www.ecoruralis.ro)

**Gib Gabriel – President**

The Association of small  
farmers Fermierul Cozia  
Phone: +40 250 750 770  
Fax: +40 350 814 742  
Mobile: +40 755 308 175  
E-mail: [gib.gabriel@yahoo.com](mailto:gib.gabriel@yahoo.com)

**Ramona Duminicioiu – President**

The Genetically Modified Organisms  
Information Centre - InfOMG  
Phone/Fax: +40 264 599 204  
Mobile: +40 746 337 022  
E-mail: [contact@infomg.ro](mailto:contact@infomg.ro)  
Web: [www.infomg.ro](http://www.infomg.ro)

This press release is signed by:

- Eco Ruralis Association – in support of organic and traditional peasants [www.ecoruralis.ro](http://www.ecoruralis.ro)
- The Genetically Modified Organisms Information Centre – InfOMG [www.infomg.ro](http://www.infomg.ro)
- Organic Farmers Cooperative Biocoop [www.biocoop.ro](http://www.biocoop.ro)
- The Sustainable Hosman Association [www.hosman-durabil.org](http://www.hosman-durabil.org)
- The Farmers Association COZIA
- The Ecologic Club of Transylvania [www.cetcluj.ro](http://www.cetcluj.ro)
- The Fair Trade Association *Efectul Fluture* [www.efectulfluture.blogspot.com](http://www.efectulfluture.blogspot.com)
- Centrul Independent pentru Dezvoltarea Resurselor de Mediu – CIDRM [www.centruldemediu.ro](http://www.centruldemediu.ro)
- Slow Food Turda Association [www.slowfoodturda.ro](http://www.slowfoodturda.ro)