



News Release:
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The April Fool's Day Contest has a Winner:

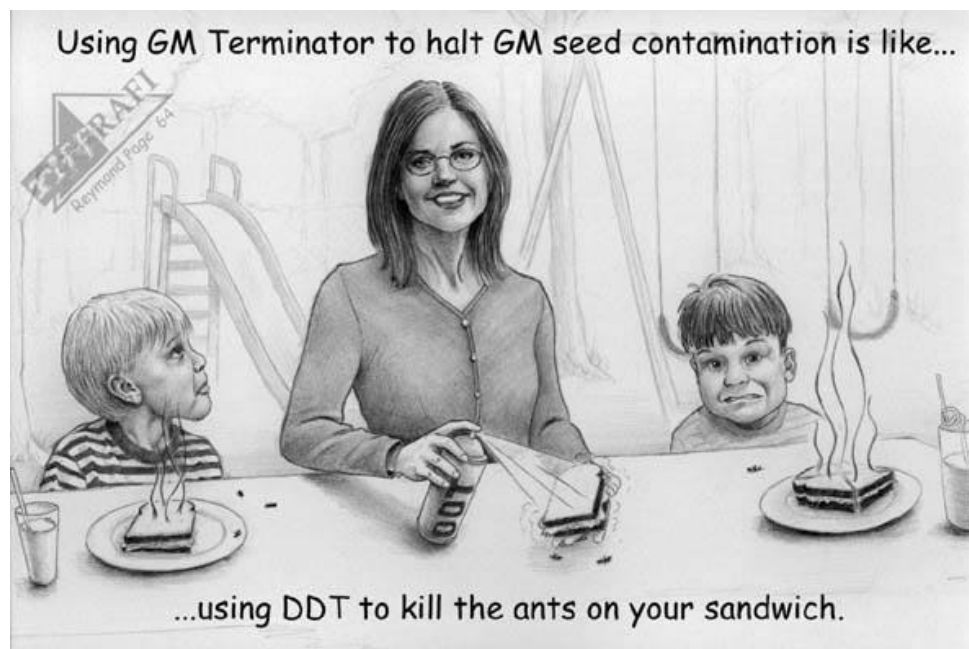
**“Using Terminator to halt GM seed contamination is like...
Using DDT to kill the ants on your sandwich”**

Some biotech companies are claiming that GM (genetically-modified) seed can best be controlled if they also apply Terminator technology to the seed. The Terminator makes the seed sterile at harvest time so that farmers have to purchase new seed every growing season. When ETC group learned that suicide seeds were being hailed as a “green” technology, we decided to hold a contest. The winner is announced today at the Biodiversity Convention in The Netherlands.

ETC group's April Fool's Day Contest – to come up with the best conclusion to the sentence, “Using Terminator to halt GM seed contamination is like...” has a winner. The global contest, which began in early February and ended on April Fool's Day resulted in more than 110 entries from 21 countries. Many hundreds more visited the special website set-up for the contest to see the answers.

21 Nations: Contestants came from Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, England, France, India, Italy, Germany, Ghana, Macedonia, Mexico, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, and the USA. While most of the participants entered happily into the spirit of the event, at least 10 of the entries failed to see the humour and took the opportunity to take shots at on ETC. (Fair enough!). An 11th submission was too esoteric for us to understand.

The winning entry was anonymous (many were, and several appeared to come from governments or embassies) but was submitted from Canada. Accordingly, ETC group went to our “*artist-in-the-residence-next-door*”, Reymond Pagé, and asked him to draw a cartoon embodying the winning answer.



Presentation: The large format of the original cartoon is being presented today in The Hague, Netherlands during COP6 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Hope Shand and Silvia Ribeiro of ETC group are attending the intergovernmental negotiations and will present the artwork during a seminar on Terminator technology being held by civil society organizations attending the conference. ETC group and other CSO's in The Hague are urging governments to convert their moratorium against Terminator field trials into an all-out ban of the technology.

Linguists and contortionists: "Many of the submissions were great," ETC's Research Director, Hope Shand, recalls, "...and then there were those that could only be understood by a linguist." "Which," adds Silvia Ribeiro of ETC, "is in keeping with the biotech industry's claim that Terminator is somehow 'green'— an argument that can only be understood by a contortionist." A range of some of the most interesting replies follows (in no particular order) below...

Using Terminator to halt GM seed contamination is like ...

- ❑ calling a pyromaniac to extinguish his own fire. (Bangkok, Thailand)
- ❑ freeing a rapist from jail to make room for a pickpocket. (Kentucky, USA)
- ❑ gargling with Roundup to fight tooth decay. (Minnesota, USA)
- ❑ echoing the infamous American officer in the Vietnam War who said, "We had to destroy the village to save it." (Istanbul, Turkey)
- ❑ promoting suicide as a means of population control. (Tennessee, USA)
- ❑ getting married to get rid of girl friend. (Ahmedabad, India)
- ❑ using a cloned wolf to guard Dolly. (USA)
- ❑ picking a stone to smash your own head. (Ontario, Canada)
- ❑ using a flood to put out a fire. (Bangalore, India)
- ❑ trusting Arthur Andersen (of Enron scandal) to uncover fraudulent corporate accounting statements! (Colorado, USA)
- ❑ patenting the idea of preparing ice cream in an oven. (Vienna, Austria)
- ❑ evolving the robust mindshare of engineering mission-critical GM functionalities, thus the revolutionization of user-centric markets for utilization of contamination avoidance technologies. (Ottawa, Canada)
- ❑ playing billiards with a piece of string (Canada)
- ❑ using a gun to stop a headache (Okangan Falls, Canada)
- ❑ creating sweatshops to end unemployment (Canada)
- ❑ using crack cocaine to get over a heroin addiction (Sydney, Australia)
- ❑ a sweatshop worker throwing a party for the new CEO. (Portsmouth UK)

ETC group wishes to thank everyone who participated in the contest.

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The Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration, formerly RAFI, is an international civil society organization headquartered in Canada. The ETC group is dedicated to the advancement of cultural and ecological diversity and human rights. www.etcgroup.org. The ETC group is also a member of the Community Biodiversity Development and Conservation Programme (CBDC). The CBDC is a collaborative experimental initiative involving civil society organizations and public research institutions in 14 countries. The CBDC is dedicated to the exploration of community-directed programmes to strengthen the conservation and enhancement of agricultural biodiversity. The CBDC website is www.cbdcprogram.org .