Manfred Fürst
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Lobbying of organic associations in the legislative process

- Work on the interpretation of the EU organic regulation on EU, federal and state level
- Participation in development of Agri-environment programs in Germany
- Political work, e.g. on the Common European Agriculture Politics or the Federal Organic Farming Scheme in Germany
Organic Farmers Associations in Germany and in Europe
Lobby work with IFOAM organizations and Fair Trade
Helping to Save Bees - Action against Insecticides and GMO

…Mission and activities of IAF:

Strengthen action against adverse forces (like the agrochemical and GMO lobby) and supporting organizations, networks, campaigns and initiatives helping to save bees.
European scientists warned that neonicotinoids harm bees.

- Three neonicotinoids (clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiametoxam) were restricted throughout Europe in December 2013.

- European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) plans updated assessments of neonicotinoids by 2017.

- New insecticide flupyradifurone was authorized by the EU. This substance did not go under any proper evaluation for its chronic and sublethal toxicity on honey bees or wild bees.
threat by genetic engineering
example gmo-soybean en mexico

2009 honey analysis from ökotest (consumer watch magazine): 11 out of 24 batches of honey were contaminated with gmo pollen, mainly those from latin america.
GMOs threaten Mexican beekeeping:

- Mexico ranks 3rd as an exporter (25,000 metric tons) of honey.
- Honey exports to Europe can drop heavily, economic damage for thousands of Mexican beekeeper-families.
- Impact on pollination benefits in fruit-growing.
Second World Conference on Organic Beekeeping: 400 participants signed a petition to the Mexican Ministry of Agriculture calling for a moratorium on genetic engineering.
¡No a permisos de Monsanto para soya transgénica en nuestra comunidad!
¡Ayúdanos!

Gustavo Huchín  
México

Mi nombre es Gustavo Huchín Cauch y soy apiculor maya del municipio de Hopechén en el estado de Campeche. Estoy muy preocupado porque en los próximos días la Suprema Corte va a decidir si autorizar o no a Monsanto la siembra de soya transgénica en mi comunidad. Si esto sucede, puede acabar con nuestro modo de vida y nuestro sustento.

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**Help the request of the Mayan beekeepers – No to GM crops in Mexico**

Mexican authorities have issued permits in favour of Monsanto for planting 253,000 hectares of genetically modified soy in the Yucatan Peninsula. More than 15,000 beekeepers of Mayan Indian origin are affected by this, their livelihoods and environment being threatened.

On October 28, the Mexican National Supreme Court will decide a legal complaint of the Mayan beekeepers against the permits granted to Monsanto. Support the Mayan beekeepers, among them also some Naturland beekeepers, by signing this petition to the Mexican National Supreme Court to prevent the planting of genetically modified soy in the Yucatan Peninsula.

The planting of transgenic soy will threaten Mexican beekeeping in general. Nowadays 85 percent of Mexican honey is exported to Europe. But honey which bears the risk of being contaminated with transgenic pollen, will most probably not qualify for export to the European Union.

Moreover, growing transgenic soy does not only affect beekeeping, it also violates the right to a healthy environment. For it involves the use of the herbicide glyphosate, classified in 2015 as a probable carcinogen by the World Health Organization. Alongside with the contamination of soil and water with glyphosate, an accelerated deforestation of the last Mexican jungle to win arable land for the production of soy is to be expected. Mayan beekeepers and their communities are very anxious, whether the Supreme Court will take seriously their concerns, or whether the judges will rather bow to the powerful interests of Monsanto.

**Beeskeeper’s complaint not hopeless**

Already once the opponents of GM crops in Mexico have been successful. In 2012 Naturland together with the Mexican research institute Ecotur and the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) held the World Conference on organic beekeeping in Mexico, thus raising public awareness for the problems going along with the use genetically modified plants. Subsequently, federal judges denied the planting of transgenic soybeans in the peninsula. However, Monsanto and the federal government impugned this decision and the case was taken to the National Supreme Court.

There is not much time left. On October 28, the judges of the National Supreme Court will finalize the decision on the legal complaint of the indigenous Mayan communities. Already more than 62,000 people have signed the petition to say “No” to Monsanto and support the rights of the local population. Join in and sign the petition here.
Helping to Save Bees - Action against Insecticides and GMO

→ supporting organizations, networks, campaigns and initiatives helping to save bees, e.g.:

- Food Tank: 13 Organizations and Initiatives Helping to Save Bees
- Organic Consumers Association, Millions against Monsanto
- Sum of Us
- Bee petitions
- Coordination gegen Bayer-Gefahren
- Greenpeace
- Friends of the Earth
- …
Manfred Fürst
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September, 6th – 10th, 2016
Santiago del Estero, Argentina

Organized by
1. COOPSOL (beekeeper coop)
2. Apimondia (International Federation of Beekeepers’ Associations)
3. IFOAM Apiculture Forum (IAF)
Objectives of symposium:

1. Increase knowledge related to organic beekeeping through theoretical and practical training (6th – 8th of Sept. 2016).
2. Discuss the technologies available to maintain the health of apiaries.
4. **Organic Beekeeping as a tool for development**: Focus on natural potential offered by Latin American and Caribbean countries.

5. **Analyze aspects of the organic standards for production and marketing of bee products.**

6. **Understand the social reality of organic production for producer organizations.**
Thank you for your attention

Naturland

We work without GMOs!