

Media Disinformation: Scientific Magazine falsely accuses the Vatican of supporting engineered GM crops

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Theme: [Biotechnology and GMO](#), [Media Disinformation](#), [Religion](#)

Talk about psyops. If you can't get the people to eat your dangerous, unwanted Frankenfoods, just lie and say the Pope approves it. On November 30, the magazine, *New Scientist*, published "[Vatican scientists urge support for engineered crops](#)," which the Vatican [immediately denied](#).

"The Vatican did not endorse an 11-page final statement in favor of easing restrictions on and allowing more widespread use of genetically modified crops, especially in poorer nations," a Vatican official said in a statement published by [Catholic News Service](#).

In fact, "the Vatican has never taken a formal position supporting or opposing genetically modified foods," reported CNS.

The study group who issued the report mostly include people with financial ties to genetically modified foods. Four employees of Monsanto graced that panel.

There are an estimated 1.2 billion Catholics in the world who now have more reason to distrust biotech scientists.

The *New Scientist* also quoted a dubious statement by one of the report scientists:

"There has not been a single documented case of harm to consumers or the environment," says Potrykus.

It then links to a 2005 article which says the opposite. Whatever. Ingo Potrykus is a Swiss scientist who developed a variety of GM rice.

There are numerous scientific studies condemning the use of GM foods which have been linked to [organ damage](#) and [sterility](#) in mammals, while others correlate rising [diabetes and obesity](#) rates with GMO introduction. There's also the question of [allergic reaction to GM foods](#), proof of which is hidden by lack of labeling.

GM crops ([trees](#), too) are genetically modified to produce or tolerate pesticides. Glyphosate, the main ingredient in Monsanto's Roundup, has been [linked to birth defects, cancer and miscarriages](#) in humans. [Pesticides are suspected](#) in causing or contributing to mass bee, bat and butterfly die-off, as well as a pandemic amphibian decline. Their use is also linked to [11 million acres of superweeds](#) in the U.S.

Finally, GM crops cannot be contained. They've spread in nations all over the world, even becoming [established in the wild](#).

For any scientist to say that no environmental damage is linked to GM crops is unconscionable. Given the biotech industry's penchant for [suppressing science](#), it's not surprising to find them extending their lies to the social realm.

Confronting the oft-quoted malarky that GM crops can solve world hunger, CNS reported:

"The Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, said earlier this year that it was not a coincidence that in 2009 the use of genetically modified food crops grew by 13 percent in developing countries and that GM crops covered almost half of the world's total arable land. And yet 'the number of hungry people in the world has for the first time reached 1 billion people,' the paper said."

CNS further noted that, "Pope Benedict XVI has denounced the continued scandal of hunger in the world, saying its root causes have more to do with problems of distribution and sharing than with there not being enough food in the world."

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