



THE RAM'S HORN

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Boundaries and Borders

by Brewster Kneen

Western 'civilization' has a certain fixation on private property. Property, to be identifiable, requires a definitive description, which requires identification of its boundaries, whether it is a building lot, a farm, a mine, or 'development land'. This is essential if the property is regarded as a commodity: to be bought and sold it requires a legal definition.

It also requires a form of alienation, a detachment from personal or social identity. We became quite attached to our farm in Nova Scotia, and in a sense we had to alienate ourselves from it when we left and sold it. It had been – of necessity in our capitalist society – our private property. But did we actually ever *own* it? Considering the profound effect it had on our whole family, it would be more accurate to say that we were in a relationship with the land as much or more than we were property owners. And just how well defined were its boundaries? It was never surveyed – nothing for 20 miles around had been surveyed. Apart from one road on one side, and another road on another short side, the boundaries were creeks and woods and old fencelines, which means that the first settlers had to agree on what the boundaries would be – particularly when the creek moved one way or the other with every spring 'freshet'. In other words, the boundaries were approximations of territorial claims and responsibilities, responsibilities both for your own land and that of your neighbours, i.e., respect for their territory and activities.

Certainly there could be disputes, but there was little point in hiring a lawyer or calling the police, even if

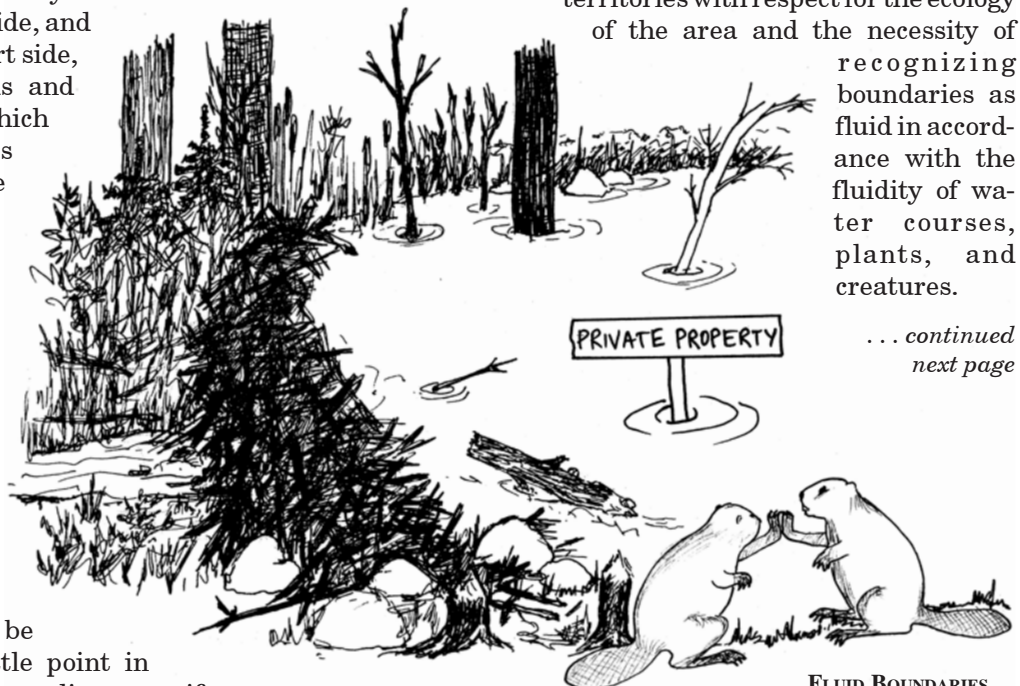
either might be located within a reasonable distance (by horse). Disputes had to be settled by negotiation, perhaps with the help of neighbours familiar with the situation. Such negotiations were part of community life and community building. Although there were also many instances of bitter inter-generational boundary feuds, I think it is safe to say that reliance on external legal 'authority' was more apt to be community destroying.

This thinking was sparked by an invitation to attend a meeting in Vancouver a few weeks ago, which was organized to talk about "a just and sustainable model of land distribution" and "the creation of Indigenous land and food reserves . . . setting aside land for hunting, fishing and gathering culturally important Indigenous plants and animals in the forests, fields and waterways of British Columbia." The most lively and fruitful part of the discussion was about identifying

territories with respect for the ecology of the area and the necessity of

recognizing boundaries as fluid in accordance with the fluidity of water courses, plants, and creatures.

... continued next page



FLUID BOUNDARIES

The highlight of the conversation concerned how such reserves would be defined, identified and defended. Instead of talking about rights and treaties, however, we talked about occupation, responsibilities and ecological justice. Instead of property lines and reserves, we talked about traditional territories and fluid boundaries. We are more familiar with the colonial world (past and present) in which borders and boundaries are to a great extent arbitrary, or fixed by force of arms and codified in writing with little or no reference to the actual geographic features of the land or the people inhabiting it. Much of the turmoil in Africa and the Middle East in our lifetime has been more or less directly caused by the boundaries arbitrarily imposed by the colonial powers.

A stark example is the partition of Palestine in 1947, essentially by the British as the colonial presence, though carried out in the name of the United Nations. Today's stalemate – one might better say tragedy – of Israel-Palestine relations painfully illustrates the intractable character of state conflicts, particularly since World War I. The propagation of the idea of total war, and consequently the idea of total victory and defeat, leaves unaddressed the issue of how the people can learn to live together. In this context, the idea of a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict does not really address the thorny question: who will decide on the state boundaries, and how? Who will enforce the boundaries, not only between two states but between those states and every other state in the region? Not to mention: how will responsibilities, such as for water, be negotiated so as to construct rather than divide society?

In the natural realm of watercourses, hills, mountains, ecosystems and biomes, boundaries are fluid, oral, subject to continuing negotiations which depend on and create healthy social relations. In this context, it is reasonable to think in terms of ecological and social justice.

Mel Bazil, of the Gitim't'en Clan, spoke of how Indigenous peoples are now asserting their responsibilities for the land, not their rights to it, and occupying it, which may mean ignoring colonial claims and boundaries in the exercise of their responsibilities. "No, you are not going to build your pipeline (mine) here, regardless of what authorities gave you permission. We are responsible here and you did not get our permission. If you wish to enter our lands, here is the protocol you must agree to and observe." The drafting of protocols, which amount to declarations of the nature of a territory and its inhabitants and the responsibilities of visitors as well as inhabitants, is thus a very serious challenge, the point being to describe, essentially in oral terms in order to maintain fluidity, how all the inhabitants – trees, fish, birds, grasses, bears and eagles – are to live together.

Ottawa abandoning swaths of prairie grassland

excerpts from an article by Trevor Herriot

In last year's omnibus budget bill (C-38), the Federal Government announced that it will close the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) and hand responsibility for the 9,300 square kilometres it administers as community pastures to the provinces where the land is located. The vast majority of all that acreage is native grass, the ancient buffalo prairie that has never felt the plough.

"Created in April, 1935 . . . the Regina-based PFRA set about stopping the erosion [caused by the Dust Bowl drought] before it turned the southern Prairies into a desert. Once the soil was stabilized and the emergency over, its mandate shifted to managing the pastures, to provide grazing for local cattlemen while conserving soil, waterways and prairie ecosystems.

"... As rare and ecologically important as coastal old-growth forest, the PFRA grasslands are listed by the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) as lands that Canada has made a commitment to protect. The federal government abandoned that commitment when it discontinued the PFRA. No policy study, no rationale; in fact, Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz did not even bother to trot out the usual austerity arguments. He simply announced that the program had done its work, and could stand down." . . .

"But westerners know better: The PFRA has been a smart investment for Canadians, returning far more in public benefits than its meagre costs. A study sponsored by Agriculture Canada in 2006 estimated those benefits at \$55-million a year, compared with the \$22-million required to administer the pastures, more than half of which was covered by fees charged for grazing cattle.

"As for the program having achieved its goals, the need for soil conservation and managing ecosystems in the public interest does not simply go away. Not only can healthy grassland become overgrazed and infested with invasive species within a few years, well-resourced management will be even more important should the prairie provinces receive the longer, more intense droughts widely predicted by climate-change models.

"Over the years, the PFRA has become a model of sustainable agriculture, and its pastures a fixture of the farm economy in much of rural Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Phrases such as "food security" seldom arise at the coffee shop or rink, but many farmers know the PFRA is a bulwark against the forces now consolidating and globalizing the beef industry. With large feeder cattle operations and foreign-owned meat processors tilting the marketplace their way, community pas-

tures have helped to sustain smaller operators, keeping our national livestock herd connected to local economies.

"If well managed, grassland can flourish when subjected to grazing, but once it is plowed to grow crops, biologists say it has been "converted" because more than just the crocuses disappear; the appropriation is total. The public values and natural capital found in the prairie – its capacity to store carbon, foster biodiversity, stabilize fragile soils, filter and hold water, and provide recreation for hunters, hikers and naturalists, and stirring beauty for the rest of us – do not survive.

the federal legislation is not enforced on land that is private or provincially managed.

Whatever their motivation, Ottawa's policy-makers dropped the pastures into the laps of two provinces, neither of which seems to have any intention of paying for the independent supervision that has kept the land from being overgrazed and stripped of its plants and wildlife."

Both Manitoba, with 400,000 acres, and Saskatchewan, with 1.6 million acres, will rent the land to the 'pasture patrons', whose cattle graze the land. Saskatchewan, however, will give patron groups the option to buy the land outright, removing it entirely from the public domain.



"[I]n a rapacious market, with everyone from investment groups to Chinese corporations sizing up Saskatchewan property, what is to stop the cattlemen from deciding that the real-estate market offers a better return, if raising livestock loses its appeal? Also, a subsequent buyer may ask the courts to lift such restrictions. If crop prices go high enough, future owners could bring in the tractors no matter what the land title says.

"The fact that prosecution for ignoring an easement is all but unheard of makes any penalty for breaking the prairie a risk worth taking.

"All the talk of who should own or control these vast holdings overlooks a wild card held by the province's First Nations: Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE), a framework established in 1992 to recognize that native communities did not always receive all the land they were entitled to when they signed their original treaties. Now, a legal mechanism intended to make up that shortfall comes into play whenever Crown land is offered for sale, and the day after the decision to cut the pasture program was announced, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) contacted Ottawa to express interest.

" . . . Meanwhile, a smaller group of First Nations . . . is taking another approach and trying to build bridges with both grazing patrons and the conservation community. . . They say their aim is to develop a business model and management regime that builds on the successes of the existing program, while leaving the land under the Crown. On-the-ground management of the pastures would remain with the current staff.

" So what does the future hold?

"The dialogue now under way between farmers and conservationists, policy-makers and aboriginal people is a

". . . [N]ative range is no more "agricultural land" than a forest is a tree farm. Yes, the buffalo are all but gone, but community pastures remain an essential component of a biome that the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) calls the most endangered and least protected of any on earth.

"The Amazon Basin has lost 20% of its rain forest, but 20% is all that is left of the original prairie, most of it in fragments too small to support creatures that need it to survive. In contrast, not only are PFRA pastures often large enough to function ecologically, they protect ecosystems that go back as far as 8,000 years, 'old growth' by any definition."

". . . A former pasture manager resigned in frustration after watching the oil and gas industry damage the environment on his pasture, and now says he believes the decision to cut the PFRA was a gift to the resource industry because



fascinating second look at our history in this landscape. . . . In our rush to harness the prairie to our desire, can we find the courage and imagination to seek a solution that is mindful of every displacement suffered in this world of grass, from buffalo and birds to its lost ways of life – indigenous and settler alike?”

– *G&M*, 6/4/13

“The health of the grass, the wildlife and livestock is our full-time job. We look at the longer term.

“ . . . With oil and gas, there is more pressure than ever on these pastures, and we have to be more diligent . . . No one can eat a gallon of gas or a quart of oil. But if things keep going this way, Canadians will be getting all of their beef and everything else on their plate from other countries.”

– *Mert Taylor, a ‘range rider’ who has been caring for PFRA pastures for 40 years, quoted by Herriot.*

GM Canola Label

17% of shoppers consider GM products to be “a serious health hazard”; certified GMO-free products are up 25% in the US market while Fair Trade products are up 17%, according to a speaker at the Canola Council of Canada annual convention. She also pointed out that 30 US states are considering GM labelling and that it appears that Walmart will no longer oppose it – having been a major contributor to the \$46 million spent by the opposition to Proposition 37 in California to defeat that labelling proposal. (*see RH 293*).

Not surprisingly, a vice-chair of the Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission trotted out the old industry line that there is no scientific justification for labelling, but he still wondered why the Canola industry fears it so much. “On one side we say that we have a great system and we’re benefiting the world with the way we farm with GMOs, but on the other side we don’t want it on the label.”

– *WP 23/3/13*

The GMO world, and particularly Monsanto, has known from day one that any form of labelling of GE foods would be the death knell for biotech foods and their own corporate welfare, hence their frenzied battle against labelling. But now public opposition to genetically engineered food is growing worldwide and Monsanto and Syngenta have to face the fact that the food distributors such as Whole Foods and Walmart are more interested in pleasing their retail customers than their corporate buddies, such as Monsanto. Monsanto’s response is to even more aggressively push its patented GE seeds into Africa and everywhere else with ruthless dishonesty.

German Fields GMO-Free

“Because of the very strong anti-GMO-movement and anti-GMO stance in Germany, 87% of Germans are against GMOs in agriculture and food production. In 2012 there were no commercial GM crops grown in Germany, and this will remain the case in 2013. Monsanto’s Mon 810 maize has been banned since 2009 and BASF’s Amflora potato was an economic disaster from the very beginning – authorised in 2010 for cultivation, it was grown by just one farmer on 15 hectares in 2010 and 2 hectares in 2011, and then never again.”

– *Stop the Crop, UK, 28/3/13*

Corporate Seed Destroys Food Sovereignty

It has become crucial to defend seeds. In the past 20 or 30 years, what was once seen as normal – peasant farmers growing, selecting, saving and exchanging seeds – has come under attack from corporations seeking to control and commodify the very basis of agriculture. This was the subject of the session at the World Social Forum in Tunis on Peasant Seeds jointly organized by La Vía Campesina, GRAIN and the ETC Group.

There are four pillars of agriculture, according to Nandini Jairam, a member of La Vía Campesina and a peasant farmer from Karnataka, India: soil, water, seeds, and peasants.

“A seed is miraculous,” says Jairam. “A seed has life – you sow one and you reap hundreds. And the skilled knowledge of peasant farmers is equally important. It is knowledge transferred down through generations by farmers that guides the selection of the right seeds to plant and to save. Farmers in India know how to preserve seed for two or three years without using pesticides. And they barter seeds; they give them freely to each other, returning a part of the harvest.”

“It’s peasant seed that feeds us,” says Via Campesina’s Guy Kastler from France. “And this is a catastrophe for companies.” Corporations want farmers to buy industrial seeds – and the fertiliser and pesticides necessary to grow them. So they need to prevent peasants from continuing to develop, produce and exchange their own seeds.

The same half dozen companies control two-thirds of seed production, 70% of pesticide production, and 75% of private agricultural research budgets, far outstripping any government’s resources. “But in the past 50 years, peasant agriculture has donated 2.1 million varieties of 7,000 crops to gene banks around the world.

In the same time, seed companies have contributed just 80,000 varieties.”

The contributions of peasant farmers are also vastly superior, adds Kastler. “A plant is a living being. It adapts to where it grows, and peasants select them carefully according to their needs.” Industrial seeds are selected to work in uniform conditions, they are not adapted to local realities; they’re produced in laboratories and grown in test plots with chemical fertilisers. “Away from the test plots, in farmers’ different fields, these seeds won’t grow without machines and fertiliser. The plants get sick, then you have to look after them with insecticides, fungicides, pesticides – poisons. Industrial agriculture is a science – a science of death.”

Despite the vastly greater resources available to industrial agriculture, peasants grow 70% of the world’s food, but, notes Pat Mooney of ETC Group, “the industrial farming system has put peasant agriculture at risk. Do we trust industrial agriculture to save us, or should we instead assume that it is peasant systems have the resilience and creativity to answer the crisis?” Agribusiness, after all, exists not to feed people, but to create and dominate/sustain markets.

The flagship “Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa” (AGRA) is a clear illustration. A huge project, backed by the Gates Foundation and others, it claims its intent is to help small farmers produce more, says GRAIN’s Henk Hobbelink. But AGRA is not driven by the needs of African farmers. It is focused on commercial farming, with agro-dealers at the heart of a strategy to transform small farmers into businessmen, operating in a globalised market of corporate seed, fertiliser and distribution. Crucial to the vision behind AGRA are commercially-owned seeds, such as GMOs, which are said to produce higher yields – but the evidence is that the opposite is true. GMOS are also promoted as reducing the use of toxic agrochemicals – the evidence again points the opposite way, towards increased use. In Argentina, use of fertilisers and pesticides has increased 20-fold along with the growing use of genetically-modified crops.

An excellent video from Al Jazeera: “Argentina’s Bad Seeds”

– aljazeera.com/programmes/peopleandpower/2013/03/201331313434142322.html

What is the alternative? First, says Kastler, peasants, locally, collectively, should save their own seed and organise themselves to select and safeguard them. “They must be autonomous in terms of seed. . . If we rely on corporate seed, we lose food sovereignty. If we lose food sovereignty, we lose political sovereignty.”

– *Via Campesina, GRAIN, ETC Group, 2/4/13*

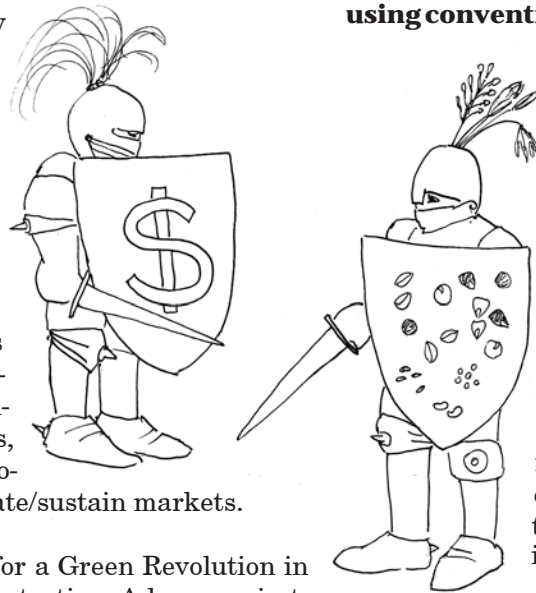
Drought Resistant Varieties

Launched in 2007 by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Ibadan, Nigeria, the Drought Tolerant Maize for Africa project (DTMA) provides insurance against the risks of maize farming, **using conventional breeding** to develop and disseminate varieties that can provide a decent harvest under reduced rainfall.

So far, Nigeria has released 18 drought tolerant maize varieties while Ghana has released 13. To effectively make the varieties available to more farmers, they proposed the strengthening of community seed producers to complement efforts of seed companies in the region.

Dr. Tsedeke Abate, project coordinator, stressed the importance of women in the adoption of drought tolerant varieties, considering their invaluable contributions to agricultural development in Africa.

– *Modern Ghana, 8/4/13*



Greece’s Great Urban Exodus

Some 40,000 people have joined the ranks of Greece’s farming community between 2009 and 2011, according to the Greek farmers’ association. Figures for 2012-13 are not available, but with the austerity this trend is unlikely to reverse. Entire streets formerly full of crowded offices and businesses are emptying out, as more and more residents of cities like Athens and Thessaloniki are trying their hand at farming or fishing, reversing the journey their parents made one generation ago.

The lucky ones, like 27-year-old Konstantina Papanastasiou, have a piece of land to go back to. Her grandfather’s house in Levidi, a Peloponnese village with a population of 900, had been uninhabited for years. With significant help from a European Union (EU) fund that subsidizes young entrepreneurs,



Papanastasiou converted the property into a tasteful bed and breakfast with dry stone walls and wooden balconies.

Papanastasiou says she was welcomed with open arms back in the village, where her father is the baker (she also helps out in his bakery), and where her husband, Konstantinos, has taken over management of the local taverna. There may be fewer kebab orders than there were a couple of years back, and the ouzo might not flow as freely, but luckily there's still a good week-end market in wedding parties. No matter how bad the economy, people aren't stingy when it comes to a wedding bash.

Since returning, Papanastasiou has given birth to a first child, a daughter. "In Athens, we wouldn't have felt we could bring a child into the world," she says, referring to the prevailing climate of uncertainty. "But here ... I'm certain more and more young people are going to move to the country, and that life in the villages will go back to being the way it was before so many people left in the 1950s."

– Source: *Die Welt / Worldcrunch*, 21/6/11

Antibiotic Resistance

Ontario's doctors are calling on government to address the growing crisis of antibiotic resistance while there is still time. In a new report titled "When Antibiotics Stop Working," the Ontario Medical Association makes a number of recommendations, including:

- The Government of Ontario must develop a system for farm industry surveillance to keep track of the identities and quantities of antibiotics being purchased, and those being moved into or out of Ontario.
- Ontario should ban the prophylactic or growth-promoting use of antibiotics, whether extra-label or indicated, in animal husbandry. This step is fundamental to preserving the effectiveness of antibiotics.
- The province should require a veterinary prescription and/or supervision of the use of all antibiotics on farms. The current practice allows for unsupervised, unscientific, and ultimately dangerous application of important medications. – *oma.org*, 20/3/13

The Canadian Cattlemen's Association response was straight denial: its science director stated that there is little evidence that antibiotic use in the cattle industry is a significant factor in what the OMA said is a growing human health crisis. The Chicken Farmers of Canada tried to take the high road, saying that the industry uses antibiotics responsibly and it is a necessary tool. – source: *WP*, 28/3/13

Neonicotinoids are a family of insecticides, widely used for treating seeds before planting, that are highly suspect as a cause of bee deaths. *Western Producer*, in the same edition, editorialized "Those who adhere to the precautionary principle say any risk must be dealt with because bee pollination is critical to plant regeneration and a healthy ecosystem. However, rejecting things out of fear goes against the principles of sound science and if taken too far, could stymie innovation and progress," says the editorial.

It is disturbing to read an editorial that dismisses the precautionary principle out of hand (we expect this from people like PM Harper), while parroting the meaningless ideological language of the industrial agriculture forces, namely terms like "sound science", "innovation" and "progress". The health of the bee population is of far great importance than the health of Monsanto and Syngenta.

Patenting the Public Domain

Nigella sativa – more commonly known as fennel flower – has been used as a cure-all remedy for over a thousand years. It treats everything from vomiting to fevers to skin diseases, and has been widely available in impoverished communities across the Middle East and Asia. Now Nestlé is claiming to own it, and trying take control over its natural curative properties in order to turn it into a costly private drug.



NIGELLA FLOWER

In a paper published last year, Nestlé scientists claimed to "discover" what much of the world has known for millennia: that *nigella sativa* extract could be used for "nutritional interventions in humans with food allergy". But instead of creating an artificial substitute, or fighting to make sure the remedy was widely available, Nestlé is attempting to create a *nigella sativa* monopoly and gain the ability to sue anyone using it without Nestlé's permission, filing patent applications – which are currently pending – around the world.

Prior to Nestlé's move, researchers in developing nations such as Egypt and Pakistan had already published studies on the same curative powers Nestlé is claiming as its own. And Nestlé has done this before – in 2011, it tried to claim credit for using cow's milk as a laxative, despite the fact that it had been in Indian medical texts for a thousand years.



NIGELLA SEED POD

Monarch Butterflies Lose Ground

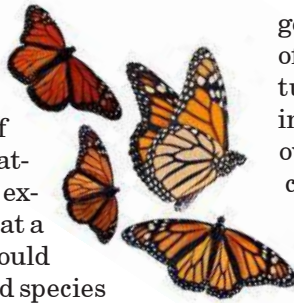
Scientists who take the annual measure of Mexican forest land famously occupied by migrating monarch butterflies says that the butterfly population is the smallest they have seen in two decades. The likely cause is unseasonably warm weather recently in the United States, as well as a dramatic loss of habitat in the U.S. Corn Belt, the scientists said. The amount of land occupied by the migrating creatures shrank 59% from a year ago.

It was troubling news for the Mexican states of Michoacan and Mexico, where the yearly arrival of the butterflies is a major tourist attraction. Of even greater concern, experts say, is the potential impact that a diminished butterfly population could have on interconnected habitats and species across North America.

The measurements do not mean that the Mexican habitat is disappearing; rather, measuring the area that the butterflies occupy is the best way to estimate their numbers. Precise figures are hard to come by, but 1 hectare may contain as many as 50 million butterflies.

The yearly figures can fluctuate greatly because of variations in the weather. But Chip Taylor, director of the research group Monarch Watch at the University of Kansas, said the numbers have generally been trending downward. He said the decline is due in great part to the widespread use of the herbicide glyphosate [Monsanto's RoundUp]. In key U.S. states where the butterfly feeds and breeds, farmers have planted more than 120 million acres of corn and soybeans genetically modified to resist the herbicide. That allows them to use glyphosate to kill milkweed, the monarchs' essential food.

– Los Angeles Times, 13/3/13



Modified Crops” – Rod A. Herman, *Dow AgroSciences LLC*, William D. Price, Retired from *U.S. Food and Drug Administration*.

➤ Then note the ambiguous language in the abstract below: what does “compositional equivalency” mean? What actual scientific data has been produced from what “human health safety assessment” research?

➤ Finally, look at their conclusion: “suspect unintended compositional effects that could be caused by genetic modification have not materialized on the basis of this substantial literature.” This substantial literature apparently ignores the massive amount of independent data that we, among others, have reported over the years, that indicates serious problems with GE crops for the environment and human health.

“Abstract: The compositional equivalency between genetically modified (GM) crops and nontransgenic comparators has been a fundamental component of human health safety assessment for 20 years. During this time, a large amount of information has been amassed on the compositional changes that accompany both the transgenesis process and traditional breeding methods; additionally, the genetic mechanisms behind these changes have been elucidated. After two decades, scientists are encouraged to objectively assess this body of literature and determine if sufficient scientific uncertainty still exists to continue the general requirement for these studies to support the safety assessment of transgenic crops.

“It is concluded that suspect unintended compositional effects that could be caused by genetic modification have not materialized on the basis of this substantial literature. Hence, compositional equivalence studies uniquely required for GM crops may no longer be justified on the basis of scientific uncertainty.”

A second example unveils the absolute necessity of making profits, as with Nestlé’s attempt to claim ownership of Nigella, by privatising and commodifying traditional knowledge.

➤ In this case the study is “independent” but look who funded it.

➤ Then note how traditional peasant knowledge, gained from generations of agricultural practices, is transformed into stocks, i.e. commodities that can be traded, and how “scientific breakthroughs”, i.e. genetically engineered seeds, “produced in other countries”, can be accessed.

From *The Chicago Council on Global Affairs*, 24/4/13:

Decoding Rhetoric

The corporate sector, particularly those engaged in bad business, spends an inordinate amount of money on propaganda promoting 1) capitalist ideology, and 2) their most profitable products. The results can mislead you if you are not careful. Here are some tips to help you figure out what is reliable reporting:

➤ Upon encountering a suspicious article or report, first note how the authors are identified; for example, in this article from the *Journal of Agriculture and Food Chemistry*, 15/2/13:

“Unintended Compositional Changes in Genetically



An "independent study . . . made possible by generous support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, DuPont; and The Quaker Oats Company, a division of PepsiCo" concludes that "most Sub-Saharan African countries could potentially access at least 25 times their locally produced agricultural knowledge by adapting and adopting scientific breakthroughs produced in other countries.

The report . . . presents new measures of accumulated knowledge stocks by country and the potential for this knowledge to "spill over" and benefit other countries."

➤ Finally, watch out for key ideological words, such as "innovation" and "choice", and FSLs (Frequently Stated Lies) concerning the safety of GMOs and the impossible notion that somehow GMOs and organic agriculture can co-exist with "best management practices".

This item comes from *CropLife Canada*, the lobby organization of the global agrototoxin/biotech industry.

"Innovations derived through modern plant breeding help farmers, are good for the environment and they deliver tangible benefits to consumers by way of lower food costs," said Lorne Hepworth, president of CropLife Canada.

"Canada is well-known for its exceptional, science-based regulatory system and for ensuring that human health and environmental considerations are duly considered. Canadian consumers enjoy one of the safest, most abundant, and most affordable food supplies in the world. Agricultural

innovation, particularly plant biotechnology, has played a strong role in that success," said Hepworth.

. . . CropLife Canada and its member companies are strong proponents of allowing consumers and farmers to choose between conventional, organic and GM crop production. The industry also has a long history of ensuring that its products are properly managed throughout their entire lifecycle. This includes developing best management practices to address concerns such as the ability of various farming operations to coexist."

You can practise on the following piece from the *Pakistan Biotechnology Information Centre*, 26/2/13:

"CropLife Pakistan has formed a Biotech Committee to promote the benefits and responsible use of plant biotechnology in Pakistan with Bayer, DuPont Pioneer, Syngenta and Monsanto as initial members. . . The Biotech Committee will engage with the biotech regulatory agencies for implementation of Biosafety Guidelines and Rules 2005 so that science-based, level playing and transparent regulatory processes are implemented in Pakistan. It will also create awareness and enhance acceptance of biotechnology by closely working with regulators, scientists, farmers, media, industry, academics and civil society. It will also act as a key promoter of safe and sustainable use of plant biotechnology.

Biotechnology is a tool available to improve food security concerns, and managing poverty."

 THE RAM'S HORN

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