

Dangers of GM crops

Westmeath Enviro Reach Out to Farmers at Ploughing Championships in Tullamore on Wed, 26th September

Members of the Westmeath Environmental Group will be at the National Ploughing Championships in Tullamore to highlight the dangers of genetically modified crops on Wednesday, 26th September 2007.

GM crops are those that have genetic material from something else – another plant or even an animal – inserted into their structure.

“The long-term effects of GM crops are unpredictable,” explained Richard Murphy of Westmeath Environmental Group. “If miniature life-forms such as insects or worms are affected, the consequences for all animal and bird life don’t bear thinking about.”

Earlier this year, some strains of GM maize that had been approved by the European Food Safety Authority in 2005 were found to be toxic. GM crops threaten traditional farming methods by making farmers reliant on a few suppliers for seeds, as GM crops do not produce seeds as natural crops do. Farmers, organic and traditional, have no way to protect their crops from wind-borne contamination from nearby GM crops meaning that only one GM field can cause mutations to crops throughout an area.

Watch for Westmeath Environmental Group members around the Ploughing Championships sporting colourful T-shirts and distributing literature to spread the word about the dangers posed by GM crops.

For further information or to catch up with WEG at the ploughing championships, please contact: