



Emergency of GMO Trees for Indigenous Peoples

GMO Trees threaten Indigenous Peoples, forests, humans and Mother Earth

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Indigenous Peoples want to ban GMO corn. Now we must also ban GMO trees! Sacred trees, which are the **center of Life** for many Indigenous Peoples' cultures, are being genetically modified with dangerous traits. GMO trees could have devastating, irreversible impacts for Indigenous Peoples, forests and biodiversity. Plantations of GMO trees could result in **massive land grabs, displace communities, violate human rights**, contaminate and dry up water, increase the risk of raging forest fires, and destroy native forests. **Since 2021, Brazil has legalized 7 types of GMO eucalyptus trees for use in large-scale monoculture industrial tree plantations. In 2023, GMO trees were planted in a forest in the United States. Brazil, China and the US are poised to commercialize GMO trees worldwide.**

What are GMO Trees ?

Eucalyptus, pine and poplar trees are being genetically modified with **dangerous, unnatural traits**: to grow faster, produce pesticides, poison insects, resist fungus, tolerate cold temperatures, survive spraying from planes with agrottoxins such as **glyphosate**, breakdown into sugar for ethanol, and supposedly be drought resistant. Industry plans to use GMO trees for tree **plantations, biofuels** and false solutions to climate change like carbon markets. Many will receive **carbon credits** and be eligible for **REDD** (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation) projects, infamous for grabbing Indigenous Peoples' territories and allowing **pollution to increase**.

THREATS of GMO TREES:

- **LAND GRABS of Indigenous Peoples' territories for GMO tree plantations**
Industrial tree plantations cause land grabs all over the planet, including the expropriation of Indigenous Peoples' territories. GMO trees will increase land grabs for tree plantations and human rights violations.
- **POISONING FORESTS with GMO CONTAMINATION**
Indigenous Peoples are guardians of forests. Forests cover 30% of Mother Earth. **GMO tree pollen can travel 1800 miles** irreversibly **contaminating natural trees**, forests and insects as well as **harming humans** with allergies. More than **65% of all species** on Earth are found in natural forests and will be negatively affected by GMO tree pollen and GMO seed contamination.
- **DESTRUCTION of BIODIVERSITY and TRADITIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS**
Indigenous Peoples' territories include 80% of the world's biodiversity. Biodiversity will be destroyed to create GMO tree plantations, endangering Indigenous Peoples' way of life, knowledge and food systems.
- **MORE AGROTOXINS**
GMO trees modified to tolerate agrottoxins such as glyphosate will lead to more chemicals being sprayed from airplanes, helicopters, or drones – poisoning air, water, soil and Indigenous communities. Indigenous Peoples have suffered from glyphosate spraying on soy and eucalyptus plantations, and in the Amazon.
- **DRY UP WATER and INCREASE WILDFIRES**
GMO trees engineered to grow faster can rapidly dry up rivers and aquifers. During droughts and heatwaves, GMO eucalyptus and pine trees, which are highly flammable, can explode into fast-moving wildfires that destroy everything in their path.

MODEL BAN of GMO TREES: No public or private entity or person shall engage in indoor or outdoor research, cultivation, propagation, development, testing, field trials, importation or exportation of genetically engineered trees, their seeds, cuttings, saplings, timber, pollen or other wood-based products.

