

● The Future of GMOs

How are Canadians and Americans trying to find a middle ground?

1 Labelling GMOs

- A.** Look at the picture and describe it.
What is the demonstrators' demand?
- B.** Read the *Cultural fact*. Is the situation similar in all the English-speaking countries? What do you conclude?
- C. Have your say.** How do you feel about labelling GMOs? Justify your answer.

Cultural fact

Should labels on canned and prepared food mention that they contain genetically modified ingredients?

- Great Britain, New Zealand and Australia think so. Those countries think that consumers should know exactly what they put on their plates.
- The USA and Canada don't – food companies are allowed to do what they decide, so they can decide not to mention that their products contain GMOs. They base this law on the idea of substantial equivalence: if a normal potato is safe, then a genetically modified potato must be safe too.



2 Seeds of freedom

- A.** Read the article and explain in your own words what the project is about.
- B.** Why does Vandana Shiva call for civil disobedience?
- C. Have your say.** Would you like to participate in the Navdanya project? Why (not)?



In 1991, Shiva founded Navdanya, a movement which aims to protect nature and people's rights to knowledge, biodiversity, water and food. It does this by setting up community seed banks that generate livelihoods for local people and provide for basic needs.

- 5** Shiva, a scientist, philosopher, feminist, author, environmentalist and activist, explains why the two-week campaign on seed freedom against major corporations, which culminates on World Food Day later this month, is
- 10** so important and the consequences of failure.

Shiva calls for civil disobedience, quoting Gandhi who said that "as long as the superstition that unjust laws must be obeyed exists, so will slavery exist". [...]

- 15** You refer to the toxicity and uniformity of the seeds from major corporations. What impact are their actions having on farmers and communities?

Last year we wrote a report, "The GMO Emperor has no Clothes", which pulled together the impact of GMO patented seeds across the world. The first impact is a seed monopoly and the disappearance of diversity. The second impact is increasing costs. The third impact is higher use of chemicals. The fourth impact is the denial to consumers of the right to know what they are eating. [...]

- 25** What can be done to prevent these companies from dominating the global seed supply?

Build a movement for seed freedom, to save seeds, to protect biodiversity, to reclaim farmers rights, to make patents on seed illegal, to roll back laws like the EU Seed Legislation that are criminalising farmers who use their own seeds.

, 2013

YOUR PROJECT

Write an article about GMOs for your blog "A Citizen can..."
Present the facts in the first part of your article, and your opinion in the second part. Use the documents studied in this unit to illustrate your arguments.