



# research • educate • mobilize

Collaborative Campaigning for Food Sovereignty & Environmental Justice

The Canadian Biotechnology Action Network (CBAN) is a network of 15 diverse groups across Canada. Together, we research, monitor and raise awareness about issues relating to **genetic engineering in food and farming**. CBAN members include farmer associations, environmental and social justice organizations, and regional coalitions of grassroots groups.

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## WHAT WE DO

CBAN is the only national public interest group that **monitors** genetically engineered foods, seeds, and animals (genetically modified organisms or GMOs) in Canada for consumers and farmers. We monitor and research the impacts and risks of GMOS on our everyday lives, the environment, farmer livelihoods, and the food system.

- In the absence of mandatory GM food labelling, and because of a lack of transparency in government regulation, we provide information about which GM foods are on the market and which could be coming to the market.
- CBAN analyzes the impacts and risks of new GMOs in the Canadian food system, farm economy, and environment because the government does not monitor their benefits and risks.
- CBAN takes action and encourages public action when we identify particular risks and problems that warrant attention and debate. For example, the proposed introduction of genetically engineered alfalfa was widely opposed by both consumers and farmers because of its unique contamination risk and the related economic threat to many farmers.

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## WHO WE ARE

The Canadian Biotechnology Action Network (CBAN) was formed in 2007 by an informal network of diverse groups across the country that are committed to democratic decision-making regarding the introduction of genetic engineering in our food and farming systems. CBAN examines issues raised by genetic engineering that are of relevance and concern to consumers and farmers. Our priority is to support food sovereignty and environmental justice.

**CBAN's Member Groups:** Canadian Organic Growers, Council of Canadians, Ecology Action Centre (NS), Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario, GE Free BC Network, Greenpeace Canada, Growers or Organic Food Yukon, Inter Pares, National Farmers Union, No More GMOs Toronto, GMO-Free PEI, Organic Agriculture Protection Fund of Saskatchewan, Union Paysanne, SeedChange, and Vigilance OGM.

CBAN is a project on the shared platform of MakeWay Charitable Society, a registered Canadian charity.

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## OUR MISSION

CBAN's mission is to promote food sovereignty and democratic decision-making on science and technology issues in order to protect the integrity of the environment, health, food, and the livelihoods of people in Canada and around the world. We do this by facilitating, informing and organizing civil society action, conducting research, and providing information to government for policy development.

Seeds are the heart of our food system, and the ways in which we grow, share, and consume food shape our environment and our communities, and impact the livelihoods of farmers in Canada and around the world. CBAN's research, education, and mobilization strengthens the public voice in the future of food and farming.

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## OUR RESOURCES

CBAN produces ground-breaking reports that document issues such as the GMO contamination incidents in Canada, and the science of genome editing. In 2015, CBAN produced a series of six reports in a project called "GMO Inquiry," which documented our experience with genetic engineering in Canada. Our reports at [www.GMOinquiry.ca](http://www.GMOinquiry.ca) include information on:

- Which GMOs have been developed and were on the market;
- The environmental impacts of GMOs;
- The impacts of GMOs on farmers;
- GMO related issues for consumers, including safety questions;
- The state of government regulation of GMOs; and
- Progress on the promise that GMOs would feed the world.

CBAN provides the public with resources to participate in democratic debate about genetic engineering in food and farming, including government consultations. In 2021, CBAN produced guides for the public to participate in Health Canada and Canadian Food Inspection Agency consultations, and submitted three detailed responses.

CBAN monitors cutting-edge developments that the public may not be aware of, such as the proposal to release genetically engineered trees into the wild, and investigates what the impacts could be for people and the environment.



New! *GMO Review* - The latest information at your fingertips. Check out the updates on genetic engineering in Canada at

[cban.ca/GMOReview](http://cban.ca/GMOReview)

**For further information and media inquiries contact**

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