

# Corn

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Sharratt<info@cban.ca><aname="eztoc3219\_1" id="eztoc3219\_1"></a><h2>Stop SmartStax Eight-Trait GECorn</h2><div class="object-right"><div class="content-view-embeddedmedia"><div class="class-image"><div class="attribute-image"><p><a href="/Resources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-On-the-Market/Corn/Take-SmartStax-off-the-Menu" target="\_self"></a></p></div></div></div></div></h2><p><b>Tell the Minister of Health</b>: It's unacceptable that Health Canada did not assess the safety of SmartStax' before it was approved by your government.<a href="/Resources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-On-the-Market/Corn/Take-SmartStax-off-the-Menu" target="\_self">Click here to send your instant email letter.</a></p><p><b>February 2010</b>:<a href="http://www.alive.com/7556a20a2.php?current\_topic=33" target="\_self">Read this month's article in Alive Magazine.</a></p><p><b>November 2009</b>.<a href="/Resources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-On-the-Market/Corn/CBAN-on-SmartStax-Western-Producer" target="\_self">Monsanto responds to CBAN's opinion piece</a> on SmartStax in the Western Producer farm newspaper.</p><aname="eztoc3219\_2" id="eztoc3219\_2"></a><h2>Action Resources:</h2><ul><li><a href="/Resources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-On-the-Market/Corn/Take-SmartStax-off-the-Menu" target="\_self">Instant email letter.</a></li><li><a href="/Resources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-On-the-Market/Corn/Postcards-to-Minister-on-SmartStax" target="\_self">Postcard to print and send to the Minister.</a></li><li><a href="/Resources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-On-the-Market/Corn/Info-and-Action-Flyer-on-SmartStax" target="\_self">Flyer on SmartStax</a> for printing and folding.</li><li><a href="/Resources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-On-the-Market/Corn/Talking-Points" target="\_self">Talking points</a> for calling or writing the Minister.</li><li><a href="/Resources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-On-the-Market/Corn/Why-SmartStax-is-Dumb2" target="\_self">Factsheet: Why SmartStax is Dumb</a></li></ul><p><b>Scroll down for information resources.</b></p><p><b>Background</b>: Health Canada did not assess the safety of SmartStax? GM corn. Health Canada does not classify SmartStax? as a Novel Food? because it has already approved the eight single GM traits that are in SmartStax? individually in earlier crops. Health Canada says that combining eight GM traits together in one food does not create any new risks and does not need any safety evaluation. Health Canada did not even bother to rubber-stamp SmartStax?? it was approved for release by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, without Health Canada.</p><p><b>Summary</b>: On July 15, 2009<a href="/Resources/Topics/Monsanto" target="\_self"> Monsanto</a> and Dow AgroSciences announced that they received approval to introduce their <b>new eight-trait GECorn SmartStax</b> into Canada and the US. But Health Canada did not assess SmartStax' for human health safety and did not even bother to authorize it. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency authorized the environmental release of SmartStax' but never conducted an environmental risk assessment and actually substantially weakened its environmental stewardship rules for the crop. Because the eight traits have previously been approved in separate crops, Canadian regulators do not see anything new in combining the eight together in one crop - despite the fact that the Codex international food safety guidelines that Canada helped to negotiate clearly state that stacked traits can lead to unintended effects and should be subject to a full safety assessment.</p><p>The Codex guideline says? unintended effects in recombinant-DNA plants may also arise through the insertion of DNA sequences and/or may arise through <b>subsequent conventional breeding of the recombinant-DNA plant</b>?? (this shows stacked trait GE crops like SmartStax? are reproduced? through the conventional breeding or crossing of GE plants) and that such crops should go through a full safety assessment (para 14, CAC/GL45-2003). See below for further details.</p><aname="eztoc3220\_1" id="eztoc3220\_1"></a><h2>Information Resources:</h2><ul><li><a href="/Resources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-On-the-Market/Corn/CBAN-on-SmartStax-Western-Producer" target="\_self">CBAN Opinion: Stacked traits lack assessment</a>, Western Producer, October

er15,2009.

[Monsantoresponse:StackedTraitsgoodforgrowers](/Resources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-On-the-Market/Corn/Monsanto-s-response-to-CBAN-on-SmartStax), Western Producer, November5,2009.

[WhydidMonsanto'slatestfoodsgetafreepassfromHealthCanada?](http://rabble.ca/news/2009/09/why-did-monsantos-latest-ge-foods-get-free-pass-canada) rabble.ca article

[PressRelease:NoSafetyAssessmentofGECornbyHealthCanada:](/Press/Press-Releases/No-Safety-Assessment-of-GE-Corn-by-Health-Canada) Canada Ignores International Food Safety Guidelines. July29,2009.

[PressRelease:CFIA'sIrresponsibleRubber-StampingofNewGeneticallyEngineeredCorn](/Press/Press-Releases/CFIA-s-Irresponsible-Rubber-Stamping-of-New-GE-Corn) No environmental risk assessment, and reduced environmental stewardship requirements for new Monsanto/Dow? SmartStax?. July24,2009.

[CBANlettertoHealthCanada.](/Resources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-On-the-Market/Corn/Letter-to-Health-Canada-re-SmartStax2) July28,2009.

[ResponsetoHealthCanada:SmartStax?GeneticCornReallySafe?](/Resources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-On-the-Market/Corn/SmartStax-Genetic-Corn-Really-Safe) Montreal Gazette, CBAN Opinion Letter, July30,2009.

[CBANlettertotheCanadianFoodInspectionAgency,](/Resources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-On-the-Market/Corn/Letter-to-CFIA-re-SmartStax-Aug-3-2009) August3,2009.

[UNCodexGuidelinefortheConductofFoodSafetyAssessmentofFoodsDerivedfromRecombinant-DNAPlants.](/Resources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-On-the-Market/Corn/Codex-Guideline)

[CBANBriefingNoteonGeregulationinCanada.](/Features/Petition-Tabled-for-GE-Free-Yukon/Briefing-Note-1-The-Inadequacies-and-Limitations-of-Regulation)

**CBANhas writtenttoHealthCanadatodemandthat:**

- HealthCanadaimmediatelyrequestthaththeCanadianFoodInspectionAgencytorescinditsauthorizationofthegeneticallyengineered(GE) eight-traitcorn called? SmartStax? (MonsantoandDowAgroSciences)
- HealthCanadainitiateafullfood safetyassessmentoftheGECornassetoutbythe*CodexAlimentariusGuidelinefortheConductofFoodSafetyAssessmentofFoodsDerivedfromRecombinant-DNAPlants.*
- HealthCanadarequesttheCanadianFoodInspectionAgencytohaltanyfurtherapprovalsofstackedtraitproductsuntilsuchtimeasHealthCanadahasreviewedit'sNovelFoodsRegulationsandinitiatedasystem-widereviewoftheentireregulatorysystemforGEfoodsandcrops(NovelFoodsandPlantswithNovelTraits).

[ClickheretoreadthefullletterfromCBANtoHealthCanada.](/Resources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-On-the-Market/Corn/Letter-to-Health-Canada-re-SmartStax2) July28,2009.

[MinisterofHealth'sresponse.](/Resources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-On-the-Market/Corn/Minister-of-Health-responds-to-CBAN-letter-on-SmartStax)

[ClickheretoreadtheCBANlettertotheCanadianFoodInspectionAgency,](/Resources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-On-the-Market/Corn/Letter-to-CFIA-re-SmartStax-Aug-3-2009) August3, 2009.

[CFIA'sresponse](/Resources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-On-the-Market/Corn/CFIA-response-to-CBAN-s-letter-on-SmartStax).

**Details:** The international **Codex Alimentarius** [Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA Plants](/Resources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-On-the-Market/Corn/Codex-Guideline) clearly recommendssafetyassessmentsofstackedtraitGECrops. The Guideline clearly states that unintended defects can arise not only from genetically engineered (GE) plants, but can also arise when those GE plants are crossed via conventional breeding (as in the case of stacked-trait crops such as? SmartStax?): Unintended defects in recombinant-DNA plants may also arise through the insertion of DNA sequences and **may arise through subsequent conventional breeding of the recombinant-DNA plant?** (para 14, CAC/GL45-2003). Furthermore, the Guidelines also state that such crops should go through a full safety assessment: The assessment for unintended defect takes into account the agronomic/phenotypic characteristics of the plant that are typically observed by breeders in selecting new varieties for commercialization. These observ

ationsbybreedersprovideafirstscreenforplantsthatexhibitunintendedtraits.**Newvarieties**thatpassthisscreenaresubjectedtosafetyassessmentasdescribedinSections4and5?**[boldadded]**(para17,CAC/GL45-2003).</p>