

TITLE OF THE FILM : **WHY ARE WARANGAL FARMERS ANGRY WITH COTTON?**

DIRECTOR : **COMMUNITY MEDIA TRUST,
PASTAPUR, MEDAK DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH**

DURATION : **27 MTS**

PRODUCTION COMPANY : **AP COALITION IN DEFENCE OF DIVERSITY &
DECCAN DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY**

YEAR OF PRODUCTION : **2003**

SYNOPSIS

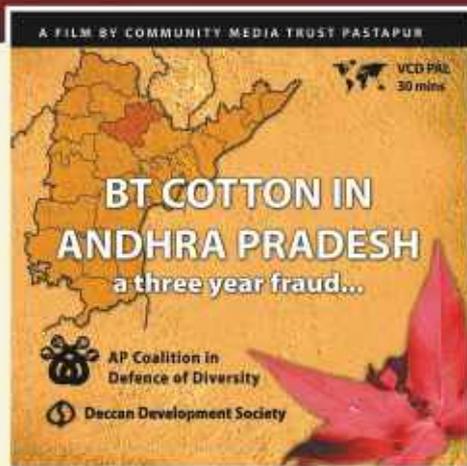
This film, is a powerful documentation of the trauma that Bt cotton farmers experienced in 2002- 03, in Warangal District of Andhra Pradesh.

Warangal had attracted the attention of the world when more than 200 cotton farmers, caught in the vicious cycle of pest attacks, pesticide resistance and mounting debts found no way out but to commit mass suicide. For an agrochemical industry like Mahyco-Monsanto Biotech Ltd., this was an ideal opportunity to promote their genetic two Bt cotton hybrids viz., MECH Bt 12, and MECH Bt-162 in the 2002 kharif planting season.

This led to a range of real life losses that the Bt Cotton farmers of Warangal witnessed on their farms and in their lives.

To tell their story, the women filmmakers from the Community Media Trust returned tenaciously to Warangal, month after month, both in cold winter and searing summer, sought out their farmer focus groups, cajoled them to share their information and opinion on the positive and negative impacts of Bt cotton, and video recorded all interviews and observations.

Independently, as well as a part of its larger parental study (, this film is a genuine representation of the experience of Bt cotton farmers in Warangal district. Through its sheer authenticity, this film nails the propaganda lies of the biotech industry and reveals the dangers of genetically-engineered crops for small-scale, dryland farmers.



- TITLE OF THE FILM** : **BT COTTON IN ANDHRA PRADESH A THREE YEAR FRAUD...**
- DIRECTOR** : **COMMUNITY MEDIA TRUST, PASTAPUR, MEDAK DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH**
- DURATION** : **30 MTS**
- PRODUCTION COMPANY** : **AP COALITION IN DEFENCE OF DIVERSITY & DECCAN DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY**
- YEAR OF PRODUCTION** : **2005**

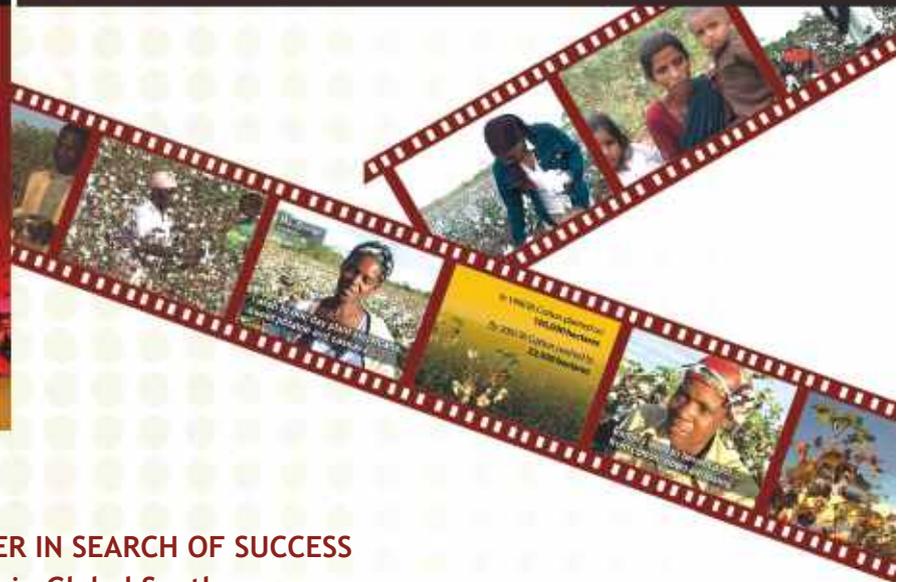
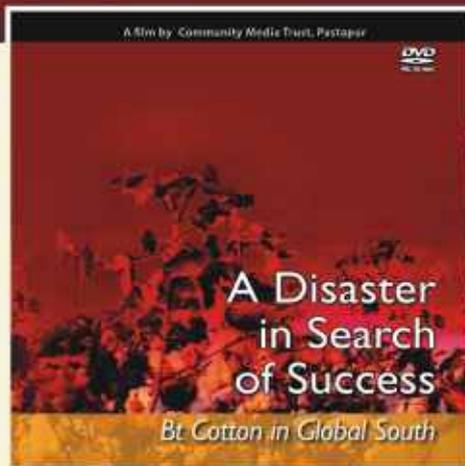
SYNOPSIS

Bt cotton is the first genetically modified organism (GMO) to have entered India. It was introduced in 2002 in Warangal District, in the South Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. It has brought in its wake a trail of misery, destruction and death, particularly among small and marginal farming families. While Bt cotton made its entry into Warangal, it was backed up with a massive advertising blitz which promised three things to farmers who grew it: i) your pesticide use will be less; ii) your cultivation costs will reduce; iii) your yields and profits will increase.

However, a citizen-led study carried out over a period of three years chronicles the fraudulent promises of the industry and the impacts of Bt cotton in Warangal. While farmers did incur marginally less expenditure on their pesticide use, their cost of cultivation went up. Yields and profits came down considerably.

The film Bt Cotton in Andhra Pradesh: A three year fraud was part of the study by AP Coalition in Defence of Diversity and the Deccan Development Society in collaboration with the Permaculture Association of India and attempted to capture the more qualitative dimensions of the crisis experienced by farmers. The film brings alive the voices and images of farmers who went through a deadly nightmare as they tried to grow Bt cotton. The film vividly brings out the experiences of a number of farmers as they narrate their stories of terrible loss, deep pain, and cold anger, leading to explosive violence and even death.

To make this film, the women film makers of the Community Media Trust have travelled to Warangal month after month, braving the scorching sun, carrying their equipment, walking miles into farmers' fields, talking to farmers, especially women, building friendships and generating insightful interviews. They have filmed the false promises of Bt cotton at every stage and analysed the reasons with farmers. The last year of their filming was led by Eedulapally



- TITLE OF THE FILM** : **A DISASTER IN SEARCH OF SUCCESS**
Bt Cotton in Global South
- DIRECTOR** : **COMMUNITY MEDIA TRUST, Pastapur, Medak District, Andhra Pradesh**
- DURATION** : **50 Mts**
- PRODUCTION COMPANY** : **EED Germany & IIED London**
- YEAR OF PRODUCTION** : **2007**

SYNOPSIS

Bt cotton is a cotton variety that has been genetically engineered for resistance to some of its key insect pests. The pros and cons of Bt cotton are one of the most hotly debated subjects around the world. The biotech industry has made unprecedented claims and promises about Bt cotton, extensively advertising and promoting the benefits of such genetically modified organisms (GMOs) for farmers and the environment. However, the experience of Bt cotton farmers in many countries of the Global South completely contradict the claims of the industry.

Makhathini region in South Africa has been showcased by Monsanto as the grand success of Bt cotton for small farmers. In reality today, Makhathini groans under the burden of Bt cotton which has totally failed its small farmers. Indonesia kicked out Bt cotton just one year after it began to be grown by farmers in Sulawesi. In Thailand, Bt cotton has been cunningly promoted by the biotech industry by subverting national laws. In India, the industry touted Bt cotton as the panacea for cotton farmers' misery. But within five years of being introduced, Bt cotton cultivation has generated a deep crisis and death among farming communities. In order to avoid a similar fate, a Citizens' Jury in Mali (West Africa) that included different types of farmers rejected Bt cotton's entry into their country. The farmers' jury issued a stiff warning to the Malian government, demanding that no genetically engineered crops be allowed into Mali.

A group of farmer-filmmakers from the DDS Community Media Trust, all women, have travelled to all these countries and documented their experiences in A Disaster in Search of Success. This film is a scathing indictment of the biotech industry's machinations and manipulation of information. Through the voices and images of farmers from South Africa, Indonesia, India and Mali the film A Disaster in Search of Success unmasks these intrigues and brings forward the more authentic perspectives of farmers harmed by this new technology.

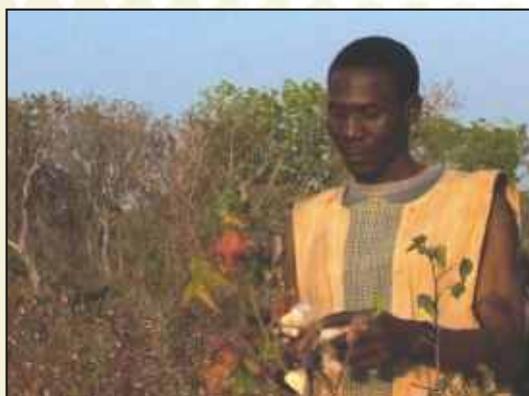
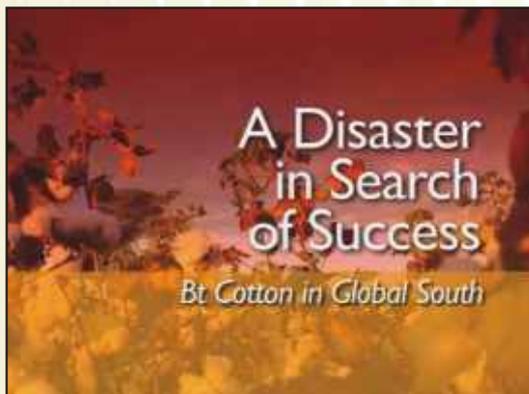
This film is a direct outcome of the Joint Advocacy Project on GMOs: a threat to Food Sovereignty by the partners of the Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst (EED), Germany. This film was funded by the EED with co-funding from the Sustainable Agriculture, Biodiversity and Livelihoods Programme of the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), UK.

REVIEWS:

“This award-winning film provides a welcome antidote to the hype of corporations and the willful blindness of governments and the media.” Clair Robinson on Lobby Watch
(<http://www.lobbywatch.org/archive2.asp?arcid=7994>)

“This documentary, produced by women farmer-filmmakers from India, explores the experience of small Bt cotton farmers in the country as well as those in Indonesia, Thailand, Mali and South Africa, and it finds widespread condemnation of the once-championed variety, which has largely failed to live up to expectations. Rather than improving livelihoods, the film shows that many farmers are now worse-off, after the price of cotton tumbled, the cost of seed rose, and yields struggled to match those of non-GM varieties.”

New Agriculturist book reviews (<http://www.new-ag.info/book/review.php?a=289>)





TITLE OF THE FILM : **The World ACCORDING TO MONSANTO**
DIRECTOR : **MARIE-MONIQUE ROBIN**
DURATION : **1 Hr 50 Minutes**
PRODUCTION COMPANY : **Productions Thalie, The National Film Board of Canada & WDR**
YEAR OF PRODUCTION : **2008**

SYNOPSIS

<http://films.nfb.ca/monsanto/film.php>

With 17,500 employees, a 2006 sales figure of \$7.5 billion and operations in 46 countries, Monsanto is the world leader in genetically modified organisms (GMOs), as well as one of the most controversial corporations in industrial history. Since its founding in 1901, the company has faced trial after trial due to the toxicity of its products, including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polystyrene, devastating herbicides like Agent Orange, used during the Vietnam war, and bovine growth hormones, which are yet unauthorised in Canada and banned in Europe.

Today, Monsanto has reinvented itself as a “life sciences” company converted to the virtues of sustainable development. Thanks to its genetically modified seeds, engineered among other things to withstand Monsanto's Roundup, the world's bestselling herbicide, the company claims it wants to solve world hunger while reducing environmental damage. Where does the truth lie?

The World According to Monsanto pieces together the story of the St. Louis, Missouri, corporation, calling on hitherto unpublished documents and first-hand accounts by scientists, civil society representatives, victims of the company's toxic activities, lawyers, politicians, and representatives of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and Environmental Protection Agency. Based on a three-year investigation in North and South America, Europe and Asia, the film tells the tale of an industrial empire that, thanks in part to misleading reports, collusion with the American government, pressure tactics and attempts at corruption, has become one of the world's biggest seed manufacturers. It shows how the clean, green image conveyed by the company's advertising serves as a smoke screen for Monsanto's quest for market supremacy, to the detriment of global food security and environmental stability.

REVIEWS

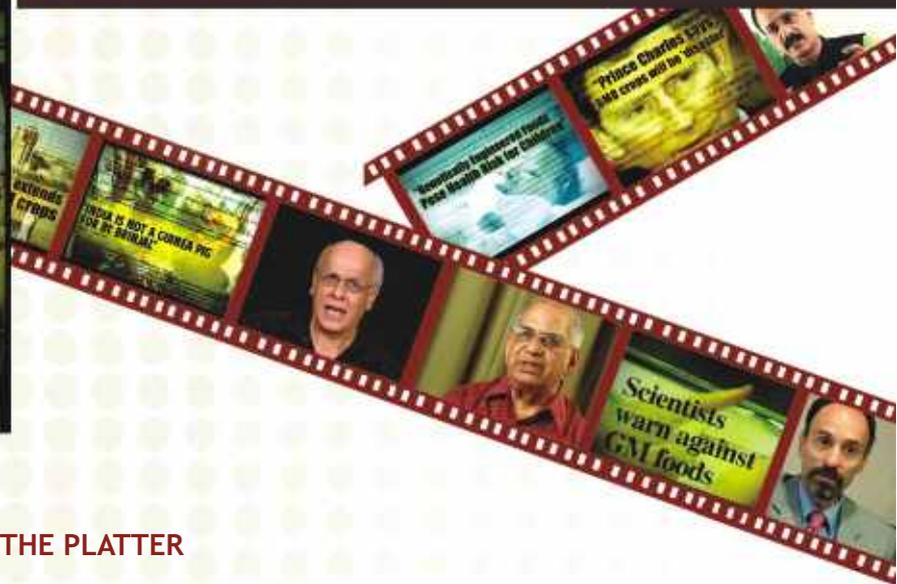
“ Marie-Monique Robin, author of the tome *Escadrons de la Mort, L'Ecole Française*, helms the muckraking documentary *The World According to Monsanto*. The titular corporation, as Robin reminds her audience, represents one of the most controversial corporations in the United States: it manufactures the seed technology for 90% of all the genetically-engineered crops on the planet, and thus arguably poses a greater environmental threat to mankind than any other single company. With *World*, Robin plumbs through the company's checkered history and recounts its long string of alleged health scandals and environmental abuses.” ~ Nathan Southern, All Movie Guide

“The film is the work of celebrated award-winning French filmmaker Marie-Monique Robin, whose three years of work on four continents exposes why Monsanto has become the world's poster child for malignant corporate influence in government and technology. Combining secret documents with accounts by victims, scientists and policy makers, she guides us through a web of misleading reports, pressure tactics, collusion, and attempted corruption. And we learn how the company systematically tricked governments into allowing dangerous genetically modified (GM) foods into our diet with Monsanto in charge of determining if they're safe.” by Jeffrey M. Smith (<http://www.bangmfood.org/films/22-films/4-film-review-the-world-according-to-monsanto>)

“This wide-ranging film covers Monsanto's involvement in PCBs, agrochemicals, bovine growth hormone and dioxin among other things, but feeds seamlessly into its central theme: Monsanto and GMOs. What emerges is a hair-raising tale of bad science, bogus claims, regulatory capture, cover-ups and the silencing and discrediting of opponents.” by Jonathan Mathews, Ecologist

(<http://www.britannica.com/bps/additionalcontent/18/32782133/The-World-According-to-Monsanto>)





TITLE OF THE FILM : POISON ON THE PLATTER
DIRECTOR : AJAY KANCHAN
DURATION : 29 mts
PRODUCTION COMPANY : CENTRE FOR ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATION
YEAR OF PRODUCTION : 2009

SYNOPSIS

Renowned filmmaker and social activist Mahesh Bhatt today launched a scathing attack on biotech multinational companies and their nexus with regulatory bodies for unleashing what he describes as 'bio-terrorism' in the country. Speaking at a function organized to launch his new film, 'Poison on the Platter', directed by Ajay Kanchan, Bhatt said, "in their mad rush to capture the multi-billion dollar Indian agricultural and food industry, the biotech MNCs are bulldozing warnings by scientists about the adverse impact of GM foods on health and environment, and hurtling the mankind toward a disaster, which will be far more destructive than anything the world has seen so far, simply because it will affect every single person living on this planet".

REVIEWS

"It couldn't have been better timed. Mahesh Bhatt's powerful documentary film Poison on the Platter comes at a time when India's first Genetically Modified (GM) food crop - Bt brinjal - awaits commercialisation. A few more months of sponsored research trials, and an unwanted and unhealthy food crop would be ready for its first serving." ... "Make the liability clause absolutely stringent and you will see the biotechnology industry closing shop.

That is what the essential message from Mahesh Bhatt's film "Devinder Sharma (<http://www.expresspharmaonline.com/20090630/expressbiotech07.shtml>)

"The film shows the hazardous impact that has been felt by countries in Europe and America after using GM crops for the last two decades. Damage to human and animal health to the extent of causing death after consuming GM crops has been experienced by countries all across the globe, as shown in the film. Such untold miseries of GM food are highlighted in the film. The ethical and religious angle of the issue has been highlighted and the film warns how the introduction of GM crops will also hurt the sentiments of almost all religious groups." Anjana Dey, Masters in Environmental Studies from the School of Environmental Studies, University of Delhi (<http://delhigreens.com/2009/02/05/film-review-poison-on-the-platter/>)



TITLE OF THE FILM : **APNA ALOO BAZAAR BECHA**
from subsistence ecology to the market

DIRECTOR : **PANKAJ H GUPTA**

DURATION : **29 mts**

PRODUCTION COMPANY : **THE PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTING TRUST**

YEAR OF PRODUCTION : **2008**

SYNOPSIS

The relentless pace of globalisation touches even remote mountain communities causing migration, decline in farming and loss of indigenous identities. This half hour video essay captures the sweeping changes in the environmental, social and personal spaces of community in Garhwal in middle Himalaya.

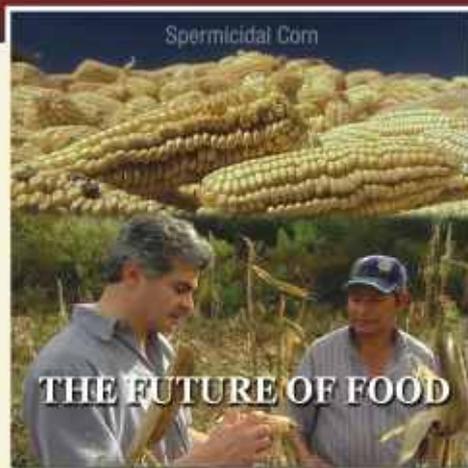
Synopsis: What happens when remote, isolated mountain communities come face to face with globalization? Jardhar gaon, a village in the Hemval valley of Garhwal, led an isolated, egalitarian existence until a series of events forced it, into joining the market economy. This short documentary, based entirely on local perspectives, reflects on the process of change what triggers the shift to modernisation and what impact it has on the personal, social and environmental spaces. Golden Deer Award, 1st Prize in Short Length Film, 8th Ecofilms Festival, Rodos, Greece

REVIEWS

“Apna Aloo Bazaar Becha is more a portrait of a dilemma than of a place or of people. While it is animated by gorgeous footage of the Indian countryside and mountains, and incorporates interviews with a diverse range of residents who offer a variety of perspectives on the changing traditions in the community, the mode of the film is more akin to ethnography than any other documentary form. Audiences looking for a character-based story will not find it here. Audiences, and especially educators, looking for a complex representation of how markets provoke the dissolution of commons practices and community will find a useful aid in Apna Aloo Bazaar Becha.”

Brad Lichtenstein Peck School of the Arts, University of Wisconsin:

(<http://www.thecommonsjournal.org/index.php/ijc/article/viewArticle/231/153>)



TITLE OF THE FILM : **THE FUTURE OF FOOD**
DIRECTOR : **DEBORAH KOONS GARCIA**
DURATION : **1 Hr 28 mts**
PRODUCTION COMPANY : **LILY FILMS**
YEAR OF PRODUCTION : **2005**

SYNOPSIS

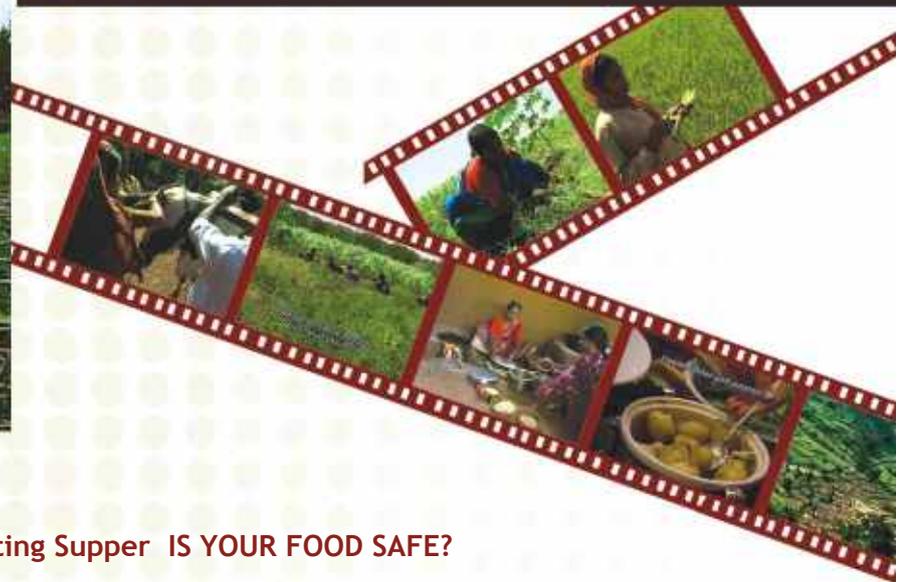
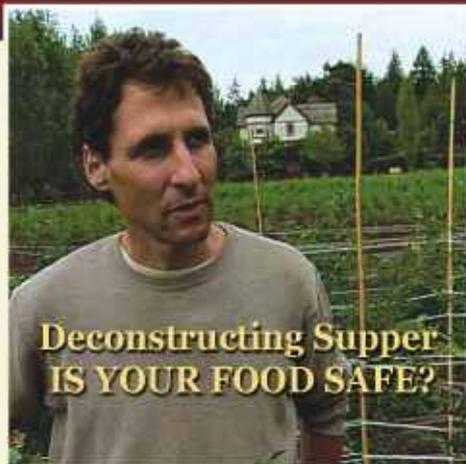
There is a food revolution happening in America today. People are seeking out farmers' markets, organic produce and good restaurants. At the same time, our food supply is increasingly controlled by multi-national corporations. Over the past ten years, with the advent of genetic engineering and the massive expansion of pesticide companies like Monsanto into the seed business, the very nature of our food system has radically changed with potentially disastrous effects on our food security. Patenting of life is now permitted, no labeling of genetically modified organisms (GMO's) in food is required, research is conducted on these issues by universities beholden to the "agri-corps" who fund them, and the major regulatory agencies are run by former execs from these very companies. All the while the average citizen remains blissfully unaware that they are eating GMO food and supporting the aggressive "corporatization" of their food sources. In fascinating and accessible terms, The Future of Food illuminates the major issues ultimately affecting us all - some surreal, some futuristic, many frightening. Yet, The Future of Food is a hopeful film, featuring insightful and moving interviews with farmers, agriculture and business experts and policymakers. It sees a future in which an informed consumer can join the revolution by demanding natural, healthy food sources that insure environmental integrity

REVIEWS

" One documentary brings you this astonishing story. Through the testimony of family farmers, ecological scientists, agricultural experts and numerous public documents, The Future of Food tells a horrifying, heart-stopping story of how Big Agriculture has sold out the future of human civilization for the almighty dollar. The Future of Food is a compelling, eye-opening documentary that I consider a "must-see documentary" by anyone who eats food (which probably includes you). Even if you think you know everything worth knowing about your food, there's still a dark secret the biotech companies believe U.S. consumers should not be allowed to know: That many foods are genetically engineered with dangerous pesticides and foreign DNA, and there is currently no U.S. law requiring their labeling as such." Mike Adams, the Health Ranger, Editor of NaturalNews.com

(http://www.naturalnews.com/021827_Big_Agriculture_future_of_food.html)

"...scare tactics, thankfully, are not what The Future of Food relies on this has been done and redone by many food safety activists, to little avail. The issue is much larger than the lack of research into GE foods, and much scarier than the splicing of animal DNA into tomatoes and corn. Unlike most other anti-GE rhetoric, Garcia also presents the actual science of genetic modification in a clear and even-handed manner, and acknowledges the advances made by scientists using genetic engineering in medicine. For her, it seems that the fear of potential health risks is certainly an issue, but not a greater one than the plight of traditional farmers, the consolidation of the industry, and the corporate ties to many key players in the U.S. government. It will be a hard documentary to dismiss as mere propaganda." Erin Wiegand (http://www.lipmagazine.org/articles/reviwiegand_futureoffood.htm)



TITLE OF THE FILM : **Deconstructing Supper IS YOUR FOOD SAFE?**
DIRECTOR : **MARIANNE KAPLAN**
DURATION : **47 Mts**
PRODUCTION COMPANY : **MSK PRODUCTIONS INC.**
YEAR OF PRODUCTION : **2002**

SYNOPSIS

Deconstructing Supper is an eye-opening journey into the billion dollar battle to control global food production. Starting with a gourmet meal in his five-star restaurant, Chef John Bishop travels the world, on a personal quest to find out what our food choices are today. From North America to Great Britain to India and back, Bishop meets scientists and activists with opposing views on genetic engineering, journalists and farmers who have experienced the might of giant biotech corporations and organic farmers in India who are fighting to preserve the natural biodiversity of crops.

Deconstructing Supper is a trip every contemporary eater will want to take - a journey into the revolution in modern food production and its effects on our lives.

REVIEWS

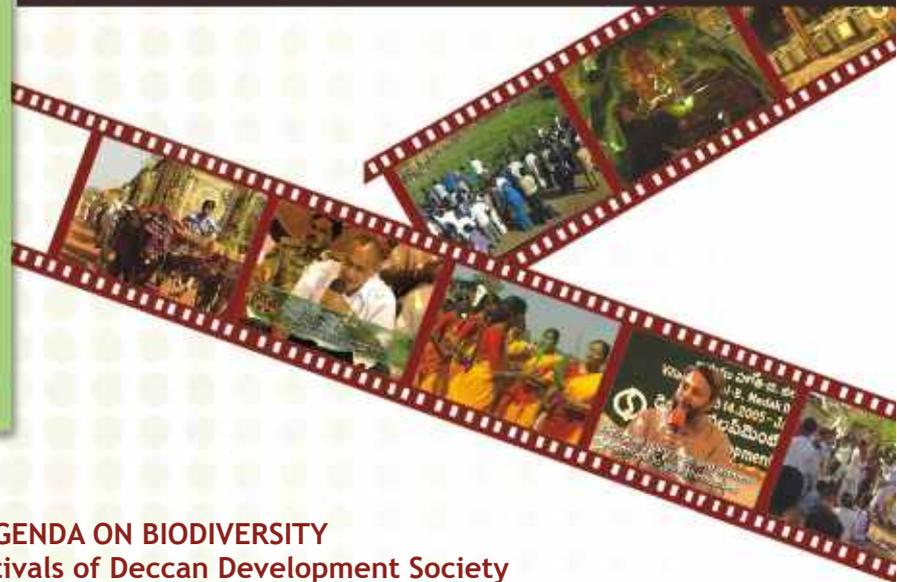
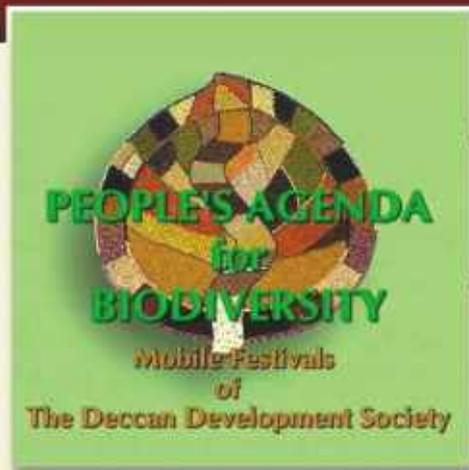
<http://www.bullfrogfilms.com/catalog/decon.html>:

"A beautiful film that uplifted my spirit and brought me more in touch with my love for food...Thoroughly mindful and compassionate, this is not a film that makes enemies. It's a film that makes sense." John Robbins, author, *The Food Revolution*, and *Diet For A New America*

"A fascinating, if disturbing, primer on the subject of genetically modified food. It manages to instruct without scolding, explore without preaching, and ultimately, should interest anybody who eats." *Toronto Star*

"Deconstructing Supper is a fine film, important for every culinary resource library. With so many scientific and technological changes taking place in food production, I feel it is vital that both chefs and students and lovers of food in general be knowledgeable about the ingredients they use. Nobody should take lightly what is happening to our farm produce." Anne Willan, Founder and President, *LaVarenne at The Greenbriar*

"This illuminating film reminds us of the importance of knowing where our food comes from, and it shows us how the choices we make everyday about the food we eat are some of the most important decisions we make." Alice Waters, Owner, *Chez Panisse Restaurant*



TITLE OF THE FILM : PEOPLES AGENDA ON BIODIVERSITY
Mobile Festivals of Deccan Development Society

DIRECTOR : DECCAN DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY, ANDHRA PRADESH

DURATION : 24 Min

PRODUCTION COMPANY : DECCAN DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY, ANDHRA PRADESH

YEAR OF PRODUCTION : 2005

SYNOPSIS

The Deccan Region of South India principally supports rainfed agriculture and is home to a fascinating biodiversity of crops. Millets, legumes, oilseeds and wild edible plants produce an incredible and diverse matrix in farmers' fields. Medak District in the south Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, where the Deccan Development Society (DDS) works, has thousands of amazing women farmers who have kept alive a vibrant diversity of plants and animals on their farms and in their fields.

These women, despite being marginalised and working marginalised lands, have courageously preserved and conserved agricultural biodiversity in the Deccan. The diversity sustained by these women is an unbroken tradition stretching back centuries and has inspired the DDS's biodiversity festivals.

Over the last seven years these festivals have travelled a remarkable distance.

They have moved ecological agriculture from an environmentalist's agenda to a farmer's agenda.

They have moved agro-biodiversity out of a sanitised laboratory environment into a vibrant community celebration.

They have elevated agricultural biodiversity from the concern of small farmer groups to become a national concern.

They have provided a new path and vision for the National Biodiversity Action Plan of a vast country like India.

Through an exciting community process they have redefined ecology, agriculture, biodiversity and governance.

People's Agenda for Biodiversity faithfully chronicles the journey of the Mobile Biodiversity Festival organised by the sanghams and the Deccan Development Society.