

26th October, 2018

Submission regarding review of GM crop cultivation
by the South Australian Government

The Palsystem Consumers' Co-operative Union is a group of cooperatives that are active in 11 prefectures and 11 cities in Japan with the basic philosophy of "Creating a society with rich life through co-existence". We are pursuing consolidation between consumption and production through direct purchasing from farmers at the source, and mutually helping each other, to create sustainable circulation of resources to society.

Based on concerns about the environmental impact of genetically modified crops, the Palsystem Consumers' Co-operative Union has a strict policy to not use crops or foods produced by genetic technology. We also check the use of genetically modified crops for substances not covered by the current labelling laws and disclose these to our members.

Please accept the submission below as a reference for your review of the moratorium on genetically modified crop cultivation in South Australia

Summary

We strongly urge the South Australian state government to continue the moratorium on cultivation of genetically modified crops.

Palsystem Consumers' Co-operative Union has started to purchase Kangaroo Island Non GMO canola from 2005, through KIPG (Kangaroo Island Pure Grain) supported by our 1.52 million members.

While deepening mutual understanding between producers on Kangaroo Island and Japanese consumers, and establishing a relationship to share profits and risks, we have bought almost the entire crop of canola from Kangaroo Island each year and sold it as a branded, single origin product. Through dialogue with KIPG, we have managed cultivation using minimum pesticides, and we receive strong positive feedback on the product from our members. In addition, thanks to the moratorium, we have bought not only canola but also honey exclusively from Kangaroo Island.

We have recorded annual sales of 500 million yen (AUD 6 million) in Japan, and we are proud to contribute so much to the Kangaroo Island regional economy through employment across a range of sectors including agriculture, food, food production and related service industries.

In order to further develop our economic contribution for both Kangaroo Island and the whole of South Australia, we are currently working on a plan to expand our range and volume of non-GM products, but the extension of the moratorium is critical to this plan.

Thank you for your attention and we would be pleased to provide further details of our business as required.

Atsushi Ishida
Chairman of the Board
Palsystem Consumers' Co-operative Union

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SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS