



Socio-economic impacts of GM soy

RoundupReady soy is a GM crop that has been grown on a large scale since 1996. RR soy is produced in such a way that chemicals replace people: farming without farmers. It has led to more, rather than less pesticide use. The Dutch government provides financial support to the Round Table on Responsible Soy, assuming that this voluntary label can make mainstream soy more 'sustainable'. However, the criteria set by the RTRS do not address the impacts associated with the production of RR soy. The Round Table is strongly opposed both by small farmers movements and civil society organisations internationally. These pictures provide examples of the real social and economic impacts of this GM crop.



In Paraguay, Brazil and Argentina, the expansion of soy monocultures goes at the expense of both forest areas that are cleared, and of rural communities that are pushed off their lands, either by force or by offers to rent out or sell the land.



Small farms surrounded by RR soy crops cannot survive because of the massive Roundup spraying, killing food crops, animals and trees, and because the local market has disappeared. Families that had to give up their land often end up in the city slums, working long shifts on the garbage dumps such as here in Asunción, Paraguay.



Poster used by Paraguayan farmers movement for awareness raising on risks of pesticide use on soy fields



Small farmer's sesame crop damaged by Roundup spraying on neighbouring RR soy crop (Colonia Barbero, San Pedro, Februari 2009



Demonstration against 2nd RTRS conference (Asunción, Paraguay, Aug 2006) "Soy is responsible for the murder of 30 farmers leaders in 4 years time"

RR SOY IS NOT RESPONSIBLE