

One of the 'Vavilov Centres' (our Noahs Ark of Agriculture) is already defiled.

There are no more than 12 Vavilov Centres in the whole world.

These so-called Vavilov Centres are basically the cradles of all our food crops for the future. The Vavilov Centres hold the truly 'broadly-based gene pools' for our survival. These centres are a genetic heritage that must be protected for our children.

Ancient peoples, meaning our ancestors, had selected seeds and plants from these areas and, through selective breeding had developed the plants and crops that suited them best. These ancient crops we call the 'landrace varieties'. The ancient agricultural crops that still survive today are genetically the strongest crops that exist and are those that have natural resistance to disease.

As we in the developed world, have been taking these ancient landrace varieties and developing them further through selective breeding, we have been narrowing their genetic base. Some of the plants that we rely on are now genetically so close, as to be like brothers and sisters; not a healthy thought.

Some ignorant people have been pushing the 'mantra' that "we have been genetically engineering plants for thousands of years". What we have been doing is selectively breeding from within the same species.

One problem with genetically engineered plants and seeds is that they can be perfectly fertile even if the plant is now part animal. Did you know that plants have already been crossed with animals and they are in our food chain right now? We have not been genetically engineering plants for thousands of years; we have been selectively breeding for fertile offspring from within a species, not crossing two species of plants or animals together for fertile offspring.

Did you know that the Vavilov Centre for corn, which is in Mexico, has already been polluted with genetically engineered pollen and is our only Vavilov Centre for corn in the whole world? The genetic engineers said that it could never happen, but now it has been contaminated, in just a few years. What has happened in Mexico is a form of biological terrorism that the world has never seen before. What irresponsible nonsense are we going to be told next?

Do you think that we should hand over the control of our food crops to the giant chemical companies and the genetic engineers that work for them? You had better decide quickly because time is running out. Too much irreversible damage has been done and much has already been lost forever.

Would someone please explain to our Prime Minister what a Vavilov Centre is and ask him whether or not he cares. Perhaps he will care.