

**PRESS RELEASE**

*For immediate release*

28<sup>th</sup> June 2013

## **ADDING THE 'DIRTY DOZEN' TO THE GM DEBATE** **'GM Dirty Dozen' delivered to Paterson in wake of Rothamsted speech**

**Campaign group Alliance for Natural Health International (ANH-Intl) is today delivering the 'GM Dirty Dozen' to UK environment minister, the Rt Hon Owen Paterson MP.**

Just a week after the environment minister delivered a speech in support of genetically modified (GM) crops at Rothamsted Research on 20 June, ANH-Intl has responded with 12 substantiated points that it calls the 'GM Dirty Dozen'. ANH-Intl argues that the public is being forced to get behind GM crops when it has been given inadequate, incorrect or biased viewpoints by government and the biotech industry.

Robert Verkerk, ANH-Intl's executive and scientific director said;

*"The Minister wants a debate, yet his speech sounded more like an salesman's pitch for GM, barely touching on any of the highly complex and uncertain issues around continued and further adoption of GM crops."*

ANH-Intl has thrown the 'GM Dirty Dozen' into the mix in an attempt to stimulate reasoned debate.

*"The public is being denied information and then being asked to change its mind and embrace GM foods," continued Dr Verkerk, "But it's high time the Government provided the public with more balanced information rather than simply acting as a mouthpiece for the biotech industry."*

The 'GM Dirty Dozen' document contains 12 points that raise very substantial concerns over the continued adoption of GM crops, especially in relation to their potential role in dealing with the global food requirement in the coming decades.

Commenting on some of the issues contained within ANH-Intl's 'GM Dirty Dozen', Verkerk added;

*"The impression given by pro-GM governments like the UK is that all scientists are supportive of the technology, while non-scientists who are resistant to it are characterised as either uninformed or unprepared to accept modern, industry-driven technologies."*

**"Promoting natural and sustainable healthcare through the use of good science and good law"**

*“When do we, for example, hear that many leading ecologists — who probably understand more about the implications of this technology than any other group of scientists — have deep reservations about the technology? When do we hear that 400 scientists commissioned by various United Nations agencies have concluded after 5 years of study that GM has no role to play in poverty alleviation?”*

*“Or, that GM crops do not consistently offer improved yields or reduced agricultural inputs? You only have to read Prof Gordon Conway’s latest book ‘One Billion Hungry’ to discover that nearly all major crop developments that have improved yields, drought resistance, insect or pathogen resistance, even in recent years, have been the result of non-GM plant breeding techniques.*

*“But the bit that perhaps sticks most in people’s throats is that GM puts the control of the world’s staples into the hands of a few corporations, with Monsanto being the company with the most to gain from a GM future.”*

ANH-Intl is asking those concerned or unsure about GM crop technology to place pressure on the UK government to provide robust answers to its ‘GM Dirty Dozen’ to allow proper debate, and consequently, more informed decision-making on the part of both the public and the government.

ENDS.

**For further information**, contact Sophie Middleton, ANH-Intl campaigns coordinator, +44 (0)1306 646 600 or [info@anhinternational.org](mailto:info@anhinternational.org).

#### **EDITOR’S NOTES**

Download ‘GM Dirty Dozen’:

[http://anh-europe.org/sites/default/files/130626-ANH\\_GM-Dirty-Dozen\\_FIN.pdf](http://anh-europe.org/sites/default/files/130626-ANH_GM-Dirty-Dozen_FIN.pdf)

ANH-Intl Campaign Feature: UK government GM propaganda counteracted by ANH's 'GM Dirty Dozen' (released 26 June 2013)

[http://www.anh-europe.org/CAMPAIGN\\_FEATURE\\_UK\\_government\\_GM\\_propaganda\\_counteracted\\_by\\_ANHs\\_GM\\_Dirty\\_Dozen](http://www.anh-europe.org/CAMPAIGN_FEATURE_UK_government_GM_propaganda_counteracted_by_ANHs_GM_Dirty_Dozen)

Transcript of Rt Hon Owen Paterson MP speech at Rothamsted Research (20 June 2013)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/rt-hon-owen-paterson-mp-speech-to-rothamsted-research>

#### **ABOUT THE ALLIANCE FOR NATURAL HEALTH INTERNATIONAL**

[www.anhinternational.org](http://www.anhinternational.org)

[www.facebook.com/ANHInternational](https://www.facebook.com/ANHInternational)

Alliance for Natural Health International is a non-governmental organisation dedicated to protecting and promoting natural and sustainable healthcare using the tools of ‘good science’ and ‘good law’. It is an international alliance of consumers, practitioners, doctors, scientists and lawyers, as well as specialist natural health enterprises, all with a common goal of optimising human health using, as far as possible, approaches that are compatible with human physiology and our genetic backgrounds.

ANH-Intl was founded by sustainability scientist, Robert Verkerk PhD, in 2002, and Dr Verkerk remains its executive and scientific director.