

## **Monsanto goes ahead with GM wheat launch**

Monsanto, a United States-based company is pressing ahead with plans to commercialize genetically modified (GM) wheat. Holding fast to a goal of introducing its new GM wheat to the market as early as 2003, Monsanto initiated the product registration process, filing application

documents with the Environmental Protection Agency. Officials with St. Louis-based Monsanto will discuss their efforts with executives from the United States Wheat Associates (USWA), a global wheat marketing concern, which released a report that illuminated questions and concerns some countries have about GM wheat development.

European nations are expressing the strongest reaction against GM wheat development and biotech wheat “would not have a chance to be marketed in Europe”, if it was available today, informs USWA’s report. The report also states that two top customers of the United States, Egypt and Japan, are among the countries opposed to buying GM wheat. Field trials are underway in North and South Dakota, Montana and Minnesota to examine such things as yield, disease susceptibility, weed control and the environmental impact of the Roundup Ready wheat. (The Hindu, 20 January 2001)