



THE RAM'S HORN

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FOOD SYSTEM ANALYSIS

No. 270, January 2010

ISSN 0827-4053

The Financial Sector Is Not An Economy

What has transpired over the past two years in the realm called economic should have made it clear to all that there is a world of difference between a financial sector and an economy.

'Financial sector' does not equal economy. A financial 'product' is not only inedible, it actually has no real existence. It's a figment of the brokers' and investors' imagination. A real economy (*oikos* is the Greek word for house) is about how a household (or a society) organizes its life together, including what it eats.

Confusing the two is the essence of capitalism, which rests on the practice of extracting wealth out of the real economy and playing with it in the financial sector. The rich get richer not through interminable toil, but through gains in the financial market of stocks and bonds and outrageous 'compensation', with the result that in recent years, the wealth increase for top executives far exceeds the rate of inflation or the minimal gains posted by most workers in Canada or anywhere else.

The major 'product' of the economic turmoil of the past two years is inequity: the imbalance between the wealth gathered into fewer and fewer hands – both individual and corporate – and the empty savings of the vast majority of people. But this is not new. Growing inequity has been a function of capitalism from the very beginning – and it has been getting progressively worse as 'economic growth' has become the sole national goal of Canada and too many other countries.

Perhaps the most surprising and disturbing aspect of the current financial situation is that we all carry on, as best we can, as if the system is rational and, beneath the turmoil, fundamentally stable. We more or less have to believe this, otherwise, how *can* we carry on?

In reality, however, it is irrationality and volatility that bankers and investors, finance ministers and hedge fund managers bank on – literally – as they play, and prey, on the rising and falling of the market. They would all be out of business if prices were stable and actually reflective of real costs and the 'law' of supply and demand. Happily, for them, it is precisely their 'playing the market' that creates the volatility they seek to benefit from. It is not really 'supply and demand' that is responsible for the fluctuating of stock prices, whether that be mining company shares or livestock.

Here's a glaring example: Investment bank Goldman Sachs Group reported a record profit of \$495 billion for its 4th quarter on January 21st. It also reported that its 32,000 employees, consultants and temporary workers will receive compensation averaging \$500,000 for the year. Since one can safely assume that the cleaners and data entry clerks will receive rather less than this on average, there is probably considerable



inequity in the structure of compensation. The inequity built into the financial sector is also revealed by Goldman Sachs' 'earnings' of \$13.39 billion in the quarter, providing a 22.5% return on shareholders' equity (investment) in the firm. This is rather more than the return we are getting from our savings accounts these days.

It is, therefore, a sign of hope that with the 'food crisis' of 2008-9 (still far from over), the public has become increasingly interested in the real economy of food and how it is grown, where, and by whom, to the point of beginning to distinguish between the financial sector's grasp of food and the real food economy. This has led to concerns about corporate control, food quality and safety, and food prices; further, to growing realization that what is required is not corporate reform or 'responsibility' but a radical reconstruction of local and regional food systems embodying diversity and resilience. This is what food sovereignty is about. It's about feeding the family and trading the leftovers, not trading in staple commodities and hoping to live on profits from the financial sector or, more likely, the losses for all of us who are not at the top of the pyramid. It is also about a desire to see equity and justice prevail over inequity and injustice.

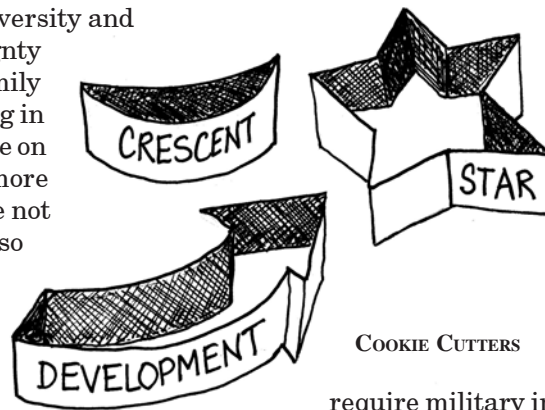
However, if our intent is overcoming inequity and creating an economy that does not produce it, then we will also have to review, and perhaps discard, the idea of 'development'. This will be a challenge because development is represented as technical/technological necessity and moral obligation. Sometimes it is also presented as a social responsibility and political imperative to reduce the threat of destabilizing political movements (variously characterized as insurgencies, riots, terrorism).

Development appeared post-World War II as the successor to colonialism. The term itself was first used by US President Harry Truman in 1948. In the succeeding decades colonies gave way to independent states and the administration of the colonies for the benefit of the colonizers was replaced by development for the benefit of the developed nations (the USA and the old colonial powers).

The term development, of course, was never defined so crudely. Instead, it was customarily framed as hauling or helping peoples and states from what are deemed to be conditions of poverty into conditions of plenty. Twice-elected and twice-deposed Haitian president Jean-Bertrand Aristide had simply hoped that development might mean moving "from absolute mis-

ery to a dignified poverty". Haiti has never been allowed to do this, and the military forces of the US now being installed in Haiti in the name of providing 'security' are poor agents of any kind of meaningful social reconstruction.

Stated more simply, development has been the liberal project of replicating ourselves and thus eliminating the threat of uprising/revolution. It can be pictured as a tug-of-war: The 'developed' peoples and states are heavier (and 'stronger' thanks to their technology of conquest) and the peoples and states in need of development are thin and weakly armed. There would be no contest except that there are multitudes more of the so-called un- or under-developed peoples than there are of the developed.



Sensing the possibility that their development projects will fail to make the victim economies desirable for incorporation into the market (the history of the expansion of the European Union is exemplary of the criteria required for entry into the Developed Club) there is an appeal for the developed to forgo any notion of achieving 'development' and settling for stability. That this may

require military intervention and, in effect, occupation, is the price the developed seem to be willing to pay for the inequity of their privilege.

The means of maintaining inequity are both crude and highly sophisticated. The highly sophisticated are technological wonders such as the drones, guided from a safe bunker in mid-America as they head out on their deadly kill missions in far away lands, their purpose to eliminate the indigenous leadership of peoples who appear to not want development and democracy under the guiding hand of western civilization. The crude are the heavily armed soldiers with their strapped-on IT to keep them in touch with the all-seeing eyes of GPS as they befriend small children and carry out their seek and destroy (or, as in Haiti, rescue) mission.

The technological means of maintaining inequity and control are also the nuclear weapons, the wonders of too-small-to-be-seen-or-understood nano-technology, industrial agriculture with its mammoth machines and its genetically engineered, patented seeds, ceaseless energy consumption and environmental pollution, and, behind it all, the financial markets and the moral responsibility for 'development'.

Development is a form of market growth and

expansion, eg., Africa as a market for Monsanto and industrial agriculture, creating dependency – an essential aspect of development. Trade agreements are development mechanisms, however inequitable their consequences will be. As long as states and peoples remain 'undeveloped' they can be objects of charity awaiting salvation by the developed countries, ie., integrated into their market empires. The alternative is for those outside 'development' to steadfastly remain outside, refusing to maintain the inequity that benefits the developers. Food sovereignty is one aspect of this.

The income gap between the fifth of the world's people living in the richest countries and the fifth in the poorest was 30 to 1 in 1960, 60 to 1 in 1990, and 74 to 1 in 1997. In the century between 1820 and 1913 the income gap between the top and bottom countries increased from 3 to 1 to 7 to 1.

– UNDP: *Human Development Report, 1999*

“The richest 2% of adults own slightly more than half of global household wealth, defined as the value of physical and financial assets minus liabilities. The United States is the richest country, with a mean wealth in the year 2000 of \$144,000 per person. Canada has a mean wealth of \$89,000 per person. Wealth in this sense represents the ownership of capital. The richest 10% of adults accounted for 85% of the world total wealth, while the bottom half owned barely 1%.” – *World Institute for Development Economics Research of the UN, GM, 5/12/06*

The average total compensation of the 100 top-paid Canadian CEOs in 2005 was \$9,059,113, ranging from \$2,870,118 to \$74,824,355. The average annual earnings of Canadian workers in 2005 was \$38,010. The average provincial minimum wage for 2005 was \$7.63 per hour, which translates into annual earnings at of \$15,931. – *CCPA, 1/07*

In 1995, the *Globe and Mail* reported that the average pay of Canada's highest paid 50 CEOs was \$2.66 million, 85 times the pay of the average worker. By 2008, the average pay of the highest paid 50 CEOs had skyrocketed to 243 times the pay of the average worker. It's a similar story for Canada's highest paid 100 CEOs, who pocketed 104 times more than the average worker in 1998 but now pocket 174 times more. – *CCPA, 1/10*

“Investors like the ruling class to stay in power.” – Editorial in *Meat & Poultry*, trade magazine of the North American meat industry, commenting on the stability of the top ten firms in the meat business year after year.

“It's A Crap Shoot”

When the biotech industry was in its infancy two decades ago, it used to promote genetic engineering as fast and precise. At the time, no one could 'scientifically' dispute the claim of precision, although common sense certainly could (see my book, *Farmageddon, Food and the Culture of Biotechnology, 1999*, posted at *ramshorn.ca*). As for speed, if it was fast, it was primarily thanks to the slipshod regulatory ('approval') process of Ag Canada and the CFIA and its definition of 'approved' genetically engineered seeds and crops as 'substantially equivalent' to their conventional counterparts.

So it is with some perverse amusement that I read an article titled “Gene technology puts transfers on target – Precision gene transfer used to improve crops.” If only now someone has come up with (yet another) technology to put “transfers on target”, where *have* they been going for the past 20 years?

The president of Agrisoma Biosciences (top that for a scientific corporate name!) is clearly proud of his new patented technology he calls Engineered Trait Loci. According to the story, “In the past, gene transfer was random. Scientists could not control where the new gene inserted itself into the chromosome and the positioning could affect the functions of nearby genes. . . Agrisoma says its FTL technology is precise. ‘Before, it was a crap shoot. You searched through to find something that works and you hoped that nothing else was messed up,’ said Agrisoma's president.” – *WP, 7/1/10*

The colorful brochure for The Global Biosafety Management Program to be presented in Goa, India, in March by Cornell-in-India and Sathguru, makes it abundantly clear that it is not about biosafety, except as a cover-up, but about “introducing Genetically Modified Organisms into the environment.” [*Sathguru is an India-based consulting firm, Cornell-in-India is a program of the Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in Ithaca, New York.*]

The brochure starts with this “Background”:

“Genetic engineering has provided mankind with the edge to overcome the various natural challenges that face the human race primarily in the areas of agriculture and health. Transgenic research has enabled the development of products such as nutritionally enhanced crops to ensure food security, plant varieties with greater resistance to biotic and abiotic stress in times of augmented climate change, vaccines and health care products for better human and animal health.



“Regulation of transgenic research and products is a fundamental necessity to assure outreach of good science for safe use. . .

“. . . It is essential for every country to understand the different aspects of effectively assessing safety, monitoring performance and introducing Genetically Modified Organisms into the environment.” — **B.K.**

Chefs Support Organic

Last year's Toronto area Feast of Fields was dedicated to the Organic Agriculture program at the University of Guelph. The outcome is a gift of \$5000 to the program headed by the highly respected and dedicated professor E. Ann Clark.

“Each year, funds raised at the Feast of Fields event are donated to an ecological group or organization to promote sustainable, organic agriculture. This year funds raised at the event are going directly to the University of Guelph's Organic Agriculture program” said Daniel Gilbert, Chair of Feast of Fields.

“This most welcome donation will be used to support teaching, and specifically, to hire sessional lecturers with unique expertise for our students, as well as to enable field trips for our ever-larger classes to visit organic farms, processors, and restaurants,” said Dr. Clark.

Although just six years old, the Organic Agriculture major within the B.Sc.(Agr) degree – the first such offering in North America – is threatened by financial exigencies at the University of Guelph.

“As chefs we are committed to preparing dishes that emphasize the original and natural taste of the food we prepare. We enjoy cooking with produce that is free of GMOs, pesticides, antibiotics, and other chemicals. The loss of the University of Guelph's organic program would weaken the organic movement and our ability to ensure that our children and our children's children continue to enjoy the flavour of organic foods. Feast of Fields continues to support the University of Guelph's efforts to grow and educate others, so that organic food can grace the table of all Canadians.”

Court Rules In Favour of “Cowshare” Farmer

Hats off to biodynamic dairy farmer Michael Schmidt for perseverance and principle. Michael just won his case for the ‘rights’ of his cow-sharers to pay him to milk and care for their cows so that they can enjoy the raw milk they produce. The issue, however, is not ‘rights’ but public health and the quality and character of the milk that Michael provides for the people who own the 200 cows he cares for.

During the years we were farming and raising our children we kept a cow and drank her milk. It was put through a very fine filter before going into bottles and the fridge. The cow was about 100 feet from the kitchen.

Now we live about half a kilometer from the filtration plant that draws water from the Ottawa River and filters it for public use. It also adds chlorine. While touring the plant during an open-house last summer, we were struck by the level of pride that the workers in the plant feel about their work and the plant. We asked why the chlorine is necessary if the water quality is so high. We pointed out that we lived just down the road from the plant. The answer was that there was no need for adding chlorine as a disinfectant to the water that we get, but that it takes about ten days for the water to get to Manotick, at the south edge of the municipality, and during that time there is too much opportunity for bacteria to grow or be acquired.

This is really a very good analogy for the regulations regarding pasteurization of milk. Most of us are a long way from the cows whose milk we drink as a result of industrialization and urbanization, both of which distance us from the sources of our food.

The milk provided through Michael Schmidt's careful relations with those who own the cows he cares for has qualities that many people regard as particularly health-giving, in part because of its lively character. That is, the biodiversity of whole unpasteurized milk is intact because it has not all been killed by pasteurization. So the issue is not the quality of the milk, but the regulations designed to protect the public from the products of a highly industrialized food system for the benefit of the large corporations that control it.



LIVELY CHARACTER

GE Trait Increases in Weeds

Intriguing and disturbing research: “Gene amplification confers glyphosate resistance in *Amaranthus palmeri*.”

The discovery of heritable gene amplification conferring heightened resistance to (tolerance of) the active ingredients in glyphosate herbicide (Roundup) in amaranth, a major invasive weed in cotton, raises serious questions about the assurances provided by Monsanto and others as to the environmentally benign character of glyphosate. The research is reported in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (published online) at <http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2009/12/10/0906649107> We are providing the url because it is worth noting the extreme caution exercised in carrying out the research – even if, like us, you cannot really make much sense of the scientific language.

Abstract:

“The herbicide glyphosate became widely used in the United States and other parts of the world after the commercialization of glyphosate-resistant crops. These crops have constitutive overexpression of a glyphosate-insensitive form of the herbicide target site gene, ‘EPSPS’. Increased use of glyphosate over multiple years imposes selective genetic pressure on weed populations. We investigated recently discovered glyphosate-resistant *Amaranthus palmeri* populations from Georgia, in comparison with normally sensitive populations. . . This occurrence of gene amplification as an herbicide resistance mechanism in a naturally occurring weed population is particularly significant because it could threaten the sustainable use of glyphosate-resistant crop technology.”

“Our data demonstrate that glyphosate resistance in a Georgia *A. palmeri* population is due to many-fold amplification of the EPSPS gene on multiple chromosomes. This occurrence of gene amplification as an herbicide resistance mechanism was observed in a naturally occurring weed population. It remains to be seen whether the same mechanism exists in other glyphosate-resistant *A. palmeri* populations or in other glyphosate-resistant species. The occurrence of the EPSPS gene amplification in *A. palmeri* raises many questions about how the amplification occurred initially and has been subsequently maintained, including the frequency of other gene amplifications across the genome and the role of this process in the evolution of *A. palmeri* as an economically damaging weed with a history of multiple herbicide resistance traits.”



The Flax, Ma'am, Just the Flax

Last November, after months of denial, the Flax Council of Canada finally acknowledged that Canadian flax seed is contaminated with Triffid, Alan McHughen's clever little GE creation – an herbicide tolerant flax that he cutely named after the sci-fi/horror-film Day of the Triffids. That was only four months after the GM flax variety was first detected by European importers of Canadian flax, during which time the Canadian canola industry steadfastly insisted the European tests were not reliable.

More recently, the seed industry – The Canadian Seed Trade Association – has started to say that, for the sake of the market, flax growers should be required to plant only certified flax seed rather than their own farm-saved seed, which is the general practice. Now Viterra and others are pushing the requirement for certified seed as a purported solution to the problem of the Triffid contamination in flax shipments to Europe .

Terry Boehm, a flax grower and president of the National Farmers Union, says that's the wrong answer. “The best solution is to test the seed supply, both farm-saved seed and certified seed. It is false to simply assume that certified seed is safer than farm-saved. It is almost certain that the certified seed system itself is the source of the Triffid contamination farmers are now facing since two certified varieties of flax are contaminated with Triffid at the breeder seed level – varieties Normandy and Mons.”

Boehm said a real concern is that companies will exploit the critical problem with flax to force a long-term requirement for mandatory purchases of certified seed, a requirement that could quickly spread to other crops. “The Canadian seed industry is engaged in a concerted push to curtail seed saving and force more seed purchases.” Traditionally farmers buy certified seed of new varieties from time to time in small lots and multiply it for their own use for future years.

Boehm also said that Viterra and other powerful grain companies must not be allowed to dictate seed policies. “Under the Canada Grains Act, Viterra cannot refuse grain deliveries if they have space. Thus, Viterra cannot unilaterally declare that all production must be from certified seed. Farm-saved seed can be just as safe as certified. All seed needs to be tested, and test results need to be provided at delivery. The Canadian Grain Commission must be the final arbiter in this issue.”



“We need to take all steps necessary to restore markets for flax,” says Boehm, “but we have to ensure we take only necessary steps. And we have to ensure that key tools for farmers, such as seed saving, are not trampled. Testing at all stages will be the key to resolving this problem. It is high time that the Minister of Agriculture stepped up to the plate and at least offered to pay for the costs of testing.”

The Europeans have made it clear that regardless of whatever testing is carried out in Canada, it will still require its own inspection of flaxseed from Canada to ensure that it is not contaminated with GE Triffid seed.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency CFIA will also have to certify that canola exports to China are free of blackleg to enter the majority of China’s ports, but China has made it clear that will not accept the CFIA’s word for it and will to test all incoming canola itself. Only three Chinese ports, well away from canola producing areas, will accept blackleg contaminated canola.

– WP, 19/11/09

Export sources noted that two cargoes of Canadian flaxseed were loaded onto vessels destined for Europe in December, one with 7,500 tonnes and the second 19,000 tonnes. The sources said neither ship received final clearance for Europe and the whereabouts of the vessels was currently unknown.

– Grainews, Canada, 5/1/10

Growing Opposition to BT Brinjal

In our Oct-Nov issue (#268) we reported that the premature approval of BT Brinjal (genetically engineered eggplant) in India had been suspended, due to broad public outcry, while ‘stakeholder consultations’ were being held in various parts of the country.

A major voice warning against the introduction of BT Brinjal is Pushpa Bhargava, founding director of ‘the country’s premier research institution’, the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology in Hyderabad. Bhargava was appointed to the Genetic Engineering Approvals Committee (GEAC) two years ago by the Supreme Court of India to counter the committee’s blatant pro-biotech industry bias. He said the government was clearing genetically modified vegetables on the basis of data which was not only inconsistent but manipulated to benefit multinationals.

Addressing the media on Jan 7th, Bhargava said allowing multinationals like the US-based Monsanto to

sell its GM seeds would be the “greatest tragedy in the history of Independent India because it will make India subservient to US interests”. Comparing Monsanto with the British East India Company, Bhargava said he, along with several other scientists of international repute, had decided to fight against seed companies’ imperialist designs to control India’s agriculture. He also said they had already launched a mobilisation campaign in this regard.

According to Bhargava, multinational corporations already control 30 per cent market of India’s seed market and, MNCs were trying to grab the entire seed market. “Our country can’t remain independent because MNCs will control our farmers, who account for 70 per cent of the population,” he stressed.

– Indian Express, 8/1/10

[I had the pleasure of meeting Bhargava in early 1994 when he participated in a seminar I held in Bangalore with students and young scientists on the issue of genetic engineering. – B.K.]

One of the most cited Indian scientists in the world, Bhargava said the government was in a hurry to rush through the launch of Bt brinjal without running required trials. “The techniques to test any harmful impact of the modified vegetable are primitive. We have been using in our own country techniques like proteomics and transcriptomics, but the government is giving flimsy excuses, such as high expenses involved, in not putting these techniques to use,” he said.

– The Times of India, 18/1/10

Three states – West Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa – which account for 60 per cent of brinjal production in the country have clearly told the Centre that they were not keen on introducing the genetically-modified version (Bt brinjal) in their fields. With 30% of the total production, West Bengal tops the list followed by Orissa (20%), Bihar (11%), Maharashtra (6%), Andhra Pradesh (6%) and Karnataka (4%).

– Press Trust of India, 18/1/10



Corporate Takeovers

The relentless corporate concentration of the global food system is well illustrated by these takeovers at both ends:

In late September, Viterra, which started out in life as the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, a farmers' cooperative, completed the purchase of ABB Grain Co – the Australian Barley Board before its privatization – for \$1.2 billion. Viterra became a publicly-traded company in 1996. Now Viterra says it will contract out 46 information technology (IT) jobs to replacement workers in Bangalore, India.

Kraft Foods has just acquired Cadbury PLC for just a tad under C\$20 billion after months of trying. Again we have to ask, to whose benefit? Cadbury was attractive to Kraft because it will greatly increase Kraft's access to the 'emerging' markets such as India, Egypt, Thailand and Mexico. (186-year-old Cadbury obviously followed the expansion of the British Empire, at least in India and Egypt.) Major potential victims? Cadbury's 5600 employees in Britain and 45,000 worldwide. Kraft will still be the second largest 'food' group behind Nestlé.

Another article on the takeover provided an blunt comment about the reasoning behind it: "The integration of Cadbury and meeting cost-cutting and revenue-growth targets will be the key going forward," says Kraft CEO Irene Rosenfeld. *– GM, 21/1/10*

FERTILIZER

Cargill/Mosaic

Mosaic, 64% owned by Cargill, is the world's No. 2 potash producer behind Potash Corp of Saskatchewan. Mosaic is the largest maker of finished phosphate products, and is Cargill's only publicly owned subsidiary (listed on the stock exchange with public financial reports). Mosaic stock soared last July after it was reported that Brazilian-based Vale SA was preparing a \$25 billion bid for Mosaic. Vale denied the report.

Earlier in 2009 Vale, the world's biggest iron ore producer and owner of INCO in Sudbury, acquired potash facilities in Saskatchewan as part of a deal with Rio Tinto. (The bitter strike at Vale-INCO in Sudbury has now lasted for 6 months, with "replacement workers" brought in and a grievance from the union winding its way through the Ontario Labour Relations Board.) Vale also has potash interests in Argentina and Brazil.

Mosaic is both the largest producer of processed phosphate, with significant equity interests in China and Brazil, and the leading miner, processor and distributor of potash worldwide. Mosaic owns, through Cargill, half of nitrogen fertilizer maker Saskferco Products in Saskatchewan.

Monsanto

About 240 million years ago, southeastern Idaho was covered by a warm sea where dead fish and plankton piled up, creating a prehistoric muck that hardened to phosphate- and selenium-rich rock. Today, phosphate mining forms the backbone of the regional economy.

With its current mine in the region nearly played out, Monsanto now wants federal regulators to let the company open a new one by 2011, contending safeguards on the project will keep poisons out of the Blackfoot River. The trout stream just a few hundred yards away is among 15 southeastern Idaho waterways where selenium that leaked from mines exceeds legal state levels.

Monsanto insists its history of polluting shouldn't prevent it from digging fresh open phosphate pits in the area. Three of the company's previous phosphate mines are under federal Superfund authority and a fourth is now violating federal clean water laws.

Marv Hoyt, of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition in Idaho Falls, counters that Monsanto and fertilizer makers J.R. Simplot Co. and Agrium Inc. have squandered all trust with their past pollution. Nearby, Canada's Agrium is spending \$500,000 at its North Maybe Mine to control selenium discharges blamed by state wildlife officials for killing all aquatic life in a creek. "Shouldn't you figure out how to fix the old problems before you start new ones?" asked Hoyt. *– AP, 9/8/09*

Canadian fertilizer giant Agrium has been trying for the past year to take over CF Industries of Illinois. "We remain fully committed to acquiring CF", says Agrium CEO Mike Watson. *– GM, 15/1/10*

The really important question to be raised by this attempted acquisition is, what benefit is there, and for whom? It certainly is not to make the fertilizer industry more 'efficient' since both companies are already huge, and it certainly not to benefit the farmers who buy Agrium's fertilizers. This leaves the top executives and the shareholders. The only possible goal is to make more money – apart from the sheer quest for power.



It now appears that the Canadian potash industry is about to be smacked hard up-side their collective head by BJP Billiton, Ltd, the world's largest mining company. Billiton has just announced that it intends to pursue development of its potash holdings in Saskatchewan and work on logistics and port facilities to transport product from its mine. This would suggest that Billiton intends to operate outside Canpotex, the established marketing cartel of the current potash majors. With its stated aim of producing about 8 million tonnes a year, or 12% of global capacity, it could probably do so.

Food makers in Japan, the largest export market for non-GMO soybeans, are paying rising premiums to secure supplies as farmers in the U.S., the biggest producer, increase planting of modified crops. Genetically modified soybeans represent about 92 percent of the crop in the U.S. and 60 percent in Canada.

Kanematsu plans to acquire a stake in Ontario-based Hendrick Seeds to gain access to research. "We want to develop soybean seeds especially for Japan's market," Morita said. "The big seed developers have stopped research and development on non-modified soybeans." Kanematsu this year began sourcing food soybeans from about 50 growers on Prince Edward Island. The company plans to boost the contracted production to as much as 50,000 tons by 2014 from 7,000 tons this year, as it starts shipments to Europe. Kanematsu also sources non-GMO Canadian soybeans through production contracts in Ontario province.

— Bloomberg, 9/12/09

Non-GMO soy demand

Kanematsu Corp, Japan's largest importer of food soybeans, plans to boost sales of the oilseed as it expands crop supply contracts in Canada and widens shipments to Europe and Asia.

Sales of non-genetically modified soybeans are expected to rise from 120,000 tons this year to 200,000 metric tons in 2012 to meet demand in countries including Japan, South Korea and Spain. Tokyo-based Kanematsu expects to expand contracts in Canada, the second largest supplier to Japan, from 80,000 tons to more than 130,000 tons.

If you haven't yet taken a look at our rejuvenated website, www.ramshorn.ca, please do! There you will find Brewster's latest book, *The Tyranny of Rights*, back issues of The Ram's Horn, and under "Documents" you will find the Community Charter on Climate Crisis from India – an extraordinary and powerful grassroots statement.

THE RAM'S HORN

Published 10 times a year by
Brewster and Cathleen Kneen
2746 Cassels Street
Ottawa ON, K2B 6N7, Canada
phone: (613) 828-6047

Subscriptions:

Canada, \$25(regular), \$50 (patron)
United States: US\$25, CDN \$27
outside North America: \$28 (airmail)

If you would like a paper copy of *The Ram's Horn*, please subscribe (see rates and address above). You are also invited to support our work through a donation to help cover costs of research, writing, and circulation of the print version for free to people who cannot afford it, especially those in the 'global south'.

The publishers of The Ram's Horn do not claim copyright 'protection' for this material. It is in the public domain to be freely used and built upon. We appreciate mention of the source. Line drawings not otherwise identified are the work of Cathleen Kneen.

Published 10 times a year; subscriptions expire with the issue number on the label.