

The Screen Text for the movie:

“Arpad Pusztai and an Aphid-Killing Transgenic Potato”

The Politics and Science of Genetically Engineered Food in Great Britain

Food Researcher Arpad Pusztai, speaking in Canada in January 2009

For 36 years until 1998, Pusztai worked at the Rowett Research Institute in Aberdeen, Scotland

He is internationally known and recognized for his work on plant lectins and finally for examining the safety and nutritional value of a particular transgenic potato engineered to resist aphids and nematodes.

The goal of the potato research was the formulation of research protocols for testing the safety of transgenic food of all kinds.

Discussing the 14-sentence, 150-second interview of Pusztai on the ITV program “World in Action” on August 10, 1998

The glory lasted for two days for Rowett’s director Philip James. It took that long for President Bill Clinton to call Prime Minister Tony Blair and for Blair to call James instructing him to discredit Pusztai and his research.

The Result:

After Pusztai spoke at the parliamentary inquiry, over 800 articles appeared in the European media, and as a result, the market for transgenic potatoes collapsed. Neither major buyers nor consumers wanted the product.

The ITC broadcast triggered the events now called “The Pusztai Affair.”

Strong public reaction against the blatantly unethical and preemptively clandestine prior public release of other transgenic foods in Britain, even when added to his own negative potato findings, have not caused Pasztai to reject the possible future value of transgenic foods—if they are proved safe under thorough, objective, independent, and respected scientific protocols.

Nonetheless, Pasztai’s wife and research colleague, Susan Bardocz, is skeptical about the prospects. She considers a positive, valued future for transgenic food scientifically unlikely.

Food Researcher Susan Bardocz

Pusztai and Bardocz met through their work and married in 1987

When Jeffrey Smith, author of the book “Seeds of Deception” asked Pusztai what was the biggest surprise he encountered during his work on the transgenic potato, Pusztai said it was the poor quality of the research work done by the biotech industry and under contract for them by others.

Questions from attendees at the presentation—

“Bt is a carbohydrate reactive lectin.”

Glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, is “a hormone replacer.”

Transgenic agriculture is a “one-way street, because everything else will be contaminated.

Biotech companies need uncontaminated conventional seed with desirable traits to start their genetic engineering. That is why Monsanto has sought to control all the seed lines they can purchase. They have acquired more than 70 seed companies. To benefit from isolation, they also do seed development work in Hawaii.

Videographer Andrew Kohl and Producer Murray Bast provided the video footage for creating this story.

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**A DVD of the full 2009 presentation in Canada is available from:
www.bio-ag.com**