

GE Flax seed threatens exports

By **JOAN DELANEY**
Epoch Times Staff

A genetically modified seed that was ordered destroyed 10 years ago has caused the European Union—Canada's largest flax buyer—to turn away shipments of Canadian flax.

The EU, which has a zero-tolerance policy regarding genetically modified organisms, made the move after traces of a strain of flax called Triffid were detected in shipments.

Officials say the contamination could jeopardize Canada's entire \$320-million flax industry.

Triffid, named after the voracious plants in the 1951 novel *The Day of the Triffids*, was developed at the University of Saskatchewan in the 1990s. After farmers raised concerns that the EU would reject it, the seed was ordered destroyed.

Although it was approved for human and animal consumption, it was never commercialized.

Now the industry is scrambling to figure out how the modified seed wound up in commercial crops and find a way to remedy the situation.

"The message that we need to take to Europe and other marketplaces is that Canada has taken this very seriously and we're doing everything we possibly can to clean this up," Barry Hall, president of the Flax Council of Canada, told

the StarPhoenix newspaper.

He said Canada's reputation as a provider of high-grade flax is taking a hit both domestically and internationally.

"Everybody's beating on Canadian flax, [and] most of it, of course, is unjustified. The whole thing is unjustified because there is absolutely no safety issue here."

After the problem was discovered last September, Canadian flax exports to the EU were halted for a few months and resumed toward the end of the year under new restrictions.

Industry officials are hoping to convince the EU to increase its tolerance for genetically modified organisms from 0.01 parts per million—about one in every 10,000 flax seeds—to 0.1 parts per million.

Hall said it could reach the point where the industry would have to close down for three to five years to get rid of whatever modified seeds are already growing.

Terry Boehm, president of the National Farmers' Union, said he could see this coming.

"Myself and others predicted this would happen and that's why we worked to get rid of [it] 10 years ago," he told CBC News. "If you're going to play around with [genetically modified] crops, once the genie's out of the bottle, once it's in the environment, you can't control it."



IPCC chair Rajendra Pachauri at a press conference in New Delhi on January 23. Pachauri told reporters that a doomsday prediction about the fate of Himalayan glaciers was 'a regrettable error.' MANAN VATSYAYANA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

UN panel's Himalayan glacier meltdown claims erroneous

By **JOAN DELANEY**
Epoch Times Staff

A claim that the Himalayan glaciers would melt by 2035 as a result of global warming has been retracted by the UN body that made it after it was found to have no scientific basis.

In what has been dubbed Glaciategate, Rajendra Pachauri, head of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, said he regrets "poorly substantiated estimates" claiming the Himalayan glaciers were likely to disappear by 2035 if not sooner.

"It was a human error. We will do everything to see that such mistakes are not repeated," Pachauri told reporters in New Delhi on Saturday.

The melting glaciers warning was a central part of the IPCC's 2007 benchmark report—the same report that helped win the IPCC its 2007 Nobel Peace Prize along with global warming guru Al Gore. The panel provides scientific advice to governments for climate change policy.

The blunder was discovered by Canadian Graham Cogley, a geographer at Trent University in Ontario, who traced the IPCC claim to an article published in the *New Scientist* magazine in 1999.

According to London's *Sunday Times*, the *New Scientist* information came from a short telephone interview with Indian scientist Syed Hasnain. Hasnain said his assertion was "speculation" and had not been peer-reviewed—a point noted in the article. Still, the unresearched claim wound up in the IPCC report.

"The problem is that nobody who studied this material bothered chasing the trail back to the original point when the claim first arose. It is ultimately a trail that leads back to a magazine article and that is not the sort of thing you want to end up in an IPCC report," Cogley told the *Times*.

The IPCC quoted a 2005 campaigning report from the environment group WWF as its source for the claim, which had in turn sourced Hasnain's comments to the *New Scientist* and a *New Delhi* magazine called *Down To Earth*. WWF has said that it regretted "any confusion caused" and would make appropriate changes to its report.

CLAIM 'ALARMIST'
Several glaciologists have disputed the IPCC's claim, pointing out that most Himalayan glaciers are hundreds of feet thick and that it would take a huge rise in temperature to melt them by 2035. According to the *Guardian* newspaper, the claim was questioned by the Japanese government before publication of the IPCC report, as well as by other scientists.

India's environment minister, Jairam Ramesh, called the claim

"alarmist."

"There is no conclusive scientific evidence to link global warming with what is happening in the Himalayan glaciers," Ramesh told the *Guardian* newspaper, adding that he was prepared to take on "the doomsday scenarios of Al Gore and the IPCC."

Pachauri in turn attacked Ramesh, saying he was "extremely arrogant" and relied on "voodoo science" that is not peer-reviewed.

But India's environment ministry had done its own study, which found that while many Himalayan glaciers are receding, they are not "retreating abnormally" and that the trend is not consistent across the entire mountain chain.

"The issue of glacial retreat is being sensationalized by a few individuals," the report's author, leading geologist Vijay Kumar Raina, told the *Hindustan Times*. Raina, who has done extensive research on the Himalayan glaciers, said in February 2007 that "claims of global warming causing glacial melt in the Himalayas are based on wrong assumptions."

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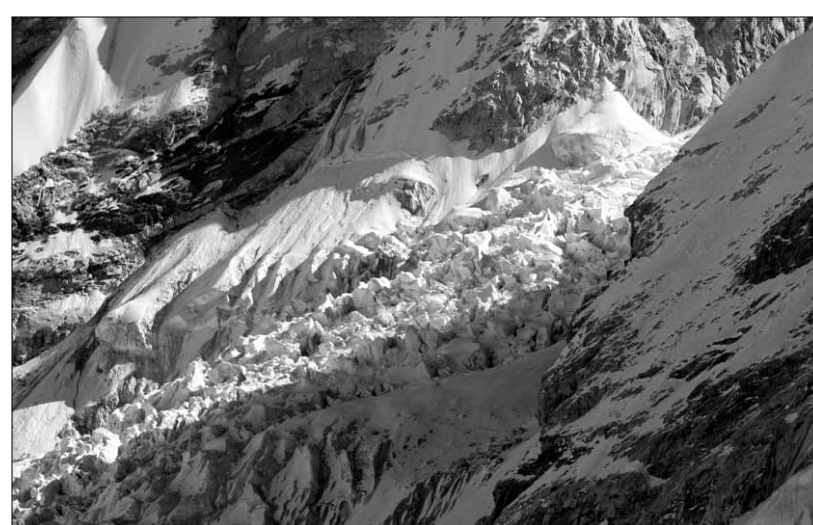
— Graham Cogley

The row has escalated since Glaciategate emerged, and Ramesh last Thursday demanded an apology from Pachauri for his voodoo science remark.

The melting glaciers blunder comes on the heels of the Climatigate scandal in which critical temperature data from the U.K.'s Climatic Research Unit—data used by the IPCC—appears to have been intentionally manipulated to show increased warming trends. CRU head Phil Jones, who has denied any impropriety, has stepped down while an investigation is being carried out.

Global warming skeptics say the Himalayan glacier error has further damaged the credibility of the IPCC, and there have been calls for Pachauri's resignation. Pachauri has also had to defend himself against allegations in some British newspapers that he has profited financially from his role as IPCC chair—a claim he has vigorously denied.

"They can't attack the science so they attack the chairman," Pachauri told the *Guardian*. "But they won't sink me. I am the unsinkable Molly Brown. In fact, I



The Khumbu Glacier northeast of Kathmandu is one of the longest glaciers in the world. A claim by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that the Himalayan glaciers were likely to disappear by 2035 has been discredited. PRAKASH MATHEMA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

will float much higher."

The *Sunday Times* reported that Pachauri has used "bogus claims that Himalayan glaciers were melting to win grants worth hundreds of thousands of pounds."

CATASTROPHIC FORECASTS

Tom Harris, a Canadian mechanical engineer and executive director of the International Climate Science Coalition (ICSC), says questions have surrounded the IPCC Himalayan glacier claim for at least three years.

"It's coming to light now because this particular statement in the IPCC report is shown to be ridiculous, but the whole idea that the glaciers are melting at any abnormal rate—people have been talking about that in the glacier community for at least the last three years, it's just not really made it through to most media."

The ICSC is an association of scientists, economists, and energy policy experts from around the world that bills itself as "an alternative to advice from the IPCC."

It is precisely the IPCC's tendency to issue catastrophic forecasts, such as its warning about the Himalayan glaciers, that prompted the ICSC to issue a "Copenhagen climate challenge" during the Copenhagen Climate Conference in December.

The challenge, which was backed by 150 leading climate experts from 15 countries, demanded that the IPCC produce "convincing observational evidence for their claims of dangerous human-caused global warming and other changes in climate."

"For so many years they've been stonewalling on allowing the real data to get through to the researchers who want to cross-examine it, and one of the things about Climatigate is that they're finding that some of the data that was requested through access to information in the United Kingdom has actually been destroyed rather than given to the skeptical scientists, and that's against the law,"



The TELUS World of Science geodesic dome in Vancouver. ROBERT GIROUX/GETTY IMAGES

Telus first Canadian company to receive world philanthropic award

By **CINDY CHAN**
Epoch Times Staff

OTTAWA—Telus Corporation received praise from the federal government this week after the telecom giant became the first Canadian company to be named the world's most philanthropic corporation of the year by a global fundraising group.

Industry Minister Tony Clement congratulated the company for winning the Arlington, Virginia-based Association of Fundraising Professionals' (AFP) 2010 Freeman Philanthropic Services Award for Outstanding Corporation. "I was impressed with the number and range of approaches that TELUS has implemented to achieve this merit award. I hope that other Canadian companies might learn from, and emulate, these innovative methods," said Mr. Clement in a statement on Wednesday.

Under the motto "We Give Where We Live," since 2000 Telus, its employees, and retirees have given \$158 million to charitable and not-for-profit groups, and volunteered more than 3 million hours of local community service.

They contributed \$2.4 million last year to a variety of causes including children's hospitals, food banks, military family funds, diabetes research, and disadvantaged parents' and at-risk youth's programs.

Paulette V. Maehara, president and CEO of AFT, commended the company in particular for its

"demonstrated commitment to employee involvement through their charitable giving and volunteerism programs."

Last year, Telus matched dollar for dollar donations made by its employees and retirees to over 50,000 charities across Canada.

Individual employees and retirees who log at least 50 hours of volunteer time are eligible to apply for a \$200 community grant to a charity of their choice.

More than 9,100 people worked on about 175 volunteer projects across the country on the annual Telus Day of Service in 2009.

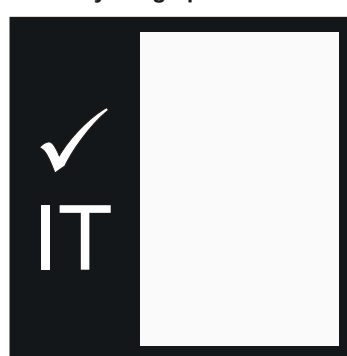
Nine Telus Community Boards, located in Victoria, Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal, Rimouski, and Atlantic Canada, guide the company's local community investment and philanthropic giving.

The boards bring together community and business leaders and Telus employees to ensure that fundraising decisions effectively serve local needs and priorities.

Their three areas of focus include arts and culture, education and sports, and health and wellbeing in our environment.

Some of the causes that Telus has supported include Scouts Canada, Junior Achievement, Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Meal Exchange, Multicultural Arts for Schools and Communities, Pacific Assistance Dogs Society, Alpine Canada Alpin, I CAN Play Soccer, Scientists in Schools, Marine Biotechnology Research Centre, and Domaine l'Amitié Inc.

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