



## **SURPLUS PEOPLE PROJECT AND BIOWATCH MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **GMOs REJECTED IN CAPE TOWN**

More than 170 people gathered at the Labia theatre in Cape Town last night to watch Bollywood director Ajay Kanchan's documentary film 'Poison on the Platter' that exposes the catastrophic impact of the introduction of genetically engineered crops in India. The movie was preceded by a parliamentary dialogue earlier in the day, and followed by an open discussion, both led by Devinder Sharma, world renowned food policy analyst, author and chair of the Forum for Biotechnology and Food Security in India.

Dr. Sharma explained that both the motivation and scientific claims behind genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are dead wrong. "GMOs only benefit the big multinational companies like Monsanto that own the patents to these life forms," he said. "For small farmers and the public it is an environmental, health and economic body blow. The corporate funded science that claims GMOs increase yields have been proven wrong decisively."

South Africa has become one of the most GMO-heavy countries with little or no public awareness, debate and approval. The audience last night vowed to join the campaign to ban GMOs from South Africa.

There will be another screening of 'Poison on the Platter' at the Labia Theatre tonight at 18h15. End