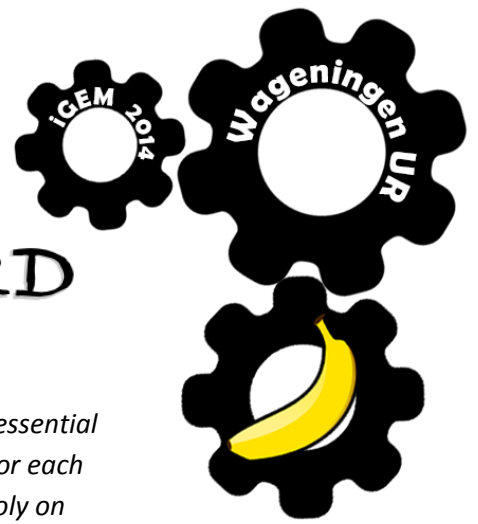


BANANA GUARD



Techno-Moral Scenario

This is in a future from when products like BananaGuard have become an essential tool in agriculture. In fact, “synthetic” soils have been created, optimized for each crop. By abusing patent law one company has essentially gained a monopoly on the only viable way to produce food for the whole world.

Steven walked through the gates of the court, guided by two heavily armed guards. Scary as the court building was for him it was also equally impressive. In the mountains where he used to live people still lived in wooden houses tightly packed together. This building was tall and made with materials he had never seen before. He entered the court hall. On the side where benches with all kinds of people, probably city people, and some journalists with cameras. In front of him were the judges seated behind a raised desk made of grey metal.

“You are accused of acts of terrorism against the United Crop cooperation and the State. Of using illegal and dangerous toxins in combination with illegal farming. What do you have to say to this?”

“That I am no more of a terrorist than the United Crop Corporation.”

“An unusual answer... so you deny that you have committed actions of violence against the United Crop Corporation?”

“No. I am simply saying that if I am called a terrorist the United Crop corporation is one too, and that I am fighting this terrorism with the means I have. The definition of terrorism is the often violent actions that destabilize a society to achieve a certain agenda, how can it then be that this company is not a terrorist company? I question the independence of this court and the definitions it uses.”

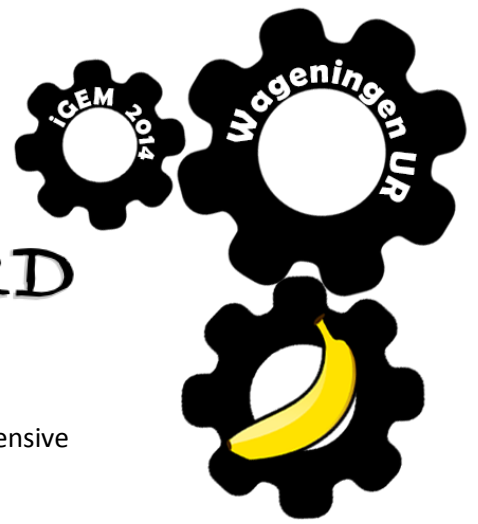
“The United Crop Corporation is not destabilizing the society, it is even a rather stabilizing factor” The accuser said “This company creates jobs for thousands and thousands of people and produces food for the entire world. These are generally considered rather stabilizing factors rather than destabilizing or even acts of terrorism.”

“Maybe, but then how do your aggressive policies, enormous land expansions over the backs of farmers and nature, and the continuous hunting down of the ones seeking an alternative and farming for themselves. You are destroying nature with enormous monocultures and our society by eliminating an entire class or people by buying them out of business, while the food you should be producing for us is exported to the western countries.”

“All the land is acquired completely legally. Landowners sold their land willingly. The food is sold to the ones that pay for it, that can hardly be called a crime. Also we are supporting a farmer class since we are providing the most farming jobs worldwide and the United Crop Corporation does not hunt down people. We guard our land but we do not pursue terrorists, that is a task of the government in which we have no involvement”



BANANA GUARD



"Governments that you bribed and pressured to adopt the anti-pesticide legislation, so that there was no way for farmers with less money than the Corporation to produce crops. the only legal way is to buy immensely expensive synthetic soil that only big companies can afford."

"We advised governments to restrict the use of chemical pesticides because it is dangerous. The usage of pesticides only leads to even more resistant strains then there already are. It is people like you that made food so hard to produce and so expensive, because you used pesticides that made fungi resistant. By illegally farming and using pesticides you are digging your own grave and for the rest of the world! That is the reason you are hunted down, not because we pressure or bribe governments to do so."

"These threats are hugely exaggerated. I used to farm bananas in the mountains with no problems at all. You just seek a way to abolish competition and establish dominance over us again. And everybody knows how you 'support' the government's here with large amount of money, often before important laws have to be approved, and how you 'help' local police finding these 'illegal farmers' with your own forces."

"You can claim what you want, but there is no proof for this whatsoever. And these forces you are talking about we need because of people like you, terrorists that bomb and raid our farms and storages. It's people like you that are responsible for higher and higher prices of food."

"People like me? It is you and your synthetic soil producer that are responsible for the prices. You steer the market so that you can make more profits, on the back of nature and society! And I fight it the only way I can!"

"Does that include raids and other forms of illegal violence?" - The judge asked.

"Since nobody wants to talk about this and the courts, just as the rest of the government, are biased this has to be fought with violence, yes. But illegal? No, how could a fight against intruders and terrorist who invade our country and bribe our government be illegal? How could a fight against corruption and for choice be illegal?"

"Although yours is an interesting story, violence and raids are not allowed in this country." - The judge says - "The conflicts that you have or might have with others should be sorted via diplomatic means or courts, never violence. In the opinion of this court this amount violence and increase in social tensions is intolerable. You wanted to raid and even commit murder. Besides, you increased the risks for contamination of our farms and food supply and the creation of new diseases, putting the food supply at risk for your own interests. The court therefore finds you guilty for the charges of unapproved farming, use of banned pesticides and terrorism."

