The Pros and Cons of Producing and Consuming Transgenic Crops

Stengths/limitations, opportunities lost

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Facts

Transgenic (GMO) foods are among the most tested products in the world.1

Transgenic crops pose no more risk than conventionally bred crops. 1

There is limited/no feasible mechanism that they would be harmful. 1

The genes/proteins inserted have been well studied for decades.¹

Transgenic crops have decreased pesticide use and help farmers remain competitive. 1

In 17 years since release there has not been one case of illness or death related to the products.

¹ The Impact of Genetically Modified Crops on Farm Sustainability in the USA. National Academies Press, 2010

Fantasy

Transgenic (GMO) cause cancer, autism, arthritis, asthma, ADHD, obesity, morgellian's disease, parkinson's, and 100 other ailments.

Farmers must use GM crops because companies force them to.

Farmers are sued for a few GM seeds in their fields if they don't have contract with the company.

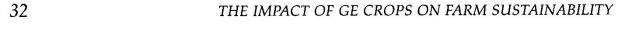
There have been no long term studies and nobody knows what the genes do.

There are unknown effects and we should not use the technology.

GM crop are engineered to displace all other crops and give a few companies world domination and control of the food supply.

Many others!

GM Acreage



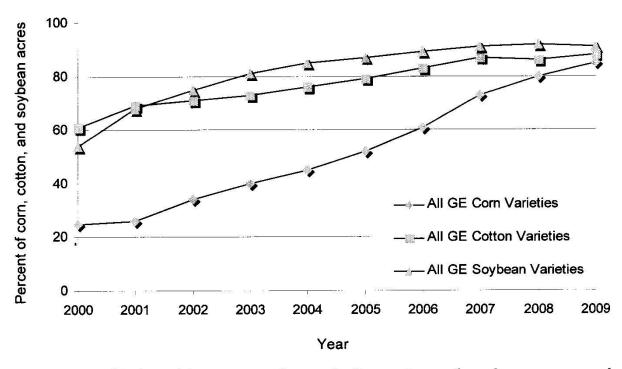


FIGURE 1-3 Nationwide acreage of genetically engineered soybean, corn, and cotton as a percentage of all acreage of these crops. SOURCE: USDA-NASS, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009b.

GM Crops Available Now

Corn (field corn, some sweet corn)

Canola

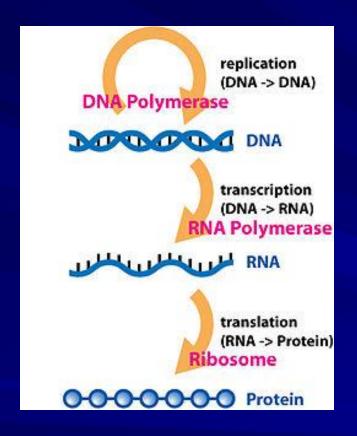
Cotton

Soybean

Sugar beet

Papaya - Squash

Central Dogma of Molecular Biology



DNA – genetic material, Hard copy safe in the nucleus of a cell



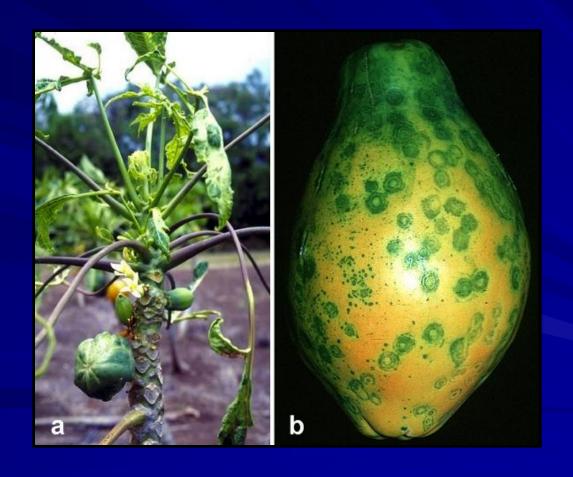
RNA – Transient copy of the same information (+/-)



Protein – Does the work! Enzymes, structures, etc.



Papaya Ringspot Virus Good example of RNAi suppression







Gene Silencing

GM papaya saved an industry, not a Big Ag product

Share the vision, what else could we silence?

- allergens
- anti-nutrients
- physiology associated with post-harvest decay
- many others!!

Turn something ON that isn't there normally



GMO Crops Make Pesticides

Corn
engineered to grow
its own pesticide



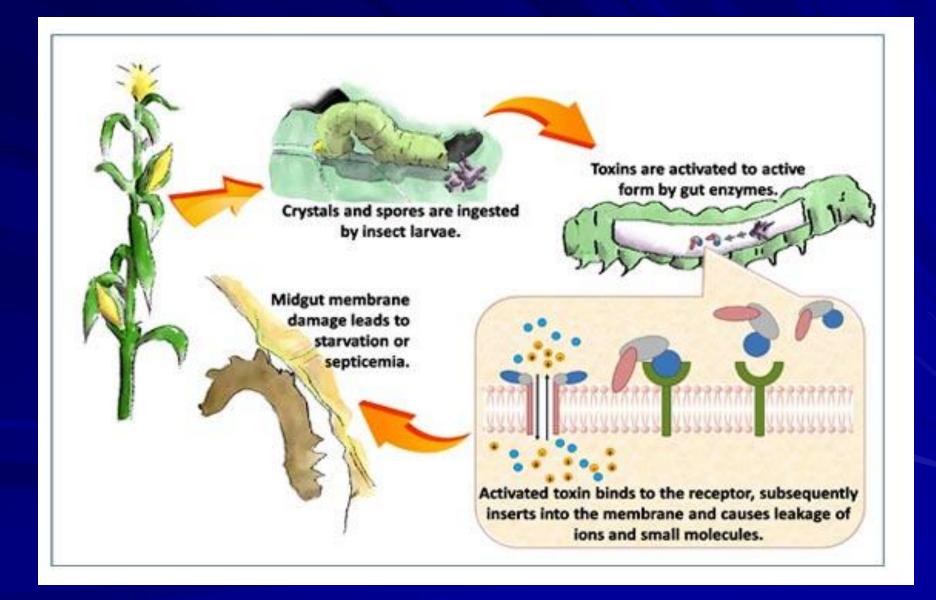




Say NO to GMO!



How Bt Works



Advantages of the Bt trait

- Less insecticide sprayed on fields
- -Lower costs to farmers
- -Lower impact on environment (in China 2003, Bt cotton prevented >300,000 tons of insecticde use)
- 50-75% less pesticide used since 2003
- lower chance for resistance
- targeted to larvae of specific insects, not beneficials
- no insecticidal residues

Limitations to Bt

- The need to include non-Bt refugia
- Development of resistance
- Does not work well on rootworms

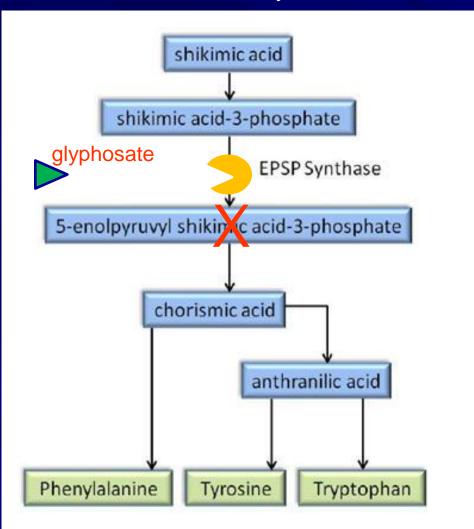
Roundup Ready Products

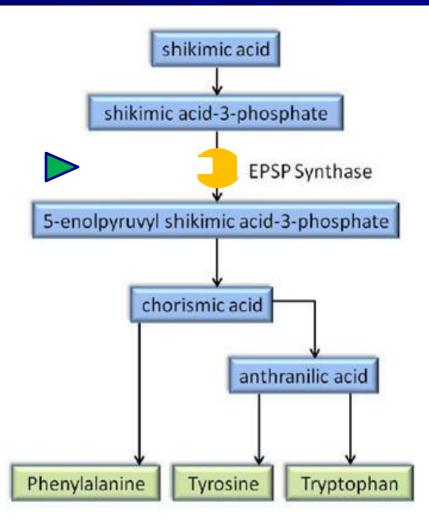


A gene is inserted that allows plants to survive in the presence of the herbicide. Farmers can spray to kill non-transgenic plants.

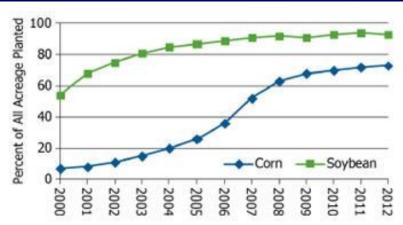
Conventional Hybrid

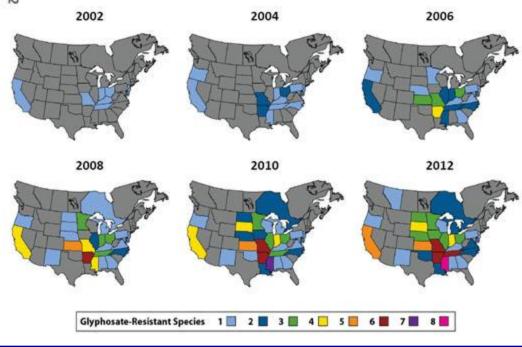
Glyphosate Resistant





Significant Down Side





The Social Interface

Calls for increased regulation

Calls for labeling, preceding bans and boycotts

Emotional, scare tactics

Allegations, accusations, mischaracterization of scientists

Problem – Who are the 'Experts'?



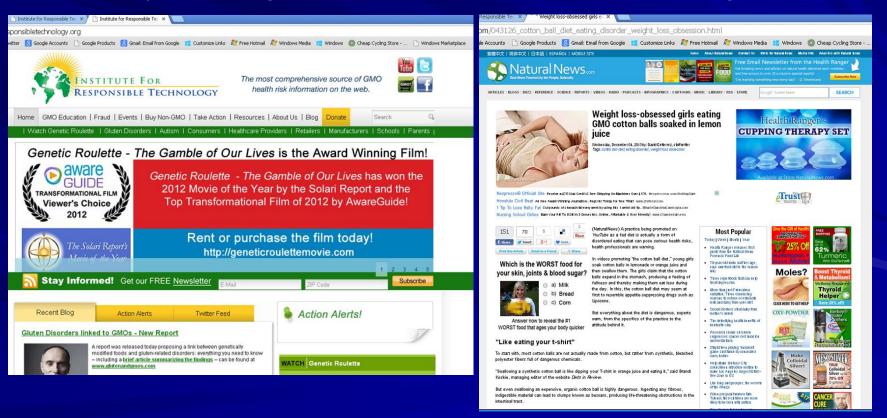
These are the people most influencing the conversation. They are not scientists, they hold positions contrary to science. They operate using fear.

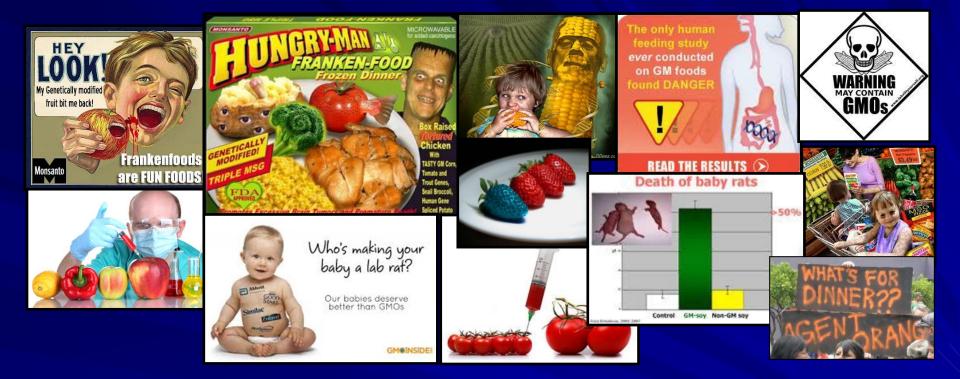
Problem – How They Fool You

Publishing in "predatory" or pay-to-publish journals with low impact and standards

Public cannot discern reviews from primary research

Fooled by façade organizations / "news" sources that claim danger



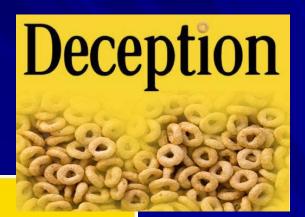


Scientific decisions and policy.
Should we rely on science, evidence and reason, or fear?

The Problem – the Mommy Factor







Poison

Caution Gmos

Food Terrorism











Bad Science and the "Link" to Tumors



Seralini et al 2012 Figure 3

Table 2. Summary of the most frequent anatomical pathologies observed.

Organs and associated	Controls	GMO	GMO	GMO	GMO	GMO	GMO	R	R	R
pathologies		11%	22%	33%	11% + R	22% + R	33% + R	(A)	(B)	(C)
Males, in liver	2 (2)	5 (4)	11 (7)	8 (6)	5 (4)	7 (4)	6 (5)	11	9	6
								(5)	(7)	(5)
In hepatodigestive tract	6 (5)	10 (6)	13 (7)	9 (6)	9 (6)	13 (6)	11 (7)	23	16	9
								(9)	(8)	(5)
Kidneys, CPN	3 (3)	4 (4)	5 (5)	7 (7)	5 (5)	4 (4)	4 (4)	6	5	3
								(6)	(5)	(3)
Females, mammary	8 (5)	15 (7)	10 (7)	15 (8)	10 (6)	11 (7)	13 (9)	20	16	12
tumors								(9)	(10)	(9)
In mammary glands	10 (5)	22 (8)	10 (7)	16 (8)	17 (8)	16 (8)	15 (9)	26	20	18
								(10)	(10)	(9)
Pituitary	9 (6)	23 (9)	20 (8)	8 (5)	19 (9)	9 (4)	19 (7)	22	16	13
								(8)	(7)	(7)

After the number of pathological abnormalities, the number of rats reached is indicated in parentheses. In male animals pathological signs are liver congestions, macroscopic spots and microscopic necrotic foci. Hepatodigestive pathological signs concern the liver, stomach and small intestine (duodenum, ileum or jejunum). Only marked or severe chronic progressive nephropathies (CPN) are listed, excluding two nephroblastomas in groups consuming GMO 11% and GMO 22% + Roundup. In females, mammary fibroadenomas and adenocarcinomas are the major tumors detected; galactoceles and hyperplasias with atypia are also found and added in mammary glands pathological signs. Pituitary dysfunctions include adenomas, hyperplasias and hypertrophies. For details of the various treatment groups see Fig. 1.



Cancer row over GM foods as study says it did THIS to rats... and can cause organ damage and early death in humans

- French team claim bestselling brand of GM corn caused tumours and multiple organ damage
- Leading scientists have questioned the study and its results, claiming it has 'no value'

By SEAN POULTER

PUBLISHED: 06:21 FST, 19 September 2012 | UPDATED: 02:18 FST, 20 September 2012



Science Home | Pictures | Gadgets Gifts and Toys Store

Rats fed a lifelong diet of one of the bestselling strains of genetically modified corn suffered tumours and multiple organ damage, according to a controversial French study published today

Scientists said the results raised serious questions about the safety of GM foods and the assurances offered by biotech companies and governments

The first lifetime trials involving rats fed on GM com found a raised incidence of breast tumours, liver











Today's

- **Eight Bron** important silted up r were sun
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FOOD ENVIRONMENT WILDLIFE SOCIAL JUSTICE EDUCATION HE

Hon't Miss: Oklahoma City How You Can Help

New Proof: GMOs Cause Tumors, Organ Damage, and Premature Death in Rats

The first long-term study shows the devastating effects of Roundup herbicide and genetically modified maize

September 19, 2012 Megan Bedard





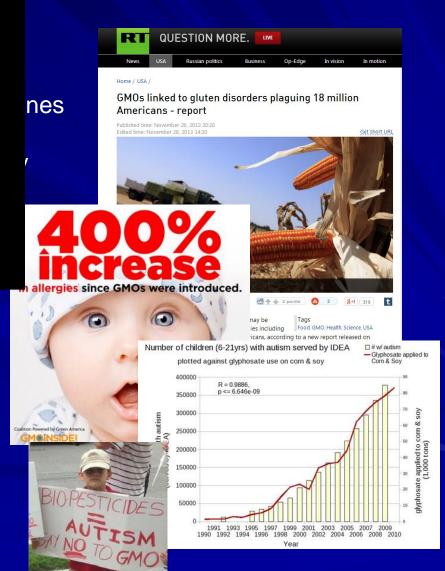


Need another reason to buy organic? Rats fed Roundup GMO comdeveloped lumors and died prematurely, (Photo, G Robert Bishop/Getty

Logical Lapses- Developing Fear with Correlations



Good science does not get coverage



Effects

Introduction of bad public policy

Misdirection from legitimate problems

Delaying emerging science that could benefit

Suspicion of proven successes

Mistrust of science/scientists

Reliance on less useful technology

Public labs, small co's can't compete

Harming non-GMO industries















Lost Opportunities

Opposition to this technology has significant costs.

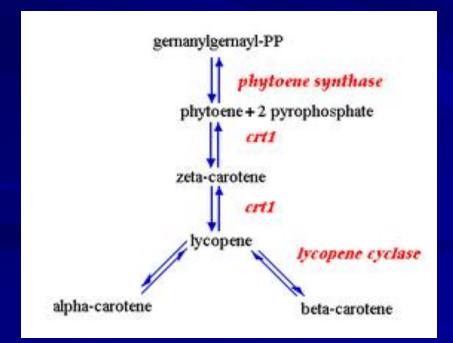
The needy
The environment
Farmers
Consumers

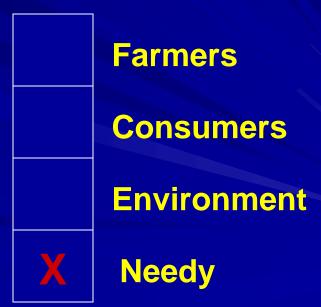
Golden Rice





Opposition to golden rice cost \$2 billion to farmers in developing countries and 1.4 million human years – Wesseler et al., 2014





Cassava

250 million depend on cassava

50 million tons lost to virus.



X

Farmers

Consumers

Environment

X

Needy

Virus Resistant Cassava (VIRCA)

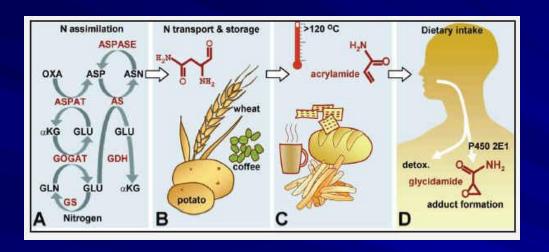
Biocassava Plus (BC Plus)

BS2 Tomato

A pepper gene in tomato eases black spot and wilt.



Acrylamide Free, non Browning Potatoes

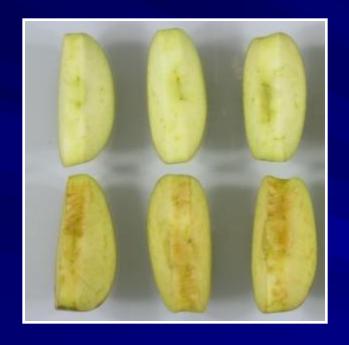


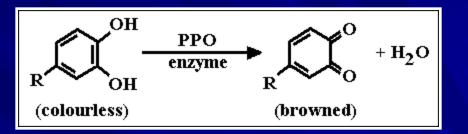




Non Browning Apples

Silencing a gene that leads to discoloration





X

Farmers



Consumers



Needy



Small Business!

Public Issues

Many calling for labeling of grocery items made from GM crops.

Legislation may eventually be developed in Florida

A "right to know" vs. a new bureaucracy?

Gateway to banning technology that helps farmers and can do much more for the environment and the needy.

OUR "RIGHT TO KNOW"

"We are going to force them to label this food. If we have it labeled, then we can organize people not to buy it."

-Andrew Kimbrell, Executive Director, Center for Food Safety

"Personally, I believe GM foods must be banned entirely, but labeling is the most efficient way to achieve this. Since 85% of the public will refuse to buy foods they know to be genetically modified, this will effectively eliminate them from the market just the way it was done in Europe."

—Dr. Joseph Mercola, Mercola.com

"By avoiding GMOs, you contribute to the tipping point of consumer rejection, forcing them out of our food supply."

—Jeffrey Smith, Founder, Institute for Responsible Technology

"With labeling it (GMOs) will become 0%... For you the label issues is vital, if you get labeling then GMOs are dead-end."

-Vandana Shiva, environmental activist

"The burning question for us all then becomes how—and how quickly—can we move healthy, organic products from a 4.2% market niche, to the dominant force in American food and farming? The first step is to change our labeling laws."

-Ronnie Cummins, Director, Organic Consumers Association

SOURCES:

In Conclusion

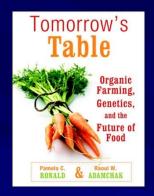
Should we let activists and profiteering booksellers use shock, fear and poor-quality findings to steer production of the next generation of products?

Shouldn't science and reason be steering policy?

Never make a decision based on fear.

Learn about the topics, make sure you discuss them with family and friends

Where do I get good information?



Warm welcome



Cold facts



GMOanswers.com



Biofortified.org



geneticliteracyproject.com