

TRANSGENIC FOODS: SOLUTION OR PROBLEM?

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INTRODUCTION: Transgenic foods (or GM foods) are those foods that contain as an ingredient a product from a genetically modified organism (GMO), that has genes from other species.

GM foods were originally created to help humanity with its problems in the field of agri-food, but they are still being heavily criticized, even though they have been incorporated into the human diet for more than a decade without having apparently shown any obvious negative effect. Is it possible that GM foods aren't as harmful as we think and can become as safe as any other food of natural origin? Or are they that dangerous? In this thesis, we will try to find it out.

Objectives:

- To introduce real cases of GM foods to the public and evaluate the solutions they provide to human society.
- To analyse the main problems associated with transgenic foods.
- To express an opinion on GM foods keeping in mind the solutions and problems they provide us.

ADVANTAGES

They give solutions for important problems in the field of food and health:

- ❖ Loss of crops due to plagues or diseases



Figure 1: Comparison of a corn Bt with an ordinary one, after the attack of the larvae of the corn borer. (CropLife)

- ❖ Starvation and malnutrition



Figure 2: Difference between the appearance of golden and conventional rice. (Golden Rice Humanitarian Board)

PROBLEMS

- Environmental risks
(Mainly caused by the transfer of resistance to pesticides)
- Reduce biodiversity
(Is it sure that they all decrease biodiversity?)
- Risk of food allergies → When using species which contain allergens.
- Risk of developing antibiotic resistance
CURRENTLY IMPOSSIBLE
- Poor public perception 😞

Conclusions:

GMO foods are a promising option for human development that over time and evolution can help to create a healthier, fairer and more environmentally friendly world.

The bad perception of the public is influenced by the lack of knowledge, but through an appropriate education this could change with time.