

Health risks of genetically-modified foods



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Health Risks of Genetically Modified Foods Genetically modified (GM) foods, introduced to the American Public in 1996, involves taking the genes of the DNA of one plant or animal and transferring them to another species creating a new organism. Justification for this scientific manipulation revealed promises to eliminate world hunger, make plants resistant to pests and disease, and produce healthier foods. Agribusiness giants, like Monsanto, Bayer, and Syngenta include some of the companies first to bring products to the market.

The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) took the stance, that it is the food producer responsible for assuring food safety. Companies producing GM foods ultimately regulate themselves. These companies kept their research secret and not available for public scrutiny. Insufficient data illustrate the need for ongoing exploration by independent scientists to deem the products safe for human consumption. Jeffrey M. Smith discussed these issues in his book, *Genetic Roulette: The Documented Health Risks of Genetically Engineered Foods*. GM of certain crops cause them to produce their own insecticide.

A research study not performed by the manufacturer, involved GM potatoes fed to rats. " They developed potentially precancerous cell growth in the digestive tract, inhibited development of their brains, livers, and testicles, partial atrophy of the liver, enlarged pancreases and intestines, and immune system damage" (Smith 22). Additional information is warranted clarifying the exact cause. Another study revealed Monsanto's MON 863 Bt corn fed to rats produced " significant changes in their blood cells, livers, and kidneys which might indicate disease" (Smith 26).

Monsanto defends their GM corn as safe and deems it unnecessary to pursue further testing. No research conducted to date and the corn gained approval. Government and big industries continue with the development, endorsement and marketing of GM foods despite the potential health warnings. Study after study cited in Genetic Roulette by Jeffrey M. Smith , reveal health problems from every body system and even death. One investigations proved given a choice, animals would not eat GM foods. Rats that would not eat the GM tomatoes were force fed the tomato through a gastric tube.

Several developed stomach lesions and seven of the forty died. The GM of the DNA of species results in widespread mutations. Soy allergies skyrocketed after the introduction of GM soy. Over half of the processed foods in the supermarket contain something made from soy. GM peas generated an allergic-inflammatory response. With some of the GM crops that produce their own insecticide, the fear of creating " super weeds" exists. " The United States and Canada do not have GM labeling requirements" (Smith 257).

Exposing millions of people to unpredictable dangers of GM foods represents playing roulette. " The connections between the FDA and large agribusiness corporations are disturbing" (Teitel, Wilson 69). Large contributors to the Democratic and Republican parties include Monsanto and others. These companies employ trade and environmental administrators and government appointees in lucrative positions. We possess the right to know the facts about the safety of our food and what ingredients comprise it