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Genetically modified food and human health

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S IT MAGIC OT MADNESS, Will genetically modified food (GMF) be a reason to eliminate famine or to eliminate humans themselves? We can consider the GMF as double-edged sword.

Genetically modified <u>food</u> was first introduced about 20 years ago. The bioengineering food can be the solution to all <u>food</u> problems in terms of availability and nutrition. Controlling the transfer of the genes can allow the production of crops with new characteristics such as improving the yield of the crops, resistance of plant diseases, increase the tolerance of herbicides, elongate the shelf life of the products, to increase the fruit sizes or even to add a new nutritional feature (e.g. golden rice, transgenic rice that enhance beta-carotene

accumulation in it). But unhappily the transferring process is not totally controllable.

Many unwanted or harmful genes may be transferred during the transferring process. The process is not totally controlled. It also can pose significant allergy risks, to decrease the resistance to antibiotics and in other times it may increase the production of toxins in the crops to harmful levels or even it may reduce the nutritional value of the crops.

In short, the debate is still going on as to whether its benefits will outweigh its harms, or that we will one day be able to control gene transfer to the extent that it has no negative effects with lower costs or not.

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