Course Project – Food

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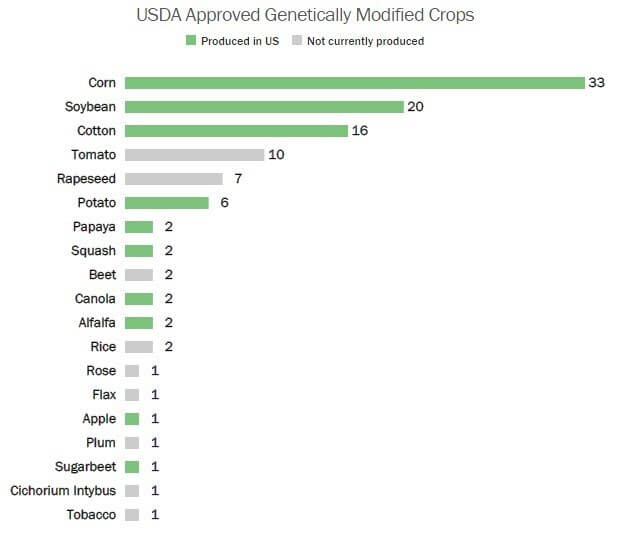
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Personally, I do not feel that GMOs are safe at all. It is undeniable that crops and Foods have had to be genetically modified for decades. Science has to intervene in some respects in regard to maintaining the Food Supplies that facilitate the world population. With respect to that notion, mainstream science shows enough data to conclude whether or not genetically modified plants and animals have any long-term, short-term, negative, or positive effects in humans definitively. There are proofs that suggest more negative effects than not I will discuss. Also, I do not think it is a clear fact of GMOs being unsafe in themselves. As opposed to the trust factors based on the questionable methods and practices being implemented by some very questionable companies like Monsanto. I believe in the freedom of choice that we are born with the capability to govern our own decision is being disregarded. I also believe that we have every right to know what it is we are consuming or being put into our bodies to govern our own health.

**Do you feel that GMOs are safe?**

There are more than 120 different varieties of genetically modified crops that have been regulated in the United States *(Genetic literacy project, 2020)*. The following chart, by the USDA Animal and Health Inspection Service, shows the variety of GMO crops that have been approved in the U.S. Genetically engineered crops have been approved for cultivation in the United States since the 1990s. Today, there are 10 GMO crops currently produced in the US, while more than 120 GMO seeds with unique traits have been deregulated. More than 90% of corn, soybean, cotton, canola, and sugar beet in the US is GMO *(Gentic Literacy Project, 2016)*.



These are the current facts on GMOs being implemented into our agricultural today. To understand the position of my safety concerns in regards of GMOs I will need to provide some context. The methods in which GMOs are implemented, the chemical process used to conduct the modifications, the companies responsible for engineering modifications, and the deadly bio-chemicals being produced in our foods need to be explained.

Glyphosate is an active ingredient of the most widely used herbicides that is a toxic chemical responsible for cancers, abnormal cell growth, deterioration of estrogen receptors, which has resulted in the death of countless people .

Glyphosate is a chemical engineered by Monsanto in an herbicide called Roundup. they also genetically modify crops seeds with this deadly chemical which in turn results in designer seeds that can only be grown and brought to yield with Monsanto chemical products. Glyphosate-resistant, “Round-Up Ready” soybean, where the first to patent in 1994. Monsanto is a company that claims to be an agriculture company, but from the 1930s they have always been a government contracted biochemical manufacture *(Laksi, 2013).*

Monsanto's practices have not only been the result of shady practices and deadly engineering of genetic bio-chemicals that now reside on a mass portion of our daily food supply. they have altered healthy organic seed supplies with a chemically new genetic makeup that have been scientifically proven to alter human genetics. Also, their seeds have locked down the control of the seeds & food supply markets in which they now control through lofty patents on seeds that infringes farmers, and people's rights to life and choice *(EWG, 2016*).

The United States Patent and Trademark Office, for practically all of its history, refused to grant patents on seeds, viewing them as life-forms with too many variables to be patented. However, in 1980, the U.S. Supreme Court allowed for seed patents. This laid the groundwork for corporations like Monsanto to start gaining control of the global food supply *( US Supreme Court, 1980).*

Over the past 15 years or so, a collection of five giant biotech corporations - Monsanto, Syngenta, Bayer, BASF, Novartis, Pizer, Purdue, Dow, and DuPont. They have bought up more than 200 other companies, allowing them to dominate access to seeds and pharmaceutical technology *(Organic Consmer Associaition, 2014).*

Monsanto is a subsidiary to Purdue pharmaceutical as well as Bayer in which they recently merged in 2018 and other major chemical and pharmaceutical companies. I only state the associations to support my claim of seemingly disingenuous business practices *(EWG, 2016)*.

* Purdue pharmaceutical is the main manufactured for opioid-based pharmaceuticals like oxycontin.
* Bayer has had a very corrupt history or back in the 1990's they infected millions of people with the HIV-AIDS virus through a hemophiliac injection they manufactured. In 2018 they were releasing the acquired by Monsanto only to find out that they had more than a trillion dollars lawsuits against them. That they had CIA Black Operations sites within the facility *(CBS NEWS, 2011).*

Monsanto has become the world leader in genetic engineering of seeds, winning 674 biotechnology patents, which is more than any other company. If you are a farmer who buys its Roundup Ready seeds, you are required to sign an agreement promising not to save the seed produced after each harvest for re-planting.

Science and deaths from toxic foods have been researched and studied over the years. On the chemicals associated to GMO manufactured by Monsanto and their acquired corporate status.

Here is a list of dangerous chemicals, and products manufactured by Monsanto. Along with recent scientific findings based on the altercations of genetically modified foods created by Monsanto:

* 1990 Monsanto spends millions of dollars to defeat national and federal legislation that of their dumping dioxins, pesticides and other carcinogenic poisons in our drinking water supplies.
* GMO cereals were created to “self-pollinate this caused endangerment to bee populations
* Manufacturing GMO grains: corns, soybeans, rapeseeds, and Roundup Ready Crops (RR Crops) that have had their DNA altered to allow them to withstand the glyphosate herbicides which causes many cancers, including brain cancer.
* Chemical injected into cows to increase their milk production. Bovine somatotropin, also known as bovine somatotropin (bST and BST), and bovine growth hormone (BGH), which can be then synthesized using recombinant DNA technology to create recombinant bovine somatotropin (rBST), recombinant bovine growth hormone (rBGH), or artificial growth hormone.
* **Aspartame the chemical made from e-coli feces that causes tumors and large holes in the brains. According to the FDA, among the known effects of ingestion of aspartame include: “mania, rage, violence, blindness, joint pain, fatigue, weight gain, angina, coma, insomnia, drowsiness, depression, tinnitus , weakness, spasms, irritability, nausea, deafness, memory loss, skin rashes, dizziness, headache, stroke, anxiety, palpitations, fainting, cramps, diarrhea, panic, oral inflammation. Triggered diseases include diabetes, multiple sclerosis, lupus, epilepsy, Parkinson’s, tumors, miscarriages, infertility, fibromyalgia, infant death, and Alzheimer’s.**
* In the 1940s Monsanto began production uranium which we used in the first atomic bomb in the Manhattan Project dropped on Hiroshima in Nagasaki.
* **Saccharin an artificial sweetener now banned for its carcinogenic effects and cancer proven cancer causing properties.**
* **PCB a known carcinogen, PCB is widely used as lubricants, hydraulic fluids, cutting oils, waterproof coatings, and sealants. PCB also found to severely damage the reproductive organs, immune system, liver, endocrine system, immune system, developmental system, skin, eyes, brain, as well as many other organs.**

There are even more events and products than this manufactured to this day that have cost human life from these companies. Including a long history of court proceedings and lawsuits involving the creations of deadly chemicals they have openly been prosecuted for in GMO and related products. *(Global Research Centere, 2014)*.

**Do you believe GMOs in foods should be labeled?**

Outside of this in 2013, President Obama signed HR 933 which was known to the public as the Monsanto protection act appropriately called the agricultural Appropriations bill *(HR993, 2013)*. Which prevents the federal government shutdown by providing funding to Department such as the USDA and the FDA along with other agencies. The farmer Assurance provision section 735 implemented the provision prohibits federal courts from banning the sale and planting of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), even if they are proven to be dangerous to human health.

Also, after in 2015, President Obama implemented a new bill known as the DARK Act—*Denying Americans the Right to Know*. Which denies Americans the right to know what is in their food products and prohibits manufacturers and corporations such as Monsanto from labeling them as such GMO foods *(Food& Water Watch, 2016)*. Luckily it was defeated sometime after and manufactures are now required to label food product*s (Just Label It, 2016)*.

There have been way too many negative effects and claims to see any of these actions as a benefit for the people of America or the world. These actions are seemingly based on corporate favoritism and Association.

We have every right to know what it is that we are consuming. We have every right to know what it is we are putting in our bodies. We have every right to know if a plant was grown with some harmful toxic chemicals that can cause cancer or any number of autoimmune diseases. We have a right to our own health and prudence. Labels are a necessary step to accomplish this.

**Do you see GMOs affecting the world today?**

In regard to the final statement of the question yes, I do see GMOs as having a diverse negative effect on the world. It would seem that corporate interests are using Food Supplies for exploitation in control for their own self-interest and financial gains. Without regard to the well-being of innocent people to know if something could possibly harm them or not.

It is sad that the seemly lust for bottom lines and in business outweighs the common good. I am sure if the damage being portrayed was used to maybe enhance crops and make people healthier and smarter, we would have more to gain by using GMOs. I see no reason why this could not be accomplished if the opposite holds true?

I do not believe conspiratorial information; I always research and validate citations and sources of information to dissuade from fear. It would seem unfortunately these are the facts that I have come to acquire.

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