

Thème 2 – Enjeux planétaires contemporains
2-B – La plante domestiquée

GM food: a controversial issue?

Compare the two documents and justify the title 'GM food: a controversial issue?'

Document 1: An Overview of the Safety and the advantages of GM Foods

Like you, Monsanto employees care about the food we buy at the store and feed to ourselves and our loved ones, and we are committed to developing products that contribute to safe and nutritious food choices. We place the highest priority on the safety of our products and conduct rigorous and comprehensive testing on each. In fact, seeds* with GM traits have been tested more than any other crops in the history of agriculture – with no evidence of harm to humans or animals. In addition, governmental regulatory agencies, scientific organizations and leading health associations worldwide agree on the safety of GM crops. In fact, GM crops have been reviewed and tested more than any other crops in the history of agriculture and have been shown to be as safe as conventional crops. Since their safety was first demonstrated and farmers began growing GMO crops, there has not been one substantiated instance of illness associated with GMO crops.

From <http://www.monsanto.com>; Monsanto Company is a leading producer of genetically engineered seed and of the herbicide glyphosate, which it markets under the Roundup brand.

*seed: graine

Document 2: Monsanto's GMO Crops Ravage US

Monsanto's genetically modified corn, which has been hailed as the answer to many farmers' prayers, has actually been creating resistant superbugs for years. The genetically modified crop known as Bt corn has been altered to produce its own toxin, a pesticide which was implemented into the crop to kill off rootworms before they have a chance to ruin the crop. However the truth of the matter is that this hybrid crop, taking up 65 percent of all U.S. corn production, has been shown to cause a resistance in insects, rendering the crop useless. The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) has discovered that the resistant rootworms, which are evolving to resist the insecticide, are currently found in Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota and Nebraska. At least 8 populations of insects have developed resistance, with 2 populations resistant to Bt sprays and at least 6 species resistant to Bt crops as a whole. But this is creating a vicious cycle very similar to how humans have become resistant to antibiotics, calling for stronger drugs. As a solution to the Bt resistance, biotech scientists are now creating even stronger genetically modified Bt as farmers use even more pesticides to combat the resistant bugs.

From <http://naturalsociety.co>, by Mike Barrett. January 2nd, 2012. Mike is the co-founder, editor, and researcher behind Natural Society.