

GMO, Failed Promises; Flawed Science: A Serious Health and Safety Issue

Opinions touting the benefits of genetically modified food need correcting. There is nothing in biotechnology that has increased the intrinsic yield potential of any crop. Instead, there is a consistent yield reduction when the integrity of the normal genetics is disrupted by genetic engineering. Yield and quality factors are complex genetics accomplished by traditional breeding and are not amenable to 'silver bullet' tinkering. Genetic engineering is more like a virus infection than a normal breeding process, and "substantially equivalent" is a myth.

Rather than encouraging independent research on genetically modified organisms (GMO) safety or performance, the companies (such as Monsanto and other GMO seed producing) have denied access to the seed for research, forbidden publication of data, and threatened legal action if negative data are disclosed. The indiscriminate use of glyphosate and GMO crops are precipitating a major chronic health and environmental crisis. Rather than the way to feed the world, current genetic engineering is a disaster in the making and is not a sustainable strategy!

The benefits claimed for GMOs are failed promises. It is well documented that GMO crops have reduced root growth, lower nutrient density, increased disease, greater stress susceptibility and the need for more pesticides than "conventional" crops. The abundance of weeds and insects resistant to GMO plants, or the chemicals they were engineered to tolerate, complicate our ability to control these pests. Because of this, GMOs should be characterized as toxic chemical accumulating and pesticide containing foods.

Contrary to the common claim of safety, a large volume of peer-reviewed scientific information shows that genetically engineered (GE) products and the Roundup® herbicide that 85 % of GE plants were engineered to tolerate, are chronically toxic to human and animal tissues. They lead to cancer, premature death, kidney and liver failure, and blood disorders. There are NO peer-reviewed scientific studies that show that GMO crops, or the chemicals they are engineered to tolerate or produce, are safe for human or animal consumption.

Medical data indicates that millions of children and adults are suffering from consuming the chronically toxic GMO products or the glyphosate (Roundup®) these plants accumulate. Massachusetts Institute of Technology scientists have documented the biochemical disruption caused by genetic engineering and concluded that glyphosate (Roundup®) is the most chronically toxic chemical in our environment. Ninety-three percent of women tested had the GMO Bt toxin in their blood, and 70% passed this toxic pesticide to their developing child in the womb. The person then, in effect, becomes their own pesticide factory.

As a patented powerful antibiotic, the herbicide glyphosate is toxic to microorganisms in the soil and GI tract of humans and animals that are essential for mineral absorption, vitamin production, tryptophan synthesis in autism, and defense against pathogens such as *E. coli*, *Salmonella*, and *Clostridium*. The increase of 'gut related' diseases such as Alzheimer's, autism, birth defects, breast cancer, celiac, chronic fatigue, end stage kidney failure, infertility, irritable bowel, leaky gut, Parkinson's, peritonitis, rheumatoid arthritis, and many others are directly correlated with GMO proteins and glyphosate residues in food and feed products.

The indiscriminate use of glyphosate and GMO crops is precipitating a major chronic health and environmental crisis. Drift from spraying glyphosate on GMO crops increased birth defects, reproductive failure and cancer in adjacent towns up to 450 % in Argentina. Other studies show that as little as 0.1 part per billion Roundup® in drinking water increased breast cancer, kidney failure, liver failure, endocrine hormone disruption and cytotoxicity to cells and tissues.

Rather than fewer pesticide applications, there has been a many fold increase in pesticide use with GMO crops. Much of this increased pesticide accumulates in food and feed products. EPA has approved

residue limits 4,000 times higher than previously permitted – all without any safety evaluation! The USDA, EPA, and FDA have NO independent testing on safety, and rely solely on statements of the companies that the higher levels are safe.

Ninety percent of the people in the U.S. want GMO labeling; however, it is much more than a ‘right to know’ issue! GMOs are a serious chronic health and safety threat to all humans and to our environment. Future historians may well look back upon our time and write, not about how many pounds of pesticides we did or did not apply, but about how willing we are to sacrifice our children and jeopardize future generations for this massive experiment we call genetic engineering that is based on failed promises and flawed science, just to benefit the bottom line of a commercial enterprise.

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Some suggested reading

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