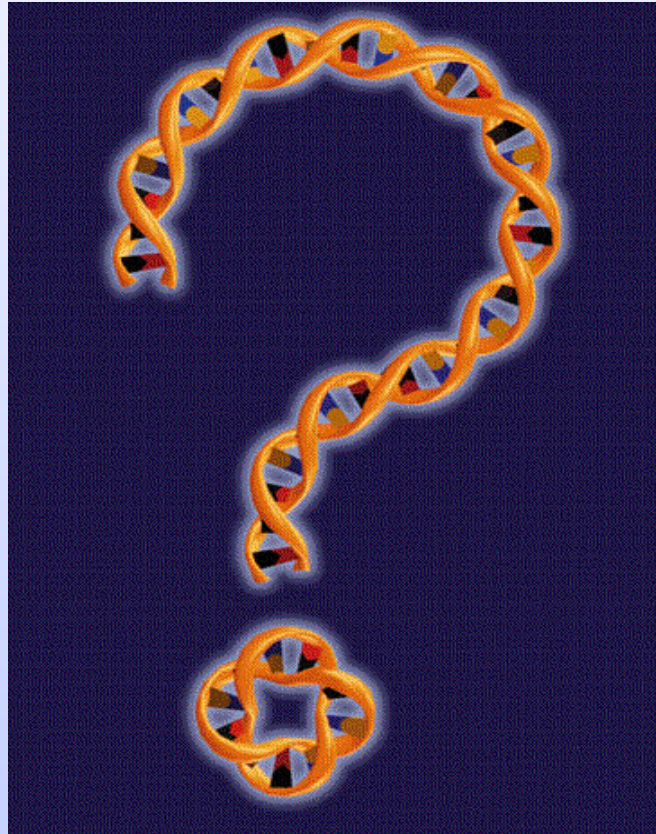


GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

The view of a consumer organisation - the British case





Sue Davies - Principal Policy Adviser



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Where are we now?

GM food and feed:

-  Labelling and traceability/ GM food and feed legislation
-  Moratorium
-  Possibility of US challenge to WTO
-  GM animals - US salmon application

UK developments: commercial growing in 2004?

- Ω Decision Autumn 2003
- Ω Farm scale evaluations
- Ω Review of the costs and benefits of GM crops
- Ω Review of the science
- Ω Public debate

Latest CA survey results

(Omnibus survey May 02)

- Ω Most consumers (84%) were aware of GM
- Ω But only just over a third realised that there were GM crops on sale in the UK
- Ω 57% had concerns about the use of GM in food production

Latest CA survey results

- Ω The top concerns were:
 - 👉 lack of information/not knowing enough about it
 - 👉 we should not tamper/mess with nature
 - 👉 not enough research has been done
- Ω 64% were concerned that they could still be unknowingly eating GM ingredients
- Ω 50% thought that there could be benefits to food production from GM

Who would benefit the most?

↳	Companies developing GM	24%
↳	Food manufacturers	18%
↳	Farmers	13%
↳	Developing countries	11%
↳	Food retailers	10%
↳	The government	7%
↳	Scientists	5%
↳	Consumers	5%
↳	Don't know	6%
↳	None of these	1%

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Potential benefits?

Ω	Food production	50%
Ω	Producing medicines	63%
Ω	Other health treatments	57%
Ω	Crops/ plants for non-food uses	52%

Benefits to food production

⌚	Higher yield (produce more food)	43%
⌚	Food that lasted longer	21%
⌚	Benefits to developing countries	21%
⌚	Cheaper food	16%
⌚	Less chemicals used	15%
⌚	Less contamination with bacteria	15%
⌚	Improved flavour	14%
⌚	Lower levels of harmful chemicals	11%
⌚	Higher vitamin content	10%
⌚	Resistance to disease and pests	4%
⌚	Better quality	3%
⌚	More variety/ choice	1%
⌚	Other	3%
⌚	Don't know	12%

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Commercial growing

- Ω Only 32% were in favour of growing GM crops commercially in the UK at the present time
- Ω Of these, 29% thought that they should be grown in the future

Acceptability of foods from...

Ω	GM plant	32%
Ω	GM bacteria (eg. vitamins)	30%
Ω	GM yeast (eg. bread or beer)	30%
Ω	GM fish	13%
Ω	GM animals	11%
Ω	Don't know	13%
Ω	None of these	35%

Reasons for not growing commercially at the moment

⌚	Lack of information	40%
⌚	Food safety	26%
⌚	Environmental impact	26%
⌚	Long-term consequences for health	26%
⌚	Ethical/ unnatural	15%
⌚	Concern about effects on organic production	15%
⌚	Domination by multi-nationals	7%
⌚	Lack of choice	5%
⌚	Not enough research/ testing	4%

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Labelling

- Ω 94% thought foods containing GM ingredients should be labelled
- Ω 87% thought that foods containing ingredients from a GM source (i.e. GM derivatives) should be labelled even if no longer detectable in the product






Next steps

-  No further GM products and no planting until:
-  an effective public debate
 -  consideration of consumer concerns as part of approval process
 -  open, transparent and inclusive decision-making
 -  mechanisms for long-term monitoring
 -  more independent research
 -  better methods for identifying unintended effects
 -  full traceability
 -  full labelling of GM derivatives and alternatives to GM ensured

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The public debate

 The UK public debate must:

-  address consumer concerns
-  determine whether any products could be developed which consumers would find beneficial
-  find out how consumers feel about products being developed now (including animals and fish)
-  help understand the limits of consumer acceptability
-  determine consumer attitudes towards growing of GM crops now and in the future

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The approval process

- ⚠ Supplement approval process with techniques to help detect unintended changes
- ⚠ Extend to processing aids (eg. enzymes)
- ⚠ Consider the implications of GM fish and animals
- ⚠ Include long-term monitoring of health as well as environmental effects
- ⚠ Consider broader impact (not just 'case-by-case')
- ⚠ Guidance on traceability

The approval process

- Ω Open, transparent European Food Safety Authority which puts consumers first
 - 👉 appointment of consumer reps to committee/ panels
 - 👉 publication of agendas, papers, minutes
 - 👉 open meetings
- Ω Risks and benefits need to be explicitly considered
- Ω Broader public consultation/ consumer involvement

Labelling and choice

- Ω Fully support proposals to include derivatives
- Ω Enforcement
- Ω Alternatives
 - 👉 thresholds?
 - 👉 co-existence?

International standards

- ⚠ Common approaches essential for consumer protection - labelling and safety assessment
- ⚠ Need for sharing of information about developments and those in the pipeline
- ⚠ Need for common approaches to traceability
- ⚠ Long-term monitoring - risks and benefits

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