

244 reasons why GMOs are safe: Global science organizations endorse crop biotech

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis.

Currently there is a social and political controversy about the safety of foods produced from genetically modified (GM) crops, however, in the scientific community there is no dispute or controversy regarding the safety of GM crops. To date, more than [2000 scientific studies](#) have assessed the safety of these crops in terms of human health and environmental impact. These studies together with several reviews performed on a case by case from regulatory agencies around the world, have enabled a solid and clear scientific consensus: GM crops have no more risk than those that have been developed by conventional breeding techniques.

This document brings together the public statements of organizations and scientific institutions that adhere to this consensus. I made an update based on this [document](#) from [ChileBio](#) that include 40 official documents representing about 190 institutions.

After categorizing the different institutions from Africa (14), Asia (4), Europe (59), Latin America (8), North America (22), Oceania (7) and internationals (11), a total of 125 institutions was obtained. If we add the 101 academies and 27 scientific unions that signed the document of the International Council for Science (ICSU), we get a figure of 253 institutions.

However, in the current 121 national scientific institutions that are members of ICSU, 13 already appear on the categorization by continents and these academies were members of ICSU before the document was signed in 2003. If we subtract these 13, we get a figure of 240 institutions.

But the European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC) is composed by 29 members, and 25 already on our list. So we must add the 4 remaining institutions .

In conclusion, 244 institutions and organizations recognize that GM crops are not riskier than those produced by conventional breeding.

Note: The Genetic Literacy Project has composed an infographic quoting many of the major independent science organizations, found [here](#), and reproduced below:

INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE ORGANIZATIONS ON CROP BIOTECHNOLOGY SAFETY



1

THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (Chicago)

"There is no scientific justification for special labeling of genetically modified foods. Bioengineered foods have been consumed for close to 20 years, and during that time, no overt consequences on human health have been reported and/or substantiated in the peer-reviewed literature."

2

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE (Washington, D.C.)

"The science is quite clear: crop improvement by the modern molecular techniques of biotechnology is safe."

3

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (Washington, D.C.)

"To date more than 98 million acres of genetically modified crops have been grown worldwide. No evidence of human health problems associated with the ingestion of these crops or resulting food products have been identified."

4

FOOD STANDARDS AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND (Australia & New Zealand)

"Gene technology has not been shown to introduce any new or altered hazards into the food supply, therefore the potential for long term risks associated with GM foods is considered to be no different to that for conventional foods already in the food supply."

5

THE FRENCH ACADEMY OF SCIENCE (France)

"All criticisms against GMOs can be largely rejected on strictly scientific criteria."

6

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE (United Kingdom)

"Foods derived from GM crops have been consumed by hundreds of millions of people across the world for more than 15 years, with no reported ill effects (or legal cases related to human health), despite many of the consumers coming from that most litigious of countries, the USA."

7

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION (Belgium)

"The main conclusion to be drawn from the efforts of more than 130 research projects, covering a period of more than 25 years of research, and involving more than 500 independent research groups, is that biotechnology, and in particular GMOs, are no more risky than conventional plant breeding technologies."

8

THE UNION OF GERMAN ACADEMICS OF SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES (Germany)

"In consuming food derived from GM plants approved in the EU and in the USA, the risk is in no way higher than in the consumption of food from conventionally grown plants. On the contrary, in some cases food from GM plants appears to be superior in respect to health."

9

SEVEN OF THE WORLD'S ACADEMIES OF SCIENCES (Brazil, China, India, Mexico, the Third World Academy of Sciences, the Royal Society, and the National Academy of Sciences of the U.S.)

"Foods can be produced through the use of GM technology that are more nutritious, stable in storage and in principle, health promoting—bringing benefits to consumers in both industrialized and developing nations."

10

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (Switzerland)

"No effects on human health have been shown as a result of the consumption of GM foods by the general population in the countries where they have been approved."



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Read full, original post: [More than 240 organizations and scientific institutions support the safety of GM crops](#)