

Philippine's GMO media coverage has moved from fear to science, study finds

The Philippine media developed a matured editorial position over 17 years of modern biotechnology reporting, according to the new publication of ISAAA titled *From Frankenfood to Light of Hope: 17 Years of Agri-biotech Reporting in the Philippines (2000-2016)*. The publication is based on a study conducted by ISAAA and SEARCA Biotechnology Information Center published in the April 2017 issue of *Philippine Journal of Crop Science*.

The initial 10-year study (2000-2009) authored by Dr. Mariechel Navarro and colleagues showed that majority of the reports from the top newspapers, *Manila Bulletin*, *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, and *Philippine Star* were about the development and [commercialization](#) of [biotech corn](#) in the [Philippines](#). The coverage was high in terms of the number of articles, but sensationalism and speculations were evident, since a biotech crop was just introduced and commercialized in the country. Negative metaphors such as “frankenfood” and “poison” were commonly used in the initial years of reporting. The follow-up study (2010-2016) conducted by Kristine Grace Tome, Dr. Navarro, and colleagues showed that the use of fear metaphors declined, and an increasing effort to present science-based information became more evident in the succeeding years. More positive metaphors such as “new hope”, “answer to farmers’ dreams”, and “light of hope” were used in the articles depicting favorable potential or promise of the technology.

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Download the publication from the ISAAA website [here](#).

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion, and analysis. Read full, original post: [Study analyzes 17 years of modern biotech news reporting in the Philippines](#)