

Molecular biologist Nina Fedoroff: Despite opposition, GMOs adopted faster than any crops in human history

Despite the controversy surrounding it, genetically modified organisms (GMOs) used for food can play a big role in meeting the world's future food security needs, with scientific studies thus far showing that genetically modified foods pose no harm to humans, said a distinguished researcher in Abu Dhabi....

Held at New York University Abu Dhabi, the talk was given by Nina Fedoroff, a molecular biologist who has served as science adviser under former US secretaries of state, Condoleezza Rice and Hillary Clinton. During her talk, Fedoroff acknowledged that a public mistrust towards GMO foods existed, but pointed out that the use of GMOs was growing around the world.

"Genetically modified (GM) crops have been adopted by farmers faster than any crops in the history of humanity, [and] they've had a significant impact both economically and environmentally," she said.

"GM crops were grown by roughly 18 million farmers in 26 countries on 457 million acres [of land in 2016]," she added, highlighting an official study that was carried out by the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications.

"More than 90 per cent of the farmers growing [GM foods] are resource-poor farmers in developing countries, [and] the overall profits were roughly equally divided between the developed and the developing world. So it's not a simple case that this only benefits big farmers," she said, highlighting how farmers were also benefiting.

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