

Video: What are GMO crops—and are they natural? Pioneering plant scientist Mary-Dell Chilton explains

I write about GMOs on a somewhat regular basis, but sometimes it's a topic worth revisiting on a very basic explanation. In short, "GMO" stands for genetically modified organism. The interesting thing about this is that everything we eat has been genetically modified in some way.

[Editor's note: Michelle Miller is an Iowa-based farmer, public speaker, and writer.]

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"Every technique that scientists use in the lab to move DNA within or between organisms, and the enzymes we use to do that, are things that we have discovered in nature and figured out how they work," [said Val Giddings](#), with the Information Technology & Innovation Foundation.

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Back in the 1980s, Syngenta scientist [Mary-Dell Chilton](#) was one of the first people to develop one of these modern types of GMOs, and she explains the process here in a video interview....Chilton is often referred to as the "Mother of Genetic Modification," and she has explained how switching genes between species is somewhat of a pretty natural process.

Read full, original article: [Farming, food, and function: What is a GMO?](#)