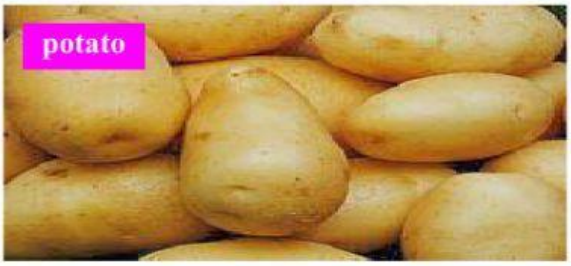
GM Food



What is genetically modified food?
It is food containing ingredients that come from genetically modified crops. That means, scientists transfer genes from another plant or animal to the species that they want to modify.
Genetic modification intends to increase the resistance Of plants against insect, fungal, and viral pests. One of the main goals is to reduce the need for pesticides.

What are the benefits?
The benefits are uncertain. Defenders of GM say that improves crop characteristics (yield, pest resistance, herbicide tolerance) and reduces prices.

What are the risks?
The risks are not well defined. People do not know for sure the long-term effects of GM on human health and on the environment. There is also the possibility of increasing control of agriculture by biotechnology corporations.
The food and Agriculture Organization – FAO,
states that we have to use GM as a tool to combat hunger and malnutrition.
FAO also defends the need to take precautions to protect human health and the environment.

Sources:
The economist, 1999
Scope.educ.washington.edu
www.earthtimes.org

Reading and comprehension

Scan the text and check the correct alternative according to the text:

1. The initials GM that appear in the text mean:
a. General Motors
b. genetically maintained
c. genetically modified

2. The initials FAO stand for:
a. Food and Agriculture Organization
b. First Analytical Order
c. For and Against Organization

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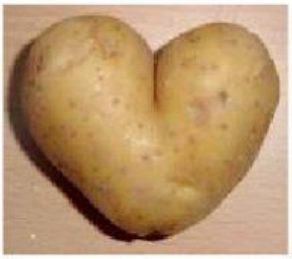
3. Scientists:
a. modify the plants using gene transfer.
b. Use plant genes to modify other plants and animals.
c. Use food ingredients to modify plants.



4. Crop characteristics:
a. corn, cotton, canola
b. yield and pest resistance
c. human health and the environment

5. Risks of genetic modification:
a. biotechnology corporations
b. environmental effects
c. herbicide tolerance

6. The last paragraph shows that:
a. FAO has no doubt about GM food.
b. There is no controversy about the subject.
c. FAO has doubts about the subject, too.

7. Answer the questions.
a. What is GM food? _____

b. Are scientists sure about the risks and benefits of GM groups?_____
_____.

c. What does FAO defend?_____

8. The word well-defined is in the text. Sometimes we use two words to form another word. Complete the sentences below with the words given.
Well-intentioned well-known well-being well-defined well-done

1. Guga is a _____brazilian tennis player.
2. I want my steak_____, Please.
3. Your mother is worried about your_____.
4. Sandra is immature, but she is a _____girl.
5. I only start a project when it is _____.

9. Find the opposites of words in bold.

Attack **protect** **increases** **risks** **short-term**

1. Genetic modification **reduces** prices of food. _____
2. The **benefits** of GM are uncertain. _____
3. We have to protect human health and the environment _____
4. Scientists try to **combat** viral pests. _____
5. Agriculture organizations are studying the **long term** _____
Effects of pesticides.

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