

Abstract: Labeling of Genetically Modified Organisms

Advancements in transgenic technologies have led to the widespread use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Recent criticism of the use of GMOs due to health hazards has brought attention to whether or not these items should be mandatorily labeled. Due to the controversy regarding the safety of consuming GMOs, the public has differing views on labeling GMOs.

This study explored how accurately the public's opinions regarding the labeling of GMOs are reflected in the United States' biotechnological and agricultural policies. A qualitative analysis of eight primary sources was conducted, half were surveys and the other half were documents from the United States government. The surveys consisted of national samples questioning the public on their opinions on various aspects of GMOs, such as whether they should be mandatorily labeled and what information should be included on the label. The government documents were bills in regards to regulations on GMOs as well as regulations published by the Food and Drug Administration.

Research conducted thus far pertaining to the survey portion of the content analysis concluded that the public wishes for GMOs to be explicitly labeled. However, the United States' federal policies consider the labeling of GMOs to be on a voluntary basis and do not require any specification of whether a food item has previously been genetically modified. An analysis of these results is still ongoing. The results of this research study will be significant because it will reveal the differences between the policies currently in place for GMO Labeling and what the nation's citizens would want. The results could be a call to action to alter the policies in place so that they exhibit the public's opinion to the greatest potential.