The History of Genetically Modified Food

Wu, F., & Butz, W. P. (2004). *Future of Genetically Modified Crops: Lessons from the Green Revolution*. Santa Monica, CA: Rand Corporation

Agricultural is not one of the latest innovation to human technology; it has been around for thousands of years. For centuries, humans have been tinkering with agriculture in order to understand its genetic structure and how to help it grow quicker, bigger, and healthier. “By harnessing sunlight, soil nutrients, and water toward satisfying their wants and needs, human beings for much of their history have made more productive use of agriculture than they ever could have derived from hunting and gathering” (Wu & Butz, 2004 p1).

Genetically Modified (GM) crops can be defined as crops “produced through modern biotechnology that enables genes to be transferred across different species and even across different plant kingdoms, to introduce desired traits into a host plant (Wu & Butz, 2004 p4). In order words, GM food is when genes are transferred from one organism into another through the use of technology. The basic foundation for developing food based on altered genes was to increased level of crop protection; so that, they can become resistance against plant diseases caused by insects or viruses or trough increased tolerance for pesticides. Beside to improve protection, genetically modified food was produce by the idea of lower price and greater benefit like: durability or nutritional value (Fedoroff & Brown, 2004).

Indeed, traditional foods which have been eaten for thousands of years may be considered safer. However, national authorities believe that precise measurements are necessary for GM foods.

