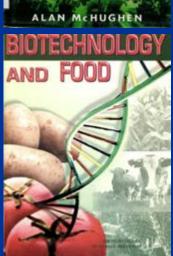


The Potential and Hazards of Genetically Modified Foods

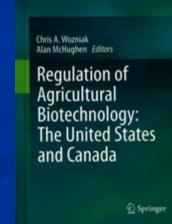


# GMO Backgrounder What does the science say?



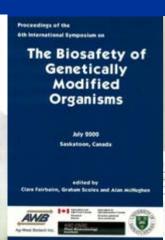


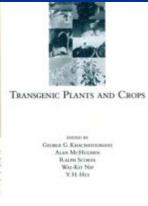
Alan McHughen University of California, Riverside, Ca. 92521 alanmc@ucr.edu

















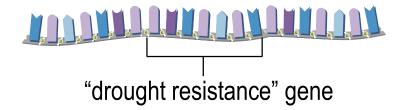


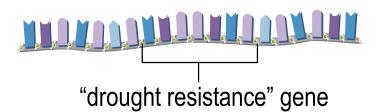
#### **Drought Resistant Plant**



#### **Normal Corn**







# What IS a GMO? Differences in GM Definition

- <u>■ EU</u> (EFSA):
  - Captures based on *Process* of rDNA (genetic engineering) plus other "in vitro" techniques
  - Derived cultivars (combining GE events) are captured
- <u>USA</u> (FDA, USDA, EPA):
  - Captures based on *Process* of rDNA
  - Derived cultivars (of approved events) are exempt
- Canada (CFIA, Health Canada):
  - Captures based on "Novelty" of the *Product* (PNT).

## Scientific Consensus on Safety?

- Generally positive
- \* US National Academies
- \* US Institute of Medicine
- \* American Medical Association
- \* British Royal Society
- \* Royal Society of Medicine
- \* EFSA
- \* EU Economic Commission
- \* World Health Organization
- \* AAAS
- \* American Dietetic Association
- \* International Seed Foundation

Etc, etc...

Generally negative



## Sodium free?



#### Diet Water?



#### "Truthful and not misleading"?



# Extreme Genetic Engineering?



#### When Grape-Nuts went GMO-free



## Mandatory Process-based Labels

- Manufacturers reformulate to rid GE content
  - *E.g.*, Cheerios, Grape Nuts
- Remove products from shelves
  - GM tomato paste in UK
- Label everything "May contain GMO"
- Paradox: some foods have labels, but no GM content; others have GM content but no label
- Liability insurance drives up costs to all
  - Especially non-GE foods
  - Liability for mistaken non-label is large.

#### Points to Ponder

- Non-standard definition/regulation of GMO
  - Impacts on Trade
  - Regulatory uncertainty:
    - Insulin? Vitamins? Cheese? Cisgenic? New techniques?
- Mandatory *Process-based* labeling
  - Undermines current product + safety based labels
  - Opens door to mandatory labels for other processes
    - Radiation mutagenesis, Pesticides, Organic, Union-made, etc.
  - Increase costs of all foods (not just GE)
  - Probably won't satisfy \*anyone\*
  - Not the best way to convey info to consumers.