

GMOs or not GMOs?

An ethical and scientific question.

GMOs is the acronym that since the year when it was coined, has always inspired skepticism and has spread fear all over the world. This is due to an approach to something unknown, a totally different reality from the one we normally live. But today the GMOs shouldn't scare anyone, considered that currently the GMOs consumption is extremely diffused in the world: just consider the soy whose 51% of production derives from GMOs crops.

To better understand the gap between the ones who are "pro GMOs" and "the ones against", it is necessary to know something about the story of this organisms. The first GMO (Organism Genetically Modified) was born at the university of Stanford thanks to the experiments of two researchers, Stanley Norman Cohen and Herbert Boyer, in 1973.



That year marked a great revolution in the world of the biotechnologies. In fact, thanks to the combined use of different enzymes and of the recombinant Dna, they were able to get some changes on the genetic patrimony of a frog cloning a gene inside an Escherichia Coli bacterium. In 1973, this experiment only represented a far possibility of a technological evolution of this new discovery.

Today, instead, is completely different and, in fact the GMOs production covers also the food industry. So, now the matter is: can GMOs be considered safe food for a living organism? Furthermore, is it right, from an ethical viewpoint, to use GMOs in the attempt to improve people's lives or to create super-vaccine against illnesses? From a scientific point of view, GMOs should be a steady form of technology, but we actually ignore so many things about this innovation which is even increased by misinformation by media. In conclusion, we cannot answer this question and we can only wait for future developments.