Stop the use of Genetic Engineering to “Improve” Our Food

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Genetic Engineering (GE) is used to add one or more new traits to an organism by cloning a strand of DNA from another life force and manually adding it. Once the desirable trait is inserted, the recipient has the ability to express that same trait. For instance, the majority of GE crops are modified to be immune to the pesticides and/or herbicides that are sprayed to make the rest of the plants in that area die. The problem with this system is that, when a DNA strand interacts with a new organism, it can have unwanted, and potentially dangerous, effects.

For one, these combinations of cells can create new allergies that, of course, the receiver would not be aware of or know how to treat. Besides that, if genes of well known allergens, such as nuts, were inserted into other foods, it could cause severe reactions in people with a nut sensitivity.

Gene mutations, in both GE plants and animals, are also a concern. Because each mix of DNA is a new phenomenon, there isn't much research on the mingling of those specific genes together. This “tweaking” could potentially destabilize the organism and effect it for generations. As with a group of experimental salmon, who were injected with a large amount of growth hormones to develop twice as fast. They spawned a generation of “super fish” that, in turn, affected the whole Atlantic salmon species. Eventually, scientists realized that gene pollution cannot be cleaned up. Once released into the environment, genetic infection cannot be isolated and separated from its surroundings. So genetically modifying one organism could potentially harm, not only that species, but the whole ecosystem.

On the other hand, the use of GE has expanded our food production to a surplus. Without it, our crops would wither or be eaten by animals while still in the fields, our meat sources would be much smaller, and we would not be able to partake in international sales because the food being transported would not be fresh enough to eat. But this forced immunity works both ways. GE food has become

resistant to antibiotics that eliminate disease-causing bacteria. So by extending our food's life, we are also exposing ourselves to foreign viruses.

Finally, genetic modification can change the nutritional value of food. Many times, when an organism is injected with a new strand of DNA, a common example is the trait of maintaining freshness, the overall nourishment that object can provide eventually fades. Instead of getting the full impact of a whole food, we get a marred version, thanks to the extra components now living in the organism's cells. In fact, scientists believe that some "combinations" aren't even safe to consume. For instance, many pig product producers insert genes from jellyfish to create thicker, chewier flesh. The concern is that jellyfish can be highly poisonous to humans. GE foods have been linked to the development of many different kinds of cancers, birth defects, and miscarriages in the US.

Overall, genetic engineering in our food products is causing more harm than good. Our country is one of the only developed nations still selling GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms) commercially. But you don't have to be silent and wait for this issue to be dealt with while your body suffers. Let's remove the use of dangerous, untested, cancer causing, GE products in our society. Sign here to start the movement.

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