

## An Image Article on Genetically Modified Foods

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### DESCRIPTION

Genetic Modification (GM) is the area of biotechnology which alters the genetic material in living organisms by inserting a gene from an external source, enabling them to perform specific functions. Genetic engineering gives a way to bring qualities into plants by means of systems that are diverse in certain regards from old style breeding techniques [2]. It has enhanced food production by making plants less vulnerable to drought, frost, insects, and viruses and by empowering plants to contend all the more adequately

against weeds for soil nutrients [2]. One such use of genetic engineering in agriculture is the modification of corn to express insecticidal proteins produced by the common soil bacterium, *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), which are effective against certain insect pests but are harmless to humans, mammals and birds [3]. However, they are also some debates concerning the potential adverse effects of GM foods on human health and environmental safety. Health risks include antibiotic resistance, allergic reactions, nutritional changes and the formation of toxins [4].



Figure 1: Showing genetically modified foods [1].

### REFERENCES

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