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ERASMUS K2 « PASSPORT TO THE FUTURE »

New Technologies in Medicine and Science

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GENETICALLY
MODIFIED FOOD
AND MUCH MORE

WHAT IS IT ?



A genetically modified organism is an organism that has its genetic heritage (DNA) artificially modified.

The technique of selective breeding allows the addition, the deletion or the modification of genetic elements both in plants and in animals.







WHY ?

They are more resistant to insects, viruses and plant diseases and more tolerant of herbicides. You can produce plantations that require fewer chemicals and pesticides or a reduced amount of water.

WHY NOT ?

One of the risks of GMO is that non modified species could disappear because the modified ones have a selective advantage. This may result in a loss of biodiversity as the natural species will gradually die out.



POSITIVE E NEGATIVE ASPECTS

- **Better quality and taste of food**
- **Fewer animal health problems**
- **More efficient food production**
- **Food with more antioxidants to prevent cancer and other diseases**



- **Environmental risks**
- **Collateral damages**
- **Sick animals**



GMO IN EUROPE

GMOs are not produced in Europe, with limited exceptions decided by the Member States: this is the case, for example, of Spain and Portugal, the only countries that have authorized limited modified crops in the field. For the rest, research is only allowed in the laboratory.

Genetically modified humans

- Genetic engineering moves into human applications, even though implantation of a genetically modified human embryo is illegal in most countries.
- However, genetically modifying human embryos for research purposes are permitted, even though such experiments remain ineligible for public funding.
- After a scientist named He Jiankui announced on Monday that twins had been born in November with a gene that he had edited when they were embryos, there has been a debate on the pros and cons of this topic.
- Rewriting the human genome implies rewriting human rights law

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION

