

Background: COUNTRIES GROWING GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS VS COUNTRIES WHERE GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS ARE BANNED.

WHAT ARE GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS?

Genetically Modified (GM) foods are foods derived from organisms modified through genetic engineering. In other words, GM foods have had specific changes introduced into their DNA by genetic engineering in order to produce foods with a specific characteristic.

THEY DON'T SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF HUNGRY IN THE WORLD

According to Greenpeace, it is a matter of unfairness both in the distribution and in the access to the foods. It is also a matter of culture and human rights.

Some of the food exporting and importing countries are those with a significant rate of extreme poverty and hunger.

For instance, Argentina

Second producing and exporting country of soybean in the world.

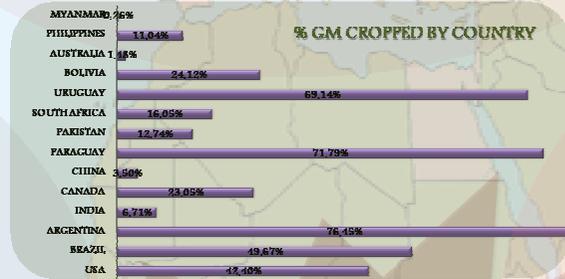
1/2 of its population live in poverty.

ADVANTAGES OF GM FOODS

- ✓ Nutrition improvement
- ✓ Greater crops productivity
- ✓ Fresher foods
- ✓ Herbicide resistant crops
- ✓ Increase in the crops productivity
- ✓ Reduction in agricultural cost
- ✓ Preserving natural biodiversity
- ✓ Drought and stress tolerant crops

HOW HAS THE PRODUCTION INCREASED?

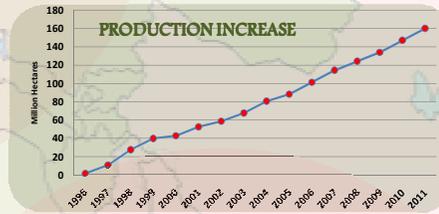
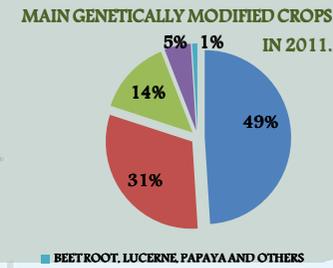
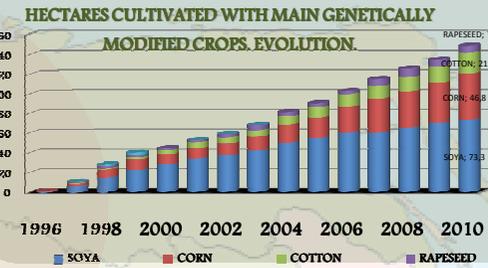
China was the first country to grow a commercial genetically modified crop—transgenic tobacco in 1992. In 1994, the transgenic Flavr Savr tomato was grown genetically engineered for human consumption. In 1995, 200,000 hectares of genetically modified food were grown. In 1996, the number increased to 1,7 millions hectares. Since then, it has not stopped increasing.



ARE GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS HELPFUL?

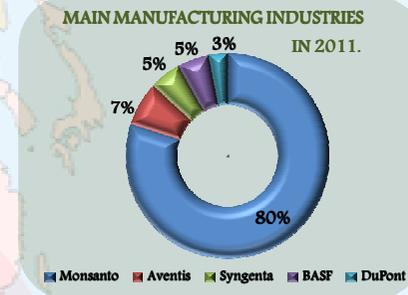
CONCLUSION

It is a fact that GM crops are more productive and cost-effective. However, they are not the solution to the world hungry. From an economic point of view, it is the manufacturing industries the ones that benefit from these crops. It can be claimed that the production of GM crops will continue to increase in the next few years, which will enlarge the economic and social differences among people as the world is ruled by capitalism and not by the concepts of justice and equality.



COUNTRIES WHERE GM FOODS ARE BANNED:

- ✓ Ten countries in the EU have banned the planting of GM foods: France, Germany, Austria, Greece, Luxembourg, Ireland, Poland, Hungary, Italy and Bulgaria.
- ✓ Spain is the only European country where the planting of GM foods is allowed.



DISADVANTAGES OF GM FOODS

- ✓ New toxins and allergens in food—potential risk of allergy.
- ✓ Dissemination of antibiotic resistance genes—reduced effectiveness of certain medicines.
- ✓ Dissemination of diseases across the species barriers.
- ✓ Herbicide—resistance weeds which have been genetically engineered could invade the fields, thus substituting the less competitive traditional plants.
- ✓ Biodiversity loss—Biological Balance Disruption.
- ✓ Increase in the use of chemical products on plants—increase in the levels of water and foods pollution.
- ✓ Transfer to the future generations of artificially induced characteristics with inevitable imperfections.