

World Science Festival

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Is Genetically Modified Food Safe?



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2011.01.11 **Life** **biotechnology** **food** **GMO** **pesticides**

About This Video

The first ever commercially grown, genetically modified food was the Flavr Savr Tomato, produced over 15 years ago. Production of the tomato stopped after only about 3 years because of competition with the Long Shelf-Life Tomato. Since then, the only GM foods grown in the US other than staples (soybeans, corn, and cotton for cottonseed oil) are papaya and squash. This is partly due the general publics reticence to embrace GM technology—a sentiment that, when examined, is based on little evidence of actual risk. But beyond the knee-jerk fear mongering, is there any reason to worry about the effects of more widespread consumption of GM food? Food experts Louise Fresco and Pamela Ronald help to tease apart truth from myth in the oft-misunderstood biotechnological food revolution.

Image courtesy of [James King](#)

Featuring

- Louise O. Fresco**
International Food & Agriculture Specialist
- Pamela Ronald**
Plant Pathologist

Watch The Full Program

- Food 2.0: Feeding a Hungry World
[Pamela Ronald, Louise O. Fresco, Bill Blakemore, Monty P. Jones](#)
Can we bridge the ideological divide over genetically modified foods that separates scientists and environmentalists? What role does eating and farming locally play in the next green revolution?

Related Shorts

- Food Is Everything
- The Future of Food
- The Great Success and Tragedy of Agriculture

Further Reading

[The Economist](#) debates agricultural biotechnology, specifically GMOs

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