

# Consumer perception about the adoption of genetically modified foods

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## Abstract

Genetically modified organisms (GMO) have been adopted to improve the availability and nutritional features of some foods (Brookes and Xuan-Dinh, 2020). However, their acceptance has been subjected to the potential impacts on health and the environment (Yang et al., 2009). Therefore, this study aimed at estimating the perception of the consumer regarding the adoption of GMO-derived foods and their impact on health and the environment. The study was applied in an educational institution, employing senior university students as the target population. For the development of the study, a Likert-type questionnaire was structured, considering the validity and pertinence of this tool in perception studies. Analysis revealed that some interviewees has no knowledge on the advantages and disadvantages of the use of GMO-derived foods for human consumption; this could be related to the lack of information regarding the characteristics of this type of food (i.e., nutritional, vitamins). On the other part, it was found that the use of labels to identify this type of foods is fundamental. The interviewees expressed concern regarding the effects on health and the environment caused by the adoption of this type of alternatives. However, the study evidenced a lack of knowledge on the actual impact of GMOs on health and the environment, which confirms the need to develop information dissemination strategies that could provide accurate and sustained information to the consumer.

**Keywords:** Food security, perception, labeling

## References

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