



GMO's Go Global: Should they be labeled?

Student position paper

The Colorado Extension pdf spells out the arguments for and against mandatory labeling. Read the statements and rank order the arguments in terms of importance both for and against based on what you think and know about GMO's and food labels.

Rank	Support	Rank	Against
	Consumers have a right to know what is in their food, especially concerning ingredients for which there may be health and environmental concerns.		Labels on GM foods imply a warning about health effects, whereas no verifiable differences in health effects between GM and conventional foods have been detected.
	Mandatory labeling will allow consumers to identify and steer clear of types of food products that they wish to avoid.		If a nutritional difference or allergenic characteristic were found in a GM food, current FDA regulations already require a label to that effect.
	For religious or ethical reasons, some Americans may want to avoid eating certain products that may be introduced by GM methods.		Costs associated with labeling of GM foods would be borne broadly by most consumers in order to fulfill the desires of some consumers.
	Voluntary labeling has not been sufficient for informing consumers about the presence of GM ingredients.		Consumers who want to buy non-GM food already have options: to purchase verified non-GM foods or certified organic foods.
	Surveys indicate that a majority of Americans support mandatory labeling.		Experience with mandatory labeling in the European Union, Japan, and New Zealand has not resulted in greater consumer choice. Rather, retailers have eliminated GM products from their shelves due to perceived consumer aversion to GM products.
	At least 64 countries have established some form of mandatory labeling		The food system infrastructure (storage, processing, and transportation facilities) in this country could not currently accommodate the need for segregation of GM and non-GM products.



GROW
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Based on what I have learned about GMO's:

My position on mandatory labeling of genetically engineered food is _____ because:

1.

2.

3.

My partner's perspective is _____ because

1.

2.

A perspective different than mine is _____ because

1.

2.

3.

4.