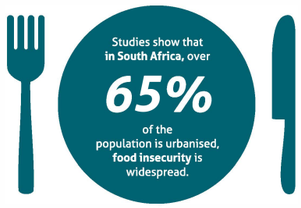
Premier
Growing Together

A Perspective on GMOs

Premier
Growing Together

Food Security

is the term that is used to mean the access by all people, at all times, to **enough food for an active and healthy life.**



of South Africans live below the **poverty line.**

2.5 million adults and 6**00,000** children experience hunger daily.

National Development Plan

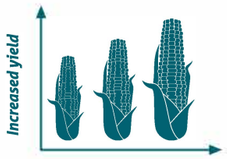
As a country, we need to be able to provide access **to sufficient, affordable quality food for all.**

What are GMOs?

GMOs are plants which have their DNA changed, often helping plants fight off bugs and other potential risks, **which in turn ensures a stable yield for farmers.**

The Positives

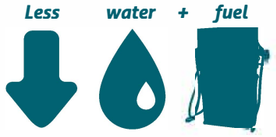
Plants can be modified to increase their **resistance to insects, diseases and other pests** that are capable of destroying or seriously damaging crops.



This not only results in an **increase in the yield** of these crops, but also decreases the need for using pesticides.

Reduced pesticide use implies **decreased pollution** and **increased safety** for farmworkers and those living and working nearby, as well as **less harm to animal life.**

is also therefore improved because there is **less fungal infection, insect damage** and residual pesticides.



Farmers growing GMO crops report using substantially less pesticides, but also **reduced amounts of water and fuel.** This has obvious **benefits for the environment and climate change.**

There are other **exciting developments** such as the possibility of delivering

- this is of particular value to **developing countries.**

For food manufacturers and distributers, one of the great benefits of GMOs is that they result in an

increased shelf life

- allowing **longer life spans for trade**

The Negatives

The farming community has been concerned about the cross-pollination of non-GMO crops by GMO crops being grown on nearby land.

Food manufacturers have raised concern about **cost implications of labelling**

Some consumers and activist organisations do not believe that genetically modified crops have been proven to be safe, and have raised concerns about toxicity, a tendency to provoke allergic reactions and **the nutritional effects of gene modification.**

GMO South Africa

GMOs have been permitted in SA since 1992. The government saw this as a solution to the **challenge of food security.**

In 1997, in order to properly regulate GMO production and use, our government passed the **Genetically Modified Organisms Act.**

Our current situation is that genetically modified maize, soya-bean and cotton have been approved for general use. By 2009

grown in SA was genetically modified.

GMO International

In the United States of America, where GMO ingredients are found in approximately

of packaged foods, there are no labelling requirements.

There are other countries who have adopted a very conservative approach to GMOs - in Australia, Japan and all European countries there are significant restrictions or outright bans on the production of GMOs.

In countries that are in support of GMO, such as **South Africa, Burkino Faso, Nigeria, Sudan and Egypt,** where they have crops such as maize, the view is that food production increases and their ability to feed the nation far outweighs any negative associations with GMO.

GMO Labelling

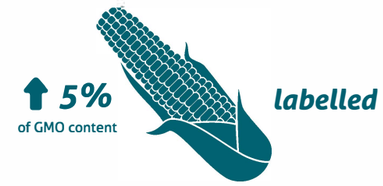
In 2008,

the Consumer Protection Act was introduced and amongst other things, it regulates labelling in respect of GMOs. The labelling was introduced to give consumers the freedom to choose between GMOs and conventional products.

The government has taken a reasonable position and so the regulations require that if the finished product has less than 5% of GMO content, **there is no need to label such on the packaging.**

The regulations stipulate that any ingredients or components containing **less than 1% of GMO may be labelled to say it does not contain GMO.**

contains **less than 0.84% soya** and thus **less than 1%** of each loaf of Blue Ribbon Bread contains GMO ingredients.
Similar baking processes apply to all our final bread products and so all of them have a GMO content of below 1%.



Our maize and samp products contain more than 5% of GMOs and are labelled accordingly

Wheat products like Snowflake **do not contain any GMO ingredients**

Today's consumer wants transparency and information that allow them the **freedom to make choices about what they eat.** South Africa's GMO labelling system does exactly that.