

**GENETICALLY MODIFIED
ORGANISMS(GMOs) AND THE GENDER
DIMENSIONS: IMPLICATIONS OF GMOS
ON WOMEN AND GIRLS**

**by
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Genetically Modified Organisms GMOs

GMOs are living organisms whose genetic material has been artificially manipulated in a laboratory through genetic engineering GE.

This relatively new science creates combinations of plant, animal, bacteria and viral genes that do not occur in nature or through traditional crossbreeding methods.



Why GMOs

- To enhance growth and/or efficiency of food conversion
- To enhance commercially significant flesh characteristics
- To control reproductive activity and/or sexual phenotype
- To increase resistance of species to pathogens/parasites.



WHY GMOs

- ❉ To increase tolerance to/of environmental variables such as temperature
- ❉ To modify behavior in animals e.g. aggression
- ❉ To control fertility and/or viability.

How to tell the difference



Organic



GMO



GMOs and Women's concerns

- ⦿ Sharing and saving seed is a crucial part of traditional farming all over Africa. Maybe that's why governments, backed by multinational seed companies, are imposing oppressive seed laws that attack the continent's main food producers and open the way to industrial agribusiness.
- ⦿ Marginalization of women from structures of decision making .
- ⦿ African women over time have developed diversity of seed varieties , GMOs saving seeds is illegal.

GMOs and Women Economic Concerns

- ⊗ In the U.S there have been 147 lawsuits since 1997 filled by Monsanto and 700 others settled out of court because of cross pollination and re-use of their seeds .80% of Nigerian small scale farmers have their seeds and it will be a disaster if such law suits are brought upon our farmers due to cross pollination which cannot be controlled by these farmers.

⦿ Food dictatorship will give rise to dependence on the giant GMO companies(e.g.Monsanto) that work to accumulate more and more capital and power.

⦿ GMO will mean no animal life around and could contaminate surrounding water affecting aquatic life that women depend on for food or source of income.

GMOs and Women Economic Concerns

- ⦿ GM plants need much more water than organic farming and currently water is still of great concern in most rural area. This will mean more work on the farmers who are mostly women in addition to the burden of under valued care work.

GMOs and Women Health Concerns

- ❶ A study carried out in the university of Sherbrook hospital center in Quebec Canada involving 30 pregnant women and 39 non-pregnant women. Studies on the 30 pregnant women suggest that 100% of the pregnant women and their unborn babies tested positive for GMO toxins in their blood .



GMOs and Women

Health Concerns count...

- ⦿ Glyphosate and Glufosinate are active ingredient in various broad spectrum herbicides and are said to be carcinogenic, damage DNA and reproductive Toxicity.
- ⦿ The EU banned the use of Glufosinate in member state after determining that the herbicide is significant threat to environment and human health

GMOs and Women

Health Concerns continues

- ⦿ Another study on rat fed on GM corn developed horrific tumors all over their bodies compare to a control group not fed GM corn.
- ⦿ The GM corn fed males died prematurely at a 66% higher rate and GM corn fed female mice died prematurely at 250% higher rate.

Recommendations

- Grassroots mobilization of rural women against GMOs eg. Pray the Devil Back to Hell



🎬 CSOs to use methods of creative activism to resist GMOs in order to safeguard create awareness on the dangers of GMOs

1. Occupy Nigeria

2. Bring Back our Girls

3. Social Media: Develop # Tags

- ④ CSOs to build the capacities of the parliament to understand the impact of GMOs on food sovereignty which is a major component of the bio safety bill.
- ④ CSOs should partner with other stakeholders like NLC and TUC to promote the campaign against GMOs at the National and State level.
- ④ The cost of research and experiment spent on GMOs can be used to support seed diversity and healthy soil ecology

❖ The flaws and analysis made on the Biosafety Act should be simplified and shared among women groups, CSOs, farmers etc.

WHAT HAPPENED TO?

PRIVATIZATION

SUBSIDY REMOVAL

GMOs?

NIGERIA IS NOT AN INCUBATOR FOR
ILLUSIONAL SCIENCE CALLED GMO

🎬 AFRICAN WOMEN MUST RESIST! RESIST
AND CONTINUE TO RESIST THIS
ILLUSIONARY SCIENCE