

## GM foods enrich our daily lives



[squash]



[sweet corn]



[canola oils]



[varieties of rice]

## A rich history

Biotech crops are one of the most widely-adopted agricultural technologies in history...

>>> Grown in **28** countries by **17.3** million farmers, a **100-fold** increase since they were first commercially planted in 1996.

- **10,000 years ago:** Humans begin crop domestication using selective breeding
- **1700s:** Farmers and scientists begin cross-breeding plants within a species for desired parts of the plant
- **1940s:** Farmers and researchers seek out additional ways to introduce genetic variation into the plant gene pool
- **1940s – 1950s:** Several revolutionary innovations into plant breeding and agronomics; wins Nobel Peace Prize in 1970
- **1990s:** The first GMO crops are introduced into the marketplace
- **2012:** Farmers worldwide grow more than 420 million acres of biotech crops

SOURCE: ISAAA Brief 44-2012

Wholly or partially funded by one or more Checkoff programs

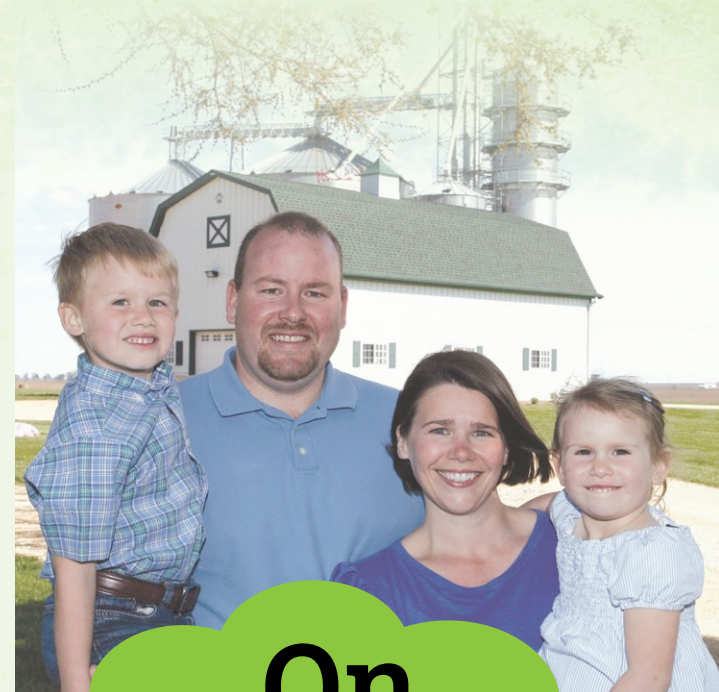


[www.bestfoodfacts.org/videos/gmo-101](http://www.bestfoodfacts.org/videos/gmo-101)



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# On GMOs...

*from the farmers  
that grow them.*





# What is a GMO?

Plants like corn, soybeans, and sugar beets are made stronger and more resistant to bugs and drought using enhanced plant breeding techniques plus precise gene manipulation.

From an agricultural standpoint, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), are simply plants developed through a process in which a copy of a desired gene or section of genetic material from one plant or organism is placed into another plant to achieve a desired trait, such as resistance to an insect or improving the ripening process in order to better meet a customer's market need.

SOURCE: U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance  
The FOOD DIALOGUES

## GM food we love

Thanks to genetically modified plants, we enjoy more affordable sweet corn, squash, papaya, canola oil, and rice. We can already enjoy healthier soybean oil thanks to GMOs and in the future, we'll be able to find vitamin enhanced rice and pasta.

## Safety



These organizations, collectively, spend 13 years ensuring each new seed plant is safe.

13  
years

## Parents who care

Listen to these moms ask the hard questions.



## More learning resources

[www.gmoanswers.com](http://www.gmoanswers.com)  
[www.watchusgrow.org](http://www.watchusgrow.org)  
[www.bestfoodfacts.org/videos/gmo-101](http://www.bestfoodfacts.org/videos/gmo-101)  
<http://www.fooddialogues.com/foodsource/gmo>

## Questions?

Contact the Illinois Farm Bureau Commodities Department at 309-557-3112.