

[E-BOOK] Food Fray: Inside the Controversy over Genetically Modified Food

Food Fray: Inside the Controversy over Genetically Modified Food

Lisa H. Weasel

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#3935681 in Books Lisa H Weasel 2008-12-10 2008-12-10Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.01 x .58 x 6.02l, .83 #File Name: 0814436404256 pagesFood Fray Inside the Controversy Over Genetically Modified Food | File size: 49.Mb

Lisa H. Weasel : Food Fray: Inside the Controversy over Genetically Modified Food before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Food Fray: Inside the Controversy over Genetically Modified Food:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good bookBy KPH79Great information in this book. Thank you1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A little dry...but an important readBy ProfThis book deals with a very important topic and has very catchy chapter headings, but most of the text is rather dry. I am going to test it out with

my students this semester and will provide additional feedback after testing. It does cover the subject very well. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Janie0 If it's your interest, then you will find it informing.

Heralded as both the quick, painless solution to solving world hunger and the scourge of modern science—a dangerous tampering with nature and the decimation of traditional crops and communities—genetically modified foods have triggered volatile debates and deeply contradictory dialogues the world over. *Food Fray* cuts through the complex science, boiling passions, and ethical dilemmas to provide an impressive history of every significant development in the GM food story, as well as an even-handed assessment of both its potential benefits and negative consequences. Meticulously researched, yet lively and entertaining, the author travels the globe to gather the perspectives of scientists, activists, consumers, government officials, and others, as she uncovers possible answers to difficult questions: Do GM crops encourage a dangerous dependence on bioengineered seeds, chemical fertilizers, and toxic pesticides? Or can they solve the food scarcity problems that plague mankind? Will the world's major staple crops be controlled by a handful of countries and corporations? Or could the increased income that GM yields bring to small farmers provide the key to the prosperity of poor nations? Will this promising science, played out against a landscape of growing consumer fear, shoddy corporate practices, and loose government regulation, ultimately be squashed? Or will biotechnology continue to develop in ways that ensure the health and prosperity of many—not just the profits of a few?

From Publishers Weekly Eighty percent or more of all corn, cotton and soybeans grown in the United States consists of genetically modified (GM) varieties, according to Weasel. But she only gives these statistics at the end of her account of the battle over GM organisms, leaving readers till then with the impression that an equal tug-of-war is in progress. The author, a biologist at Portland State University in Oregon, also skimps on the science in the battle over whether genetically modified organisms and foods are safe for both the environment and people, focusing instead on the legal, political and emotional aspects of the tussle between big business, which claims that GM products can solve world hunger and reduce disease, and environmentalists asserting that bad science is being driven by corporate greed. She summarizes a number of the most important skirmishes, such as over golden rice (manipulated to have high levels of vitamin A) and the injection of artificial bovine growth hormone into cattle to boost milk production. But her account is relatively flat and superficial, doing a workmanlike job of covering political issues but leaving readers short of what they need to evaluate GM. (Dec.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. A riveting and disturbing reality check, *Food Fray* is a crucial reminder that it's time to be informed, not passive. Weasel's is a compelling voice affirming that the desire to know more about GM foods before eating them and to allay concerns about safety and environmental impacts, isn't at all anti-science. It's a decidedly pro-human stance. -- The Miami Herald "Weasel asks and answers important questions about the world's food supply." -- The Oregonian Dr. Weasel masterfully navigates the complicated and multi-faceted history of the storied GM debate, giving equal treatment to the various sides and ultimately entrusting the readers to come to their own conclusions. The end result is required reading for anyone curious about GM technologies, past, present and future. -- Common Ground Magazine "The well-written and well-researched book combines interviews with scientists, activists, farmers, and consumers with scientific insights into this contemporary controversy." -- SciTech Book News "An intelligent synthesis of solid research, firsthand reporting, and comprehensible analysis that manages to stay objective while critically examining the issues at hand." -- World Future 2009 Green Book Festival Competition Winner in the Scientific category "The book gives a well-rounded, even-handed account fitting for any reader interested in learning more about a pressing food issue." -- The Sierra Club, "The Green Life" Blog From the Inside Flap It started with little fanfare over a decade ago, when genetically modified foods quietly appeared on American grocery shelves. But in the years since, GM foods have sparked a global controversy and sounded alarms here at home, triggered by a multitude of unanswered questions and dubious practices, such as highly publicized cases of biopharm crops contaminating the food supply runaway commodity prices and worldwide food shortages triggered, in part, by the biofuel movement Europe's open hostility to GM foods and Africa's outright refusal to accept food aid containing genetically modified crops. Combining solid scientific knowledge with a gripping narrative, esteemed molecular biologist Dr. Lisa H. Weasel helps readers make sense of this complex, contentious issue. Positioning itself directly at the intersection of food, politics, and technology, *Food Fray* captures the real-life experiences and wide-ranging perspectives of the scientists, farmers, policymakers, and grassroots activists on the front lines of this fierce debate, teasing out the hype from the reality and uncovering the very real pros and cons of genetically modified foods. Insightful and even-handed, *Food Fray*: Exposes the ruthless business practices of biotech giants such as Monsanto, which demands that new GM seeds be purchased each year and aggressively pursues violators. Examines the romantic, pre-scientific mentality that inflames anti-GMF passions in Europe and stirs a deep-rooted fear of Frankenfoods. Looks at the troubling question of whether a corporation can own proprietary rights to something as essential to survival as seeds. Uncovers hypocritical elements of the Bush Administrations push for GMF as a humanitarian measure for starving Third World nations. Reveals the benefits of high-yield Green Revolution varieties of rice in providing crucial calories to the chronically hungry while inadvertently

reducing dietary variety and causing malnutrition. Explains the complicated science behind GM foods, and the sound reasons that pro-GMF sentiments prevail in the scientific community. Explores the future potential of GM crops to provide global food security and the need to put the public good above the profit motives that drive the biotech industry. Genetically modified foods are ubiquitous in the American diet 80 percent of all corn and 92 percent of soybeans grown in the U.S. are now GM varieties. But it's a science with the potential to bring both good and harm, and an issue with no easy answers. Food Fray looks at every aspect of the debate from multiple perspectives, giving you the information you need to make up your own mind. Lisa H. Weasel, Ph.D., is a molecular biologist and the recipient of a grant from the National Science Foundation to study the issue of genetically modified foods. She is currently a tenured professor of biology at Portland State University in Oregon and a member of Governor Ted Kulongoski's task force on developing public policy for bio-pharmaceutical crops in Oregon. She lives in Portland.