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# UNAUTHORIZED FOOD CHOICES

From foods of mass destruction  
to a new culture of food and food production

The scientific and cultural revolution of nutrigenomics,  
beyond the dangers of food industry, the lies of mainstream  
science and the brainwashing of marketing and advertising

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## Chapter 3

# The Invasion of GMO Food

## The “unnatural” genome of the GMOs

The term Genetically Modified Organisms refers to all those organisms (animals, plants, fungi, bacteria or plasmids) whose natural genome has been modified through modern techniques of genetic engineering, which consists in inserting fragments of DNA from other organisms into the genome. In GM farming, the genes that are artificially transferred by scientists working for the multinational corporations, contrary to what occurs frequently in nature with spontaneous hybridization and more rarely through “horizontal contamination, can be intentionally integrated in the genome of living organisms that belong to completely different species and categories (for example a mammal and a plant). The techniques employed to obtain this result allow, after many failed attempts, to go beyond the natural defense mechanisms of the original genome that are meant to defend against the invasion from foreign organic entities.

The free cultivation of GMOs raises significant concern regarding the possible irreversible effects on ecosystems because in the majority of cases these living organisms have characteristics that are unexpected in nature, yet perfectly capable of reproducing, multiplying and spreading even beyond human control.

## Equating GMOs with natural food

In 1992 the American FDA declared that GMOs met the same safety standards as natural food products. They stated: “The agency has no knowledge of evidence worthy of noting which demonstrates that foods produced using these new methods are any different from other foods.” The FDA added that there was no need for further studies and that “in conclusion, it is the responsibility of the producers to guarantee their safety”. Thanks to the FDA’s tactic classifying GMOs the same as natural foods, Monsanto and other multinationals launched an assault on the global food industry without needing to implement any precautionary measures to protect consumers. Those same consumers did not know that the “green light” given to the GMO industry had been decided by the heads of the FDA despite the objections expressed by their own experts, who had previously reported the intrinsic differences between the hybrids occurring naturally and the genetic manipulations.

The FDA scientists urged the agency’s executives to require GMO producers to carry out more in-depth, long-term studies on the collateral effects, otherwise there would be the risk of unforeseeable biological reactions which could prove difficult to identify.

In 1992, all of the FDA’s internal scientific reports that contradicted the approval of GMOs as being the same as natural products were declared classified by the institute’s executives and remained so until 1999, the year in which they were made public thanks to a ruling in a court case that revealed the truth about this situation. This was how it was discovered that lobbyists from the industry had put pressure on the White House. Subsequently, the administration then asked the FDA to promote GMOs with the help of Michael Taylor. It was Monsanto that recommended Taylor to the government agency so that they would be able to control the FDA’s entire decision-making process with regard to the classification of GMOs from within the organization. Following the incredible success of the operation, previously mentioned in chapter 1, Taylor was rewarded by Monsanto with a promotion to become

vice president of the multinational corporation. It was thanks to this kind of stratagem, typical of criminal organizations, that the GMOs were given the equivalency with natural food products without ever having to undergo serious safety reviews. The influence exercised by the GMO industry cartel on Washington and the FDA is still so powerful that the decision taken in 1992 has never been reexamined by any review board, despite the disclosure of the scandal about the cover-up of the experts' reports.

Not only does the industry's influence on politics regard the White House, but it also affects the governments of other nations. In 1996, for example, a group of scientists was asked by the British government (in favor of GMOs) to develop an evaluation protocol in order to allow the use of GM in farming. While carrying out the study, the scientists discovered that GM potatoes caused serious illness in mice and the release of this disturbing information by researchers provoked a harsh reaction at the highest levels of government. The professor in charge of the study was fired and the study was discontinued.

Episodes like these describe a general situation where the multinationals almost always succeed in assuring that their own private interests prevail (the exception always confirms the rule), to the detriment the community at large.

The current system of public control over GMO food is so full of holes that even the well-respected scientific report from the National Research Council in the United States has started to harshly criticize the FDA's inaction as well as that of other governing bodies like the EPA. Among points of contention is that fact that there is a lack of direct safety checks by the FDA and a reliance on the declarations of regarding safety measures made by the producers themselves. Unfortunately, whenever there is a mountain of money involved, the practice of corrupting legislators and public inspection bodies by lobbyists becomes a constant. It is a way of operating that has been tested, where luminaries in the field and renowned experts (individuals capable of shaping public opinion with their assessments) are enlisted by multinational corporations to back scientific theories that most



suit to their needs.

Every now and then, however, the truth about how these mechanisms of “collaboration” work come to light all the same. In 2009, for example, American investigators found compromising private emails where Joseph L. Biederman (a Psychiatry professor at Harvard Medical School, Director of the Institute of Pediatric Psychopharmacology at Massachusetts General Hospital at Harvard and one of the leading experts on bipolar disorder) makes an agreement with the pharmaceutical industry to publish falsified results of clinical trials for the express purpose of backing the validity of a therapy using psychiatric drugs for children with behavioral problems or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). For the “scientific” studies Biederman carried out, which allowed powerful psychiatric medication to be administered even to children under two years old, he received compensation from the industry of \$1,750,000 in consultation fees; two of his colleagues also received similar sums. Dr. Charles B. Nemeroff, head of the Department of Psychiatry at Emory University, received \$500,000 for affirming the efficacy of the drugs manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK). This shocking revelation was even reported in the New York Times, but the episode is only the tip of the iceberg as an example of how multinational corporations manage to easily manipulate scientific data and the supervisory boards.