

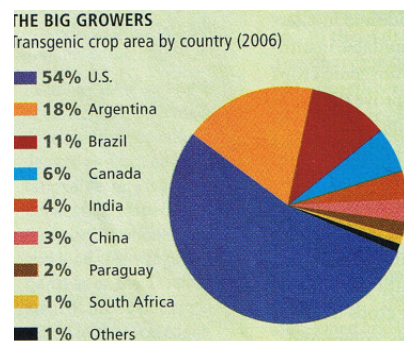
## Learn the English terms: **Transgenic Crop Production by Nation**

The genetic material (DNA or RNA) of a **Genetically Modified Organism** (GMO) has been altered by using a wide variety of genetic engineering techniques. They involve the removal of the nucleic acid, its manipulation outside the cell and reinsertion into the same or another organism. The aim of a GMO technique is to introduce a new or altered characteristic to the target organism.

### GMO Application

GMOs may be plants, animals or, most commonly, micro-organisms including bacteria, viruses, parasites or fungi. Sometimes considered controversial, the applications of genetic modification are directed towards benefits for humans, animals or crops, e.g. gene therapy gears at improving human health. Genetic research in agricultural applications addresses animal health & higher productivity and for genetically modified crops better yields, less insect control and resistance to severe weathers or decay.

Cultivation of genetically modified crops rose from



zero hectares in 1995 to more than 10 million worldwide in 2005. Most plantings for GM crops are in the USA; however, since the year 2000, plantings have increased more

rapidly in developing than in industrial nations.

A small number of crops and few kinds of modifications account for almost all the GMO production:

Kind of GMOs Grown	
CROPS	CHARACTERISTIC/TRAIT
57% Soybean	68% Herbicide tolerance
25% Corn/Maize	19% Insect resistance
13% Cotton	13% Both
5% Canola	

### GMO Use

The use of genetically modified crops has sparked significant controversies. Where the statistics show that the US is the leader in GMO crop production, the fact remains that many US consumers desire GMO-free products. Some opponents have labelled GMO foods as 'Frankenstein foods'. In 2004, Mendocino County, California became the first US county to ban the production of GMOs. The measure passed with a 57% majority.

Furthermore, top US-owned supermarkets such as Whole Foods or NYC's famous Fairway Market are promoting non-GMO food products.

Data Source: Scientific American, Sept. 2007

## Check your understanding of the graph & topic on GMO:



If you click on the questionnaire link, you will find questions on the texts of this Newsletter. You are invited to answer these or ask further questions yourself and send these to Steven L. Hanft, President CONUSBAT & Editor of the LTE Newsletter. We look forward to your replies.

## Round-the-World Life Science News & updates

### Pharmaceutical:

#### **Ban Sought on Cold Medicine for Very Young;** NY Times, Sept. 28 2007

Safety experts the US FDA urged the agency on Friday to consider an outright ban on over-the-counter, multi-symptom cough and cold medicines for children under 6. The recommendation, in a 356-page safety review, is the strongest signal yet that the agency may take strong action against the roughly 800 popular medicines marketed in the United States under names like Toddler's Dimetapp, Triaminic Infant and Little Colds.

### Consumer Habits:

#### **Majority of Americans check food labels;** Sacred Heart University Polling Institute, Sept. 2007

A new nation-wide survey of 1000 Americans shows:

- More are checking food labels. While 52.9% of Americans surveyed suggested they checked labels one year ago for nation of origin, manufacturer or ingredients, 68.6% say they are doing so today > up 15.7%.
- When asked, a large majority of Americans, 86.3% agreed with a statement calling for suspension of Chinese imports until it is determined the Chinese meet U.S. product & food safety standards.
- Confidence in American-made & packaged products and foods is strong. A strong majority, 87.4%, said they have confidence in American-made and distributed products and food.

- However, fewer than half of Americans surveyed, 46.7%, agreed that the U.S. is doing a good job ensuring imports meet established safety and quality standards.

### Food & Beverage:

#### **Symrise AG acquires Unilever NV's food ingredients unit;** IFT Journal, Sept. 19, 2006

Flavor and fragrance manufacturer Symrise has acquired Unilever's non-branded food ingredients business in the UK. The food ingredients portfolio comprises dry seasonings and wet pastes. The turnover of this non-core business for Unilever UK was 5 million € in 2006.

### Personal Care:

#### **CONUSBAT designated as EU REACH 'Only Representative'**

In its core service area Regulatory Affairs *CONUS Business, Advice & Training* supplies all services related to REACH, including representing a non-Community manufacturer. This new EU chemical legislation affects industries such as C&T, performance chemicals, inks & coating, colors, plastics, adhesives & sealants, etc.

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