

Safety and Worldwide Acceptance

Biotech crops are among the most extensively tested and well-regulated food, feed and fiber products ever developed. All commercial biotech crops are thoroughly assessed for human and animal health, as well as environmental safety. Without the proper evaluations and regulations in place, farmers would not be permitted to grow and sell these products. What's more, bioengineered crops – and the food and feed produced from them – have been found to be just as nutritious and safe as their conventionally grown counterparts.



Aurora Saulo
*Professor and Food
Technology Specialist*

*University of Hawaii
College of Tropical Agriculture &
Human Resources*

"Biotech foods are safe, we eat them all the time."

The National Research Council has thoroughly evaluated the potential risks posed by crops developed using biotechnology and has concluded they are the same types of risks posed by crops bred through traditional methods. Three federal agencies currently regulate the development of transgenic crops: U.S. Food & Drug Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency.



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Ania Wiczorek
Associate Professor

*University of Hawaii
College of Tropical
Agriculture & Human
Resources*

"Agricultural biotech is not really new. We have been modifying agricultural crops for hundreds of years and almost everything we eat today has been modified at one time or another. What has changed is the way we are doing this modification."

The Hawaii Crop Improvement

Association (HCIA) is a nonprofit trade association representing the agricultural seed industry in Hawaii. Now the state's largest agricultural commodity, the seed industry contributes to the economic health and diversity of the islands by providing high quality jobs in rural communities, keeping important agricultural lands in agricultural use, and serving as responsible stewards of Hawaii's natural resources.

www.hciaonline.com

- Americans have consumed more than 1 trillion meals containing a genetically enhanced ingredient and there has not been a single documented case of an illness caused by a food developed with biotechnology since they first came on the market in the mid-1990s.
- After nearly two decades of extensive governmental, academic and industry oversight, not a single instance of actual harm to health, safety or the environment has ever been confirmed for any biotech crop placed on the market.
- Genetic modification of food crops has taken place across the world for centuries. Modern biotechnology offers researchers and growers the tools to be more precise in the transfer of desirable traits, without any loss in the safety of these agricultural products.
- Established scientific bodies – including the World Health Organization, National Academy of Sciences and American Medical Association – have carefully evaluated the safety of biotech foods and concluded that these crops pose no more risk to health and the environment than crops grown through conventional methods.
- Since 1996, the worldwide acreage devoted to the growth of biotech crops has increased from 5 million acres to 330 million acres.
- Biotech crops contribute to global food security by increasing yields to feed a growing population and enhance the safety and nutritional value of the food supply especially in developing countries struggling with poverty, malnutrition and resource-poor farmlands.

