

## Genetically Modified (G.M.) Crops and Plants-A Questionable Future

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Man has been attempting to improve his natural resources especially crops and plants since prehistoric times but no significant achievement was made in earlier days. With the development of genetic engineering scientist again paid their attention to improve the varieties of economical and medicinal useful plants and crops for increasing their production.

Genetic modification is a latest method of crop improvement. The aims of genetic modification of plant/crops are to develop a variety which has several desirable and beneficial characters of economical value as possible. In GM technique scientist can change the phenotype and genotype of plant/crops according to needs of new superior varieties by the addition or deletion of gene. By this technique, scientist have been developed higher yield and mildew resistant varieties in barley, superior fiber content and increased yield in cotton and increased yield of seed and oil varieties in mustard.

The famous U.S.A. company Mansanto and colgene are set to market his bio-engineered plant products including tomatoes that ripen without rotting and several others.

At present, Genetic Engineering Approval Committee has been provided environmental clearance to B.T. brinjal. Scientist says this variety of brinjal has strong resistance power against several pests. In it a gene of *Bacillus thuringiensis* bacteria has been added which produce a toxin which is effective against several insect pest.

As we know, every thing has its two faces- one is positive and second is negative. GM crops/plants may also have some adverse affect on soil, animals, ecosystem and human being also.

So before using in field at commercial level detail study of impact of these genetically modified plants/crops on their surrounding environment is necessary.