

GM crops are very different

Genetically modified (GM) seeds are artificially created in a laboratory with genes from different living things to give the GM seeds new features, such as producing pesticides inside the seeds and plants, or the ability to survive heavy spraying with a poison called glyphosate.



This process, called genetic modification, never happens in nature and brings new and unknown risks for human, animal and environmental health. Many governments have therefore banned and

restricted GM foods. It is shocking that our government allows us to eat risky GM maize as the **staple food in South Africa!**

Hundreds of independent studies show that GM food could cause serious harm to our stomach, liver, kidneys and immune system as well as our ability to have children. They also warn that there are many risks we don't yet fully understand.

Our government is ignoring this independent science. It relies on the studies produced by the **same companies that develop the GM seeds** and refuses to do its own safety studies.



IS OUR PAP SAFE?

Independent scientists warn that genetically modified foods are risky.

GM crops are approved with insufficient testing

No long-term safety tests are done before releasing new GM foods into our food systems, our bodies and our environment. When a company wants to bring a new GM crop to the market, it usually carries out safety tests on birds, mice and rats for a maximum of 90 days – and sometimes as little as **2 weeks!**

It is very difficult for independent scientists to look over these company tests because a lot of the information is protected and kept secret as "Confidential Business Information".

Are the chemicals used on GM plants affecting our health?

New scientific studies show that the **glyphosate** sprayed on GM crops could cause kidney disease, breast cancer, birth defects and miscarriages. This is a big concern for farm workers who are exposed to this chemical in the GM crop fields.

And what about the consumers who eat pap made from GM maize that has been sprayed with glyphosate? What is happening to their health?