FORUM: The Economic and Social Council

QUESTION OF: The Usage of Genetically Modified (GM) crops

MAIN SUBMITTER: The Federal Republic of Nigeria

CO-SUBMITTERS: The United States of America, the United States of Mexico, the Republic of Chile, the Republic of Colombia, the Kingdom of Sweden, the Republic of Haiti

The Economic and Social Council,

*Recalling* the mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to address global food security, promote agricultural sustainability, and safeguard genetic diversity,

*Emphasizing* the importance of empowering nations to make autonomous decisions regarding the import, export, and cultivation of GM crops within their borders,

*Bringing into account* the 22% higher yields than non-GM crops, the reduction of pesticide use by 37%, and the increase in the average farmers' income by 68%, all achieved with the usage of genetically modified crops,

*Recognizing* the increasing worldwide demand for food and the role of genetically modified (GM) crops in facing food safety concerns, and to consider their impact on agricultural production and trade,

*Deeply concerned* about the exploited examples of harm that are told to be caused in the environment and the decrementing biodiversity with the continuous uses of GM crops including, but not limited to how existing species are being overrun by more dominant species, and the breaking of food chains due to the wiping out of certain species,

*Emphasizing* the differing perspectives and concerns of member states regarding safety, ethics, and economic impact of genetically modified (GM) crops, and the importance of addressing these concerns through international or worldwide cooperation,

*Acknowledging* the need for transparent and science-based frameworks to monitor the research, development, and promotion of genetically modified (GM) crops, ensuring safety, environmental protection, and public health,

*Stressing* the importance of international cooperation and information sharing to ensure responsible and sustainable utilization of genetically modified (GM) crops to help global agricultural development, while reducing potential risks and addressing considerations,

1. Calls for increased cooperation between the FAO and national regulatory agencies to ensure the safety and environmental sustainability of GM crop cultivation, including robust monitoring and enforcement mechanisms, with intentions including, but not limited to:

a. keeping control of the negative side effects of the uses of genetically modified crops, calling upon the issues including, but not limited to:

* + 1. decrementing biodiversity as the more dominant species of crops and organisms are overrunning the less dominant species,
		2. breaking of food chains with the wiping out of certain species may result in a shortage in food for some predators,
		3. how custom genetically engineered foods can sometimes trigger an allergic reaction, especially in the cases of mutations or when the allergen from another organism is transferred,

b. improving facilities for genetically engineered crops to secure the safety of both some animal species and non-genetically engineered crops but preventing:

* + 1. limitations on the demonstration of the benefits of the genetically modified crops,
		2. a negative image in the public community and an ignorance in the benefits and uses in the current farming industry and crop development;

2. Establishes the Global Organic Food Alliance (GOFA) under the FAO because of increased cooperation, a regulatory body tasked with the following:

1. researching the productivity and trade meanings of genetically modified (GM) crops in meeting the rising global food demand, while ensuring that the transition to non-GM crops over time is possible and achievable,
2. considering the environmental and social intentions of increased farming and trade of genetically modified (GM) crops, taking into thought sustainability and food security concerns, while:
	* 1. cooperating with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to conduct more research on GM crops, especially general security concerns,
		2. collaborating in different regions to find the most suitable approach to implement natural and genetically engineered crops in tandem, after engaging in thorough discussion with local NGOs,
		3. following the regulations stated in the “The Coordinated Framework for Regulation of Biotechnology” which describes a system on how agencies should evaluate biotechnology products;

3. Calls upon member states to allow for the regulation of GM crops while keeping in mind nations' sovereignty without fear of retaliation or undue influence from external factors, by engaging in actions including but not limited to:

1. promoting public participation consultation processes in decision-making regarding the cultivation of GM crops,
2. providing support for the research and development of natural and genetically engineered crops with a focus on addressing global challenges including, but not limited to food security, climate change adaptation, and sustainable agriculture,
3. strengthening capacity-building initiatives, especially in developing countries, to enhance their ability to effectively regulate GM crops and make informed decisions based on sound scientific evidence;

4. Urges the FAO to raise awareness about the pros and cons of genetically engineered crops, enabling consumers to make informed choices about the food they purchase and consume through:

a. promoting awareness about current genetically engineered crops being grown; places they are being grown, through means including but not limited to:

i. social media platforms posting about both pros and cons of GM crops on a bi-weekly basis and updating constantly based on new developments and technology,

ii. farmers or government officials in charge of crop distribution and development to visit schools, colleges, offices and other institutions to inform others about the advantages and disadvantages of both the overall growth and consumption of genetically engineered crops,

 b. encourages member states to prioritize non-GM crop cultivation and support organic farming practices through incentives, subsidies, and capacity-building initiatives;

5. Further invites member states to share best practices, lessons learned, and scientific findings related to GM crop regulation and organic farming through knowledge-sharing platforms including but not limited to:

 a. the Agricultural Information Management Standards Portal (AIMS), a worldwide community of experts in food and agricultural information,

 b. the GM Foods Platform, a platform to share information, and analysis on possible safety issues on GM crops,

 c. the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications, an NGO platform that shares technology specific to genetically engineered crops;

 6. Calls for enhanced multi-lateral cooperation to facilitate responsible and sustainable utilization of genetically modified (GM) crops for global agricultural development, while reducing potential risks and addressing ethical considerations but not limited to:

a. efforts should be made to identify and lessen potential risks related to the use of genetically modified (GM) crops, making sure of the need for thorough risk assessments and risk management strategies,

i. continuous collaboration with the National Academy of Sciences and the World Health Organization that assesses risks related to GM crops,

ii. consult research articles published by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) about potential risks on GM crops,

b. international cooperation should aim to establish mechanisms for continuous monitoring and evaluation of the impact of genetically modified (GM) crops on agricultural development, promoting sustainable practices like:

i. abides by the rules mentioned in the The Coordinated Framework for Regulation of Biotechnology,

 ii. follows the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

iii. putting in further funding for identifying the health and environmental long-term issues;

7. Calls for the reclassification and rethinking of countries investing in the growth of crops both natural and genetically engineered as a method of being able to help finance future investments through such organizations but not limited to:

 a. The World Bank,

 b. The International Monetary Fund,

 c. The European Investment Bank,

 d. The Asian Development Bank,

 e. The African Development Bank;

8. Notes that since greenhouses are areas wherein interior conditions can be controlled, they are hence a viable method of growing non-genetically engineered crops through ways that include but are not limited to:
 a. installing greenhouses in free land regions in all nations funded by government subsidiaries,

 b. investment and investigation in renewable sources of energy to be able to insulate greenhouses in the winter like:

 i. solar energy,

 ii. biomass fuel,

 iii. geothermal energy,

c. using a variety of different resources that simultaneously absorb the sun apart from glass to act as panels including, but not limited to:

 i. polycarbonate sheets,

 ii. glass,
 iii. Perspex,

 iv. Plexiglas;

9. Raising the awareness of organic foods over their genetically modified counterparts in means of their health-related and consumption-based benefits, with the intention to recognise:

a. the future issues in which relying solely on genetically modified variants may bring up in the long term, in comparison to organic variants of the same food type,

b. explaining the differences in food labelling, including the differences in the labelling ideals, including, but not limited to:

i. the label containing the message of “natural” not being regulated well, with the differences in between it and an actual organic crop,

ii. the labels “non-GMO” and “Organic” both having a certified permit and proof of evidence of non–chemical appliances in the farming process while being the best regulated,

c. some of the benefits given effect in means of nature and the environment with the planting of organic crops, including, but not limited to:

i. the planting of such organic crops having the ability to sequester the nearby soil, meaning that more carbon dioxide can be consumed underground,

ii. an example of Rodale’s research showing that if 10,000 average-sized farms in the U.S. converted to organic production solely, they would store the equivalent of taking 1,174,400 cars off the road or reducing car miles driven by 14.62 billion miles(approx. 23.52 billion km),

 iii. organic farming supporting water conservation and health in multiple ways, including healthier soil requiring less water to take care of plants.