BIOTECHNOLOGY MAKING GAINS IN PUBLIC’S EYE

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS — After mixed public perception about genetically modified organisms (GMOs) making their way to the dinner table, studies indicate that Americans’ fears are disappearing. More farmers around the world have begun to plant GMOs to decrease production costs.

One hundred nine million acres in 12 countries are currently planted with GMOs, despite past consumer reluctance, especially in Europe, to adopt GMO products. Dr. Rudy Nayga, Jr., an economist with Texas A&M University, believes the next five years will bring exponential growth to the biotechnology industry.

Nayga stated, “In the study I conducted, it was apparent that mainstream America is willing to use these products, especially in the future when foods will be engineered for added quality or nutritional value. Farmers like them as well because GMOs translate into less labor and fewer chemicals, which decrease risks to growers and consumers.” Fewer chemicals and less labor boils down to fewer expenses for the average farmer and the average family.

This is not to say that this relatively new industry is without risk. GMOs may decrease beneficial insects, and harmful insects may develop a tolerance to the genes in plants that are engineered to resist them. Overall, there is a lack of data on GMOs, and some of its hazards and benefits are still undiscovered.
Researchers continue to make exciting developments in biotechnology, making products with longer shelf lives or more nutrients. Consumers have shown a willingness to buy these products, and producers can decrease inputs by planting them. GMOs are improving quality and making advances toward feeding the world’s expanding population.

To learn more about these advancements, visit www.agri-technologies.com or contact Levi Estes at (979) 204-1225.

Edinburgh Agri-Technologies is a chemical and seed company with biotechnology product lines, mainly seed. Their active research branch explores ways that GMOs may improve crops for producers and consumers. Most of the product lines their research has created involve pest or herbicide tolerance in plants. Currently, the research team is developing a variety of corn that contains added vitamins.

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