

MailOnline

Fears grow as study shows genetically modified crops 'can cause liver and kidney damage'

By [David Derbyshire](#)

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An environmental campaigner protesting against GM crops. A study said it can cause organ damage.

Fresh fears were raised over GM crops yesterday after a study showed they can cause liver and kidney damage.

According to the research, animals fed on three strains of genetically modified maize created by the U.S. biotech firm Monsanto suffered signs of organ damage after just three months.

The findings only came to light after Monsanto was forced to publish its raw data on safety tests by anti-GM campaigners.

They add to the evidence that GM crops may damage health as well as be harmful to the environment.

The figures released by Monsanto were examined by French researcher Dr Gilles-Eric Seralini, from the University of Caen.

Yesterday he called for more studies to check for long-term organ damage.

'What we've shown is clearly not proof of toxicity, but signs of toxicity,' he told New Scientist magazine. 'I'm sure there's no acute toxicity but who's to say there are no chronic effects?'

The experiments were carried out by Monsanto researchers on three strains of GM maize. Two of the varieties contained

genes for the Bt protein which protects the plant against the corn borer pest, while a third was genetically modified to be resistant to the weedkiller glyphosate. All three strains are widely grown in America, while one is the only GM crop grown in Europe, mostly in Spain.

Monsanto only released the raw data after a legal challenge from Greenpeace, the Swedish Board of Agriculture and French anti- GM campaigners.

Dr Seralini concluded that rats which ate the GM maize had 'statistically significant' signs of liver and kidney damage. Each strain was linked to unusual concentrations of hormones in the blood and urine of rats fed the maize for three months, compared to rats given a non-GM diet.

The higher hormone levels suggest that animals' livers and kidneys are not working properly.

Female rats fed one of the strains also had higher blood sugar levels and raised levels of fatty substances caused triglycerides, Dr Seralini reported in the International Journal of Microbiology.

The analysis concluded: 'These substances have never before been an integral part of the human or animal diet and therefore their health consequences for those who consume them, especially over long time periods are currently unknown.'

Monsanto claimed the analysis of its data was 'based on faulty analytical methods and reasoning, and does not call into question the safety findings for these products'.

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Sainsbury's do not use GM in any of there own brand products. Just use the food outlets that do not use the GM. People power can beat them. Don't buy any Monsanto products.

- Marie, Lancs, 23/1/2010 21:41

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to steve wahis, are you nuts! so if i am starving or my family is starving i sould feed them poison and watch them die from organ failure. when did we start trusting monsanto remember what happened in india. monsanto is just another mega-corporation that puts \$\$\$ over people.

- jack bender, minden, USA, 23/1/2010 20:48

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Food is used as a tool to control people. Monsanto produces gm crops that are infertile so you have to keep buying seed from them as the seed from the plants are infertile. Complete control do as I say or you will starve. Haiti a lot of people could have been saved by food drops but then what would the relief agencies do?

- Tony, Dartford, 23/1/2010 19:26

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Everyone has the option of finding a source for their nutrition that doesn't include GM. I believe it is irresponsible a few to prohibit the masses of starving people on earth to restrain their options for survival. We need the products labeled properly and we need to move on. If I'm faced with starvation today I can assure you I will eat GM today if it's available and when the immediate problem is gone I can choose to eat a "healthier regimen" then but I don't want anyone prohibiting my survival with an opinion. Ask a starving Haitian.

- Steve Wahls, Loomis NE USA, 23/1/2010 19:01

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so that's going to stop everyone eating cornflakes then is it ?
and cotton underwear

GM cotton, soya and maize (corn) have been coming into this country for at least 10 years

we're allowed to eat it but our farmers aren't allowed to grow it, marvellous

- Roger M, Warwick England, 22/1/2010 21:44

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It's ridiculous. Half the world is starving, half the world is throwing food away. If we sorted out the distribution of food then there'd be no argument for the frankenstein food - at all! Surely sorting the re-distribution of food is cheaper / more efficient than paying for scientists salaries and all their R & D labs anyway?

Mankind - scientists always thinks it's more clever than it actually is. Nature always wins. Trust GM food / scientists / government - as if!!!

- Keith, Suffolk, UK, 22/1/2010 19:35

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