

Report of the Questionnaire Survey for Consumers' Recognition to Genetically Modified Food in Beijing, China¹

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Summary: Based on the questionnaire surveys to 1000 consumers from 12 supermarkets in Beijing, China, 2004, this paper revealed consumers' attitudes on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and GM foods. The results show that 64.9% interviewees are not acquaintance to GMOs and GM products, while only 2.3% of respondents have a good understanding. With respect to GMOs labeling, 45.3% of interviewees did not know that GMOs had to be labeled in China, another 42.6% couldn't identify the existing GMOs labels though they knew the labeling system had been enforced in China. Furthermore, 96.9% respondents had labeling requirements for GMOs and GM foods, among them 48.1% had strong requirements for a highlighted labeling. In the aspects of consuming tendency, 69% of interviewees trusted traditional foods, only 5.20% trusted GMOs food, while the rest 25.8% were not care about it. To the extent of transgenic technology development, Totally 80.5% of the respondents preferred that the country should "appropriately develop" transgenic technology (38.8%) and "develop but with caution for commercialization of GMOs' and their products" (41.7%). On the contrast, only 10.9% and 8.6% take the standpoints of "aggressively develop" and "least develop" respectively

Key Words: genetically modified organisms, GMOs, GM food, biosafety, consumer, questionnaire survey.

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