GMOs

UCLA
Institute of the Environment and Sustainability

GLOBAL SOLUTION OR GLOBAL RISK

As technology improves, debates about genetically modified organisms–GMOs–have become increasingly bitter and divisive. For some, GMO crops offer a solution to worldwide crises in health and food security. For others, they involve risks that are too great to take.

This is no longer new technology. We can now draw on decades of research to inform the debate. On April 19, UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability will bring together four experts to debate the environmental, social and health impacts of GMO foods. With audience participation, the panel will discuss the future of GMOs in kitchens, restaurants and food supply chains.

MODERATOR

Ted Parson is Professor of Environmental Law and Faculty Co-Director of the Emmett Institute on Climate Change and the Environment at UCLA. Parson studies international environmental law and policy, the role of science and technology in policy-making, and the political economy

PANELISTS

Peter Kareiva is Director of the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability at UCLA and a member of the National Academy of Science, where he sits on the research committee for genetically engineered crops. Kareiva mixes policy and social science with natural science, believing that today's environmental challenges require humanities and private sector engagement. He has written or edited nine books and 200 articles on a wide range of topics.

Maywa Montenegro is a Ph.D candidate in Environmental Science, Policy & Management at University of California – Berkeley. Trained in molecular biology, Montenegro focuses on the relationship between commercial seed systems and traditional systems in which farmers save, exchange and sell seeds. Montenegro has written dozens of public articles and blogs on GMOs, farming, food supply and human rights.

Pamela Ronald is Professor at the Department of Plant Pathology and the Genome Center at UC Davis, Director of Grass Genetics at the Joint Bioenergy institute and Faculty Director of the UC Davis Institute for Food and Agricultural Literacy. With colleagues, she engineered rice for resistance to disease and tolerance to flooding, which seriously threaten crops in Africa and Asia. She is co-author of Tomorrow's Table: Organic Farming, Genetics and the Future of Food.

Timothy A. Wise is Director of the Research and Policy Program at the Global Development and Environment Institute, Tufts University. Wise specializes in agricultural policy, rural development and global trade. He is co-author of Confronting Globalization: Economic Integration and Popular Resistance in Mexico, and The Promise and the Perils of Agricultural Trade Liberalization: Lessons from Latin America.

OPPENHEIM