

NYU Wagner Food Policy Alliance and GMO Free NY present:

GMO Labeling: Do We Need It?

A Panel Discussion

Thursday, April 4 | 6:30 - 8:30 pm

NYU Global Center

238 Thompson St, 5th fl, Grand Hall

between Washington Square S and W 3rd St

 [click for map](#)

This event is open to the public.



- 1992** FDA policy proclaims genetically modified foods substantially equivalent to conventional counterparts and don't require special regulation or labeling.
- 1994-2005** GM canola, cotton, corn, soybean, alfalfa, sugar beets, papaya approved for commercial sale; 80% of processed foods now contain GMO ingredients.
- 1998** Amidst controversy over GMO safety, EU enacts mandatory labeling laws. Over 45 other countries follow suit.
- 2007** In response to growing consumer concern, a campaigning Barack Obama promises, "We'll let folks know whether their food is genetically modified because Americans should know what they're buying."
- 2010** President Obama names Michael Taylor, former Monsanto VP and lobbyist, FDA "Food Czar."
- 2012** Biotech and food industries funnel \$46 million into successful campaign to defeat California's Prop 37, a ballot initiative to mandate labeling of GMO foods sold in-state. Consumer activists and food advocacy groups in 37 states—including WA, CT, ME, VT, and NY—engage in their own "Right to Know" campaigns.
- 2013** Whole Foods announces all foods they sell containing GMO ingredients will bear identifying labels by 2018. Ben & Jerry's says it will switch to all non-GMO ingredients by end of 2013.
- NOW** Polls show 90% of Americans want the right to know what's in the food they buy. The biotech industry maintains GMOs pose no special risk and so labeling is unnecessary; *The New York Times* Editorial Board agrees. Labeling proponents counter that existing research studies on GMO safety are industry-conducted and inadequate; human health risks remain unknown. Labels will allow consumers to make informed decisions.

So, to label or not to label?

Spurred on by moderator Frederick Kaufman's provocative questions, our panel of experts will share their differing points of view on this hot-button topic, leaving the audience to decide in which camp they stand.

Moderator

Frederick Kaufman

Author, Journalist, CUNY Graduate School of Journalism

Panelists

Dr. Walter S. De Jong

Cornell University, Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics

Dr. Carolyn Dimitri

NYU Steinhardt, Department of Nutrition, Food Studies, and Public Health

Jean Halloran

Consumers Union, Food Policy Initiatives

Patty Lovera

Food & Water Watch, Food Team

Click to RSVP: tinyurl.com/GMONYU

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