

No health problems for animals fed on GM crops (study)

PARIS, December 13, 2011 (AFP) - Animals fed for more than three months genetically modified maize, rice, soy or potatoes showed no health problems and were doing as well as those subject to a non-GMO diet, according to a study published in the journal *Food and Chemical Toxicology**

"Now, for us, the debate on GMOs from a health point of view is closed", Agnes Ricroch (AgroParisTech and University Paris-Sud), who led the study, said to AFP. Her team, which included eminent toxicologists, Alain Paris and Gérard Pascal, and biologists, Jean-Baptiste Bergé and Marcel Kuntz, surveyed data from 24 international studies conducted by independent institutes from the USA, Brazil, Japan, and Norway among others. More specifically, it includes 12 studies concerning a feeding period of more than 90 days and up to two years, and 12 multigenerational studies over two to five generations of animals. The particularly interesting aspect of this broad range of studies is not only the fact that they originate from different countries, but also the variety of animals tested: chickens, mice, rats, goats and cows, added Ms. Ricroch.

These animals were fed 33% of currently marketed transgenic plants (maize, soybean), and rice, triticale (a cross between wheat and rye) and potatoes in their diet at the rate set by the OECD in 1998.

"The researchers looked at a number of parameters: growth, organ weights, their development, blood enzymes, reproductive organs, pancreas, brain and heart, a far and wide review", says Dr Ricroch.

This study concludes that GMOs are not harmful to animals from a health point of view. "It's good news" she added, "had we found the opposite, toxicological recommendations would have had to be extended to long-term studies".

"It also means that the assessments that toxicologists request for GMOs are well performed and robust," she said, since no differences in the nutritional equivalence were found between the marketed GMO and non-modified foods.

***Chelsea Snell, Aude Bernheim, Jean-Baptiste Bergé, Marcel Kuntz, Gérard Pascal, Alain Paris, & Ricroch Agnès E. (2011)**

Assessment of the health impact of GM plant diets in long-term and multigenerational animal feeding trials: A literature review. *Food and Chemical Toxicology*, 0, pp

<http://www.ask-force.org/web/Longterm/Chelsea-Assessment-Health-Longterm-2011.pdf>

Contact: agnes.ricroch@u-psud.fr