

THE FACT AND SUGGESTION OF THE RISK COMMUNICATION ABOUT SCIENTIFIC TECHNOLOGY - THE CASE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED TECHNOLOGY -

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Key Words: GMO, genetically engineering technology, risk communication, questionnaire survey

1. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE

Genetically Modified Organisms (below GMO) have been developed and utilized for this decade. They are related to our life about agriculture, medical field and industry. For instance, they are capable of reducing the volume of herbicide and used for development of new medicine and so on. On the other hand, the public people don't know the fact much and tend to think GMOs are dangerous. So the experts have been take risk communication with them to spread the scientific information of GMOs until now. Nevertheless the market is state of permitting to cultivate and sell only GM blue rose commercially in Japan. Because there are lots of anti-GMO opinions from the public in Japan. The object of this article is to find out the challenge of present risk communication about GMO. This research consists of my internship experience and the results of questionnaire survey.

2. RISK COMMUNICATION TO THE PUBLIC ABOUT GMO

Our survey showed many differences between people that experts imagine and the fact of the public. And they answered positive responses partly to the necessity of GM technology except for the uncertain risk. So they showed both positive and negative opinions case by case.

4. SUMMARY

There are four points we've gotten from this research. First, the public not only recognized that they don't know GMO much, but also understood it. Second, over 60 % people thought that they cannot judge which information is sure or right, for instance from government or mass-media. Third, if the public get GMO information, it doesn't clear whether they read or not. That's why, to give the public a variety of GMO information doesn't always increase the positive opinions. Fourth, but partly, the public who shows anti-GMO understood the necessity of GM technology in today's society. To sum up, it showed that risk communication with information input and questionnaire survey including both positive-negative contents has the possibility of giving the public to think about GMO more seriously. And also, we found that the positive-negative input generates feedback from the real opinions of them.