
Willingness to consume genetically modified foods

Mohamed Said Gheblawi

Rafi Ullah Tasbih

Department of Agribusiness and Consumer Sciences,
United Arab Emirates University, Al-Ain, UAE

Keywords

Genetically Modified Foods (GMFs), Perception of GMFs, Attitudes towards GMFs, Knowledge about GMFs, Willingness to consume GMFs.

Abstract

Genetically modified foods (GMFs) are an important part of the diet in many parts of the world and will arguably contribute significantly to the global food security in the coming decades. Producer and consumer acceptance of GMFs remains a hurdle in many countries and cultures around the world. This paper aims to investigate United Arab Emirates' consumers' attitudes, knowledge and perceptions towards GMFs. Additionally, this paper aims to explore the factors affecting the willingness to consume GMFs using a Logit model. Preliminary results indicate that the enhanced probability of willingness to consume GMFs is attributed to the source of information regarding GMFs, the potential of GMFs to reduce the use of pesticide, and the awareness regarding food labels. In contrast, religious and ethical issues associated with GMFs, gender, nationality, and the particular GMFs a respondent is accustomed to purchasing are all associated with a significant decrease in the probability of willingness to consume GMFs.
