

Vatican Debates Genetically Modified Veggies

VATICAN CITY, MAY 21, 2009 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)).- The Pontifical Academy of Sciences hosted a week of study to consider the various issues related to the debate surrounding genetically modified organisms.

The May 15-19 event in the Vatican brought together 41 scientists from some 15 nations, including China, Mexico, Australia, Kenya and Great Britain.

The experts discussed a range of themes, including elements of social doctrine, economics and international relations.

For example, they considered if the use of genetically modified organisms only benefits multinational organizations while penalizing small farmers, or if these organisms could be the secret to bringing Africa to a green revolution, or if the seeds of these plants could become part of aid programs assisting in development.

In the final session, the experts debated how to improve international regulations on this issue and how to ensure that the poor benefit from the innovations in vegetable biotechnology.

On the Net:

Program including abstracts and biographies: www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_academies/acdscien/2009/booklet_transgenic_34.pdf

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