



Genetically Modified Crops in Gabon: Perspectives and Policy Analysis

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Published: 27 July 2000 | **Received:** 26 March 2000 | **Accepted:** 13 June 2000

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DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18713109](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18713109)

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Abstract

Genetically modified (GM) crops have been a subject of significant debate in global agricultural policy and practice. In Gabon, where agriculture is a crucial sector for economic development and food security, the introduction of GM crops presents complex socio-economic challenges. A qualitative research approach was employed, involving semi-structured interviews with policymakers, farmers, and agronomists from different regions of Gabon. Data were analysed using thematic analysis to synthesize perspectives on GM crop integration into the local farming context. The findings indicate a significant proportion (45%) of respondents favoring further research rather than immediate adoption of GM crops due to concerns over environmental impact and socio-economic equity, with farmers expressing more cautious attitudes towards new technologies. While there is growing interest in exploring the potential benefits of GM crops for Gabon's agricultural sector, current public perception leans towards caution. This suggests a need for robust policy frameworks that balance technological advancement with social acceptance. It is recommended that Gabonese policymakers prioritise education and engagement initiatives to foster informed dialogue on GM crop adoption. Additionally, incentives should be provided for farmers who adopt sustainable agricultural practices alongside GM crops. The empirical specification follows $Y = \beta_{0+\beta} p X + \text{varepsilon}$, and inference is reported with uncertainty-aware statistical criteria.

Keywords: African, biotechnology, genetics, policy analysis, sustainable agriculture, transgenic, agronomy

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