Ethical implications of Genetic Engineering

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ABSTRACT

Transgenic and genetic engineering receive many objections from bio-medical scientists and ethicists. Cell biology is used to genetically modify crops to produce alternative characteristics, to clone plants and animals, to produce and ensure high quality food is available at lower costs, to produce purer medicines and in time organs for the many people who need transplants.

Forensic medicine uses cell biology and DNA fingerprinting to help solve murders and assaults. Neither the courts of law nor the criminals can escape the outreach of cell biology.

The public rejection of genetically modified (GM) food is mounting almost daily. The opposition to GM food is based on a range of concerns about the potential adverse impacts on the environmental, biological diversity and on local communities.

Indeed, there is an increasing concern not only in society at large but also in the scientific community the world over.

Because these experiments are cruel to the animals and as such violate their rights. Scientific concerns chiefly veer on the fear of the unknown, because we simply don't know enough about the long-term effects of tinkering with genetic codes. Detailed discussion will be attempted in the paper.

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