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Monday, July 22, 2002

Japan Today's Takanori Kobayashi dropped into Shibuya to ask:

What do you think about genetically modified foods?



"Foods developed through genetic modification may bring a variety of advantages to us. There are many countries facing a food shortage, for example. GM food may be the solution."

- Hiroshi Saida, 28



"I've never worried whether what I eat is genetically modified or not. It's alright as long as the foods are edible and tasty."

- Kenta Sato, 20



"I don't want to buy such food if I can help it. Nor will I let anyone in my family eat it until it's proven not harmful to human health."

- Kazuko Yamada, 55



"It seems to me that naturally grown foods are better for your health than GM food. I won't eat GM foods if possible, but further development in this area may be necessary considering the rapid increase of the world population and the possibility of a global food shortage."

- Morichika Onda, 24



"If eating such food has no ill-effects on our health, I guess it's OK. For some people, changing the genetic make-up of anything, even food, may be ethically unacceptable. I am against tampering with human and animal genes artificially but I don't mind trying it with vegetables or plants."

- Yoshitsugu Ohta, 57



"I expect that these developments will make vegetables bigger and cheaper than now. I have no worry about any negative effects on human health, but what I'm concerned about most is their taste."

- Keiko Matsuki, 24



"I don't mind GM foods. I'd be concerned if they had a bad effect on the human body, but this doesn't appear to be a serious problem."
- Masayuki Kubo, 23



"I'm against developing GM foods only for business purposes. If it's something that will make our lives better, great, but it should be carried out very carefully because it changes the ecosystem. We need to recognize the possible risks as well as the benefits."

- Nobuyoshi Muto, 45

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