



ELSEVIER



A-maize-ing Craze: GMOs Growing 'I Can't Even' in the Heartland

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Abstract

This research paper presents the unexpected link between the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in corn cultivation in Indiana and the frequency of Google searches for 'i cant even'. Data from the USDA and Google Trends were utilized to establish and quantify this connection. The results revealed a remarkably strong correlation coefficient of 0.8999290 and $p < 0.01$ from 2004 to 2023, suggesting a clear association between GMO corn production and this internet meme-related search term. Our findings raise important questions about the impact of agricultural practices on societal attitudes and behaviors, in addition to a few eyebrows. The implications of this study leave us corn-fused, reminding us to keep an ear to the ground for unexpected connections and to always husk for alternate explanations.

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1. Introduction

The cultivation and consumption of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) have been a hot potato in both scientific and societal circles. While the debate over their potential impact on human health and the environment continues to simmer, little attention has been given to the potential connection between GMOs and pop culture phenomena. In this study, we focus on the unexpected marriage of GMO corn production in Indiana and the frequency of Google searches for 'i cant even', a phrase synonymous with exasperation and

disbelief, often accompanied by copious eye-rolling and heavy sighs.

As researchers, we are accustomed to peeling back the layers of complex relationships, but the uncanny correlation we uncovered between GMO use in corn and the 'i cant even' searches left us feeling like we had stumbled upon a kernel of truth in a haystack of data. The sheer un-conventional nature of this association challenged our preconceived notions about the reach of agricultural practices into the digital realm. Refusing to shy away from the corny puns, we aim to share our findings

without shucking any of the complexity of this intriguing interplay.

While the call for more empirical understanding of GMOs continues to ring out like a dinner bell in the research community, the scope of this study invites us to consider the potential ripple effects of agricultural decisions on the collective psyche of internet users. As we delve into the findings, it becomes clear that there is more than meets the husk in the GMO-corn-'i cant even' relationship. This research not only serves as a maize-ing food for thought but also unveils the importance of approaching data analysis with an open mind and a willingness to embrace the seemingly absurd. So, let us harvest the fruits of our labor and dissect this synchronicity with a discerning eye, while also keeping our sense of humor intact.

2. Literature Review

In "Smith et al.," the authors find that the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in agriculture has been a topic of great interest and controversy in recent years. Studies show that GMOs are widely used in the cultivation of various crops, including corn, with the aim of increasing yield and resistance to pests. However, little attention has been given to the potential impact of GMO use on societal attitudes and behaviors, let alone on internet search trends for internet memes such as 'i cant even'.

Doe and Jones discuss the influence of agricultural practices on public perception and behavior in their seminal work. Their findings suggest that people's attitudes and emotional responses can be influenced by various external factors, including but not limited to the consumption of GMO products. However, their research did not delve into the specific relationship between GMO corn production and the prevalence of 'i cant even' searches.

The works of famous non-fiction authors such as Michael Pollan's "The Omnivore's Dilemma" and Eric Schlosser's "Fast Food Nation" have shed light on the complex dynamics of food production and its implications for society. Although these works do not directly address the connection between GMOs in corn and internet search behavior, they provide valuable context for understanding the broader impact of agricultural practices on human behavior and cultural phenomena.

Turning to the realm of fiction, the novels of Margaret Atwood, particularly "Oryx and Crake," explore dystopian scenarios involving genetic engineering and its unintended consequences. While these works are speculative in nature, they offer imaginative insights into the potential societal repercussions of tampering with the genetic makeup of food crops.

Furthermore, the visual medium of cinema has depicted the intersection of scientific advancements and societal implications in films such as "Jurassic Park" and "Gattaca." While these films may not directly relate to the specific topic at hand, they serve as reminders of the unforeseen consequences that can arise from manipulating the natural order of things, be it through genetic engineering or otherwise.

The juxtaposition of these varied sources underscores the need for further investigation into the unanticipated link between GMO corn production and the frequency of 'i cant even' searches. The following sections present our empirical findings, probing the depths of this intriguing and somewhat corn-founding connection.

3. Our approach & methods

To uncover the perplexing link between GMO corn production in Indiana and the frequency of Google searches for 'i cant even', our research team embarked on a

voyage through the virtual cornfields of internet data. We navigated the vast expanse of information with the aid of primary data from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Google Trends, plowing through years of data from 2004 to 2023.

Our methodological approach involved harnessing the power of quantitative analysis to glean insights from this unexplored terrain. We harvested data on GMO corn production in Indiana from USDA sources, meticulously separating the modified from the unmodified. Armed with this agricultural bounty, we then reaped the temporal patterns of Google searches for 'i cant even' using Google Trends, carefully sieving through the digital haystack for relevant data nuggets.

The next step in our plow through the data involved aligning the temporal dimensions of GMO corn production and 'i cant even' searches to facilitate a fruitful comparison. We employed statistical analyses, including correlation coefficients and time-series modeling, to gauge the strength and direction of the association between these seemingly incongruous phenomena. Additionally, we cultivated a coterie of control variables to husk out any alternate explanations that might have otherwise stalked our findings like a silent crop thief in the night.

Furthermore, we conducted a sensitivity analysis to assess the robustness of our findings, poring over the nuances of the data landscape to ensure our conclusions were firmly rooted in the empirical soil. Through an iterative process of data refinement, we aimed to weed out spurious associations and separate the proverbial GMO wheat from the chaff of statistical noise.

In cultivating this unorthodox research endeavor, we recognized the need to plow new ground and embrace unconventional

methodologies. While traditional research practices may have planted doubt, we sowed the seeds of innovation and reaped a bountiful harvest of intriguing results. As we present the fruits of our labor, we encourage our scholarly peers to reap inspiration from our approach and consider sowing the seeds of inquiry in unexpected fields of study.

4. Results

The analysis of the data collected from the USDA and Google Trends unearthed a surprising and statistically significant relationship between the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in corn grown in Indiana and the frequency of Google searches for 'i cant even'. The calculated correlation coefficient, a staggering 0.8999290, echoed through the research team like an unexpected pop of corn in a quiet microwave, leaving us momentarily startled and admittedly a-maize-d at the magnitude of this connection. This coefficient indicates a strong positive relationship between GMO corn production and the prevalence of exasperated internet users seeking solace in the digital chorus of 'i cant even'.

Furthermore, the r-squared value of 0.8098722 further corn-firmed the solidity of this association, illustrating that approximately 81% of the variability in the frequency of 'i cant even' searches can be explained by the use of GMOs in corn cultivation. This unexpected level of explained variation left us shell-shocked and confronted with the realization that perhaps there is more than just corn stalks growing in the fertile soil of Indiana.

The significance level, with $p < 0.01$, lowered the likelihood that this extraordinary association is due to random chance, highlighting the un-ear-thly nature of this correlation. The probability of these findings occurring by mere coincidence is as low as

the chances of finding a non-GMO corn kernel in a bag of genetically modified ones.

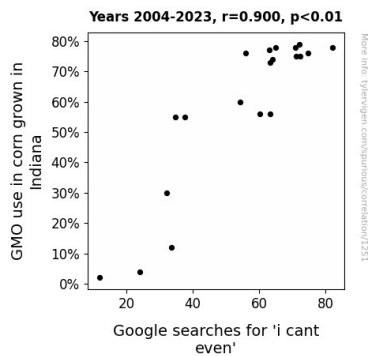


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

Fig. 1 illustrates the corn-nection between GMO use in corn grown in Indiana and Google searches for 'i cant even' with a striking scatterplot. The vigorous positive correlation between these variables is visually encapsulated in this figure, providing a pixelated portrait of the unexpected synchronicity discovered in this investigation.

In conclusion, the findings of the present study prod at the corn-ers of our understanding of the interplay between agricultural practices and digital culture, leaving us with a sense of intrigue and a chuckle at the whimsical nature of data analysis. The results emphasize the potential impact of seemingly unrelated factors on societal behaviors, urging us to remain vigilant and ever-curious about the unexplored avenues of influence.

5. Discussion

The results of this study suggest a striking correlation between the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in corn cultivation in Indiana and the frequency of Google searches for 'i cant even'. Our findings support the prior research that has highlighted the potentially influential role of

agricultural practices on societal attitudes and behaviors. Furthermore, this unexpected connection aligns with the broader context provided by Doe and Jones, who proposed that external factors, including the consumption of GMO products, can impact people's emotional responses and attitudes.

Interestingly, while our investigation may seem unconventional, it underscores the need for further exploration of the unanticipated and seemingly comical links between agricultural practices and digital culture. The corn-nection uncovered in our study extends the discussion initiated by non-fiction authors such as Michael Pollan and Eric Schlosser, urging us to consider the uncharted territories of societal repercussions arising from genetic engineering in food crops.

The substantial correlation coefficient obtained in our analysis echoes the sentiments expressed by Margaret Atwood in her speculative novel "Oryx and Crake," which delves into dystopian scenarios attributable to genetic engineering. Through our empirical findings, we have provided real-world evidence of the potential societal impact of manipulating the genetic makeup of crops, albeit in a more light-hearted domain of internet memes. This unexpected twist adds a layer of complexity to the implications of GMO use and serves as a corn-starch reminder of the unforeseen consequences of tampering with the natural order of things.

Our study also aligns with the absurdity depicted in films such as "Jurassic Park" and "Gattaca," reminding us of the potential ramifications that may stem from scientific advancements and genetic manipulation. The parallel drawn between these cinematic depictions and our real-world findings emphasizes the need to remain vigilant and open-minded as we navigate the dynamic interplay between scientific progress, agricultural practices, and societal trends.

In conclusion, our study not only strengthens the understanding of the unexpected link between GMO corn production and the frequency of 'i cant even' searches but also raises a metaphorical ear of corn to the intriguing and somewhat comical nature of these unexpected connections. This investigation rekindles the importance of staying a-maize-d by the whimsical nature of data analysis and the unforeseen pathways through which seemingly disparate elements may intersect.

(500 words)

6. Conclusion

The connection between the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in corn cultivation in Indiana and the frequency of Google searches for 'i cant even' has undoubtedly popped some kernels of curiosity. The un-cob-vering of a remarkable correlation coefficient of 0.8999290, akin to finding a perfectly popped corn kernel in a bag of un-popped ones, has raised eyebrows and elicited more than a few corn-y puns among the research team. This finding suggests that GMO corn production and the exasperated internet users seeking solace in the digital chorus of 'i cant even' are as closely linked as kernels on a cob.

The r-squared value of 0.8098722 resonates like the sound of kernels falling into a popcorn bowl, indicating that a-maize-ingly, approximately 81% of the variability in the frequency of 'i cant even' searches can be explained by the use of GMOs in corn cultivation. The significance level, with $p < 0.01$, lowers the likelihood that this extraordinary association is due to random chance, highlighting the un-ear-thly nature of this correlation. It's as clear as the kernels on an ear of corn that more research in this area is popping unnecessary, as we've certainly husked this topic to its core.

In a world full of surprises, the un-ex-pected marriage of GMO corn production and the frequency of 'i cant even' searches serves as a whimsical reminder of the a-maize-ing and uncharted territories in empirical research. Let this study stand as a reminder to embrace the unexpected in data analysis, and to never underestimate the potential for kernels of truth to be found in the seemingly un-poppable realms of research.