

**TEXT: Trouble on the table**

Some people find genetically modified super foods hard to swallow. What do you get when you cross a chicken with an apple? A flounder with a tomato? These aren't jokes waiting for a punch line. Believe it or not, combinations like these may make their way to your dinner table. There's a brave new world of agriculture that has some people excited about new super foods. Others are very nervous.

For thousands of years, farmers improved their crops by patiently crossbreeding plants that have good traits. But crossbreeding doesn't always work. Even when it does, it can take decades to get good results. Now, thanks to advances in gene science, there are amazing shortcuts. Genes are the instructions inside cells that help determine what a living thing looks like: its size; its shape and countless other traits. Using the new tools of genetic engineering, scientists can take a gene from one living thing and put it directly into another plant or animal. That way, says John Mount, professor of agriculture at the University of Tennessee, "you can make changes more precisely in a much shorter period of time".

Here's how it works. First, scientists identify a gene that controls a desirable trait - for example, a protein in an Arctic flounder that helps the "fish thrive in frigid waters. The scientists then use chemicals to cut and paste the flounder gene into the genes of tomato cells in a test tube. The cells grow into a tomato plant. Then the plant is tested to see if the fish gene still works. Does the tomato plant resist the cold? Yes it does!

Scientists believe the new techniques can create crops that are pest-proof, disease-resistant and more nutritious. Researchers are working on rice that has an extra boost of vitamin A from a different gene. The rice could help prevent blindness, even death, for millions of kids who don't get enough vitamin A in their diet.

**NB:**

*To cross:* to modify the breed of animals, plants, etc by intermixture;

*Shortcut:* quicker but unorthodox way of reaching a place or of accomplishing a task, etc.

**QUESTIONS (20 points)**

**I- READING COMPREHENSION (5 points)**

**A. Multiple choice questions (1 point)**

*Copy the complete sentence containing the correct answer.*

**1.** Plant crossbreeding has existed for

- |                              |                       |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>a.</b> hundreds of years. | <b>b.</b> decades.    |
| <b>c.</b> thousands of year. | <b>d.</b> some years. |

2. Plant crossbreeding is used to ... crops.
- a. spoil
  - b. decrease
  - c. ameliorate
  - d. abandon.

**B. True / False questions (2 points)**

*Copy the true sentences and correct the false ones.*

1. Genetically modified super foods are hard to swallow for everybody.
2. A flounder can be crossed with a tomato now.
3. Crossbreeding can take a year to get good results.
4. There are advances in gene science now.

**C. Answer the following questions (2 points)**

1. Why are some people very nervous about new super foods?
2. What do scientists think of the new techniques?

**II- LANGUAGE (10 points)**

**A. Copy down each word from the list on the left with the correct definition from the right. (2 points)**

| A        | B  |
|----------|--|
| swallow  | a small, edible flatfish                         |
| flounder | a spring plant of the genus Narcissus            |
| daffodil | what one habitually eats and drinks              |
| diet     | to receive into stomach through mouth and throat |

**B. Put the following prepositions where appropriate. (2 points)**

*In, back, over, out.*

Alou was seriously ill. He went to Paris for treatment. When he got ..., he got ... from Paris two weeks ago. He sometimes go to work. We see him getting ... a car in the morning and getting ... of it in the afternoon.

**C. What are you obliged to do every morning before coming to school? Give two sentences. (2 points)**

**D. Translate into English (2 points)**

Aujourd'hui le génie génétique fait partie des sujets de débat. Beaucoup de personnes l'acceptent alors que beaucoup d'autres s'y opposent.

**E. Translate into French (2 points)**

Some people find genetically modified super foods hard to swallow. What do you get when you cross a chicken with an apple?

## III- COMPOSITION (5 points)

Choose only one topic.

**A.** Genetic engineering is appreciated mainly in agriculture. Are you for or against it? Why? Give your reasons in a five-line essay.

**B.** Seydou Djitteye is a student in TSE LMAHT. He lives in Djingareyber - Timbuctu. He would like to continue his studies abroad at the University of Tennessee in the USA. He is given a form to fill in.

He was born in Tuesday December 11<sup>th</sup> 1995 in Timbuctu. He is muslim. His phone number is 76 13 48 52 . His e-mail is [sdjitteye@yahoo.fr](mailto:sdjitteye@yahoo.fr). He passed the DEF exam in 2010. He speaks Sonrhäi, French, Arabic and English. He likes sports and reading. He wants to be scientist.

Write a form and fill in it for Seydou Djitteye using the given information.

(A form covers personal details: name, sex, family status, date of birth, religion, address, contact phone number, schooling and exam passed, languages, hobbies, career ambitions.)

