

MURDER IN MATO GROSSO DO SUL

Simulation Game



IMPRINT

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After completing this simulation game:

- Participants will be able to name the advantages and disadvantages of cultivating genetically modified soybeans, and will have learned the social and environmental consequences of planting genetically modified (GM) crops in Brazil.
- Participants will have acquired an emotional and cognitive understanding of political power and impotence, and, accordingly, the opportunities and limitations different actors have in the global economy.
- As a result, participants will be able to take positions that are empathetic to other points of view, recognize the complexity of global issues, and develop ideas for solutions.
- Participants will be able to form their own opinions about soybean imports and genetically modified foods, and be able to state their positions on these issues as future professionals in the food industry.
- Participants will be able to identify current certifications and labels for GM-free food, and understand the legal requirements for labeling genetically modified food products.

“Appetizer”	“Main Course”	“Dessert”
Introduction to the topic and to the simulation game	Simulation game	Analysis and taking a position
Duration: 30 minutes	Duration: 90 minutes	Duration: 60 minutes
Material: PowerPoint Presentation	Material: Theater props, background information, and role descriptions	Material: PowerPoint Presentation
Page: 8	Page: 14	Page: 32



MODUL 1

Appetizer



EXERCISE 01

APPETIZER

Introduction to the Topic and to the Simulation Game

DURATION

30 minutes

METHOD

Active input

MATERIAL

- Computer with speakers
- PowerPoint presentation
- projector
- blackboard/flipchart



Note

Please send an email to epiz@epiz-berlin.de to request the Dropbox link to download the presentation. You are welcome to use or alter the presentation for the introductory phase, or to create your own introduction, depending on the context in which the game will be used.

BEEF PRODUCERS

The presentation lists the countries that produce the most beef. You can invite the participants to guess the names of these countries.

KEY FACTORS FOR GOOD MEAT QUALITY

At this point, the picture of a steak is shown in the presentation. The discussion question is: *Which conditions must be fulfilled to produce good quality meat?* Record the participants' answers on a flip chart or blackboard. If the type of animal feed has not been named as a key factor, add this to the list.

COMPONENTS OF CONCENTRATED FEED

Conventional livestock production systems (without species-appropriate husbandry or organic fodder) usually use concentrated feed. The components of concentrated feed are listed in the presentation.

Additional information

- 0.69 kilograms of soybean meal are needed to produce a kilogram of pork.
- 0.97 kilograms of soybean meal are needed to produce a kilogram of poultry.

Source: WWF Deutschland. Fleisch frisst Land. Berlin 2011.

SOYBEAN CULTIVATION

The presentation names the three countries that produce the most soybeans. Worldwide soybean production has increased in recent decades to satisfy the demand for livestock feed and biodiesel. While the production of soybeans has increased by 402 % in the US since 1990, it has increased by 431 % in Argentina, and 678 % in Brazil (percentages as of 2021). This has required the acquisition of large amounts of land for cultivation.

Relevant information about soybeans (for the food service industry)

The soybean is a legume native to East Asia, where it has been cultivated for more than 4,000 years. It can be cooked and used like a bean, and it contains more protein and fat than other pulses. Because of its high nutritional value, it is grown all over the world. Since soy products contain only vegetable protein and no lactose, they are a good alternative to milk products. Tofu, a soy product, is often used as a substitute for meat. Typical soy products are: tofu, soy milk, soy cream, soy flour, soy oil, soy sauce, and soybean sprouts. Soy is also used as an ingredient in many foods. For example, many chocolate bars are made with soy lecithin.

GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYBEANS

Approximately 99 % of the crop in Argentina, 90 % of the soybean crop in the USA, and 65 % of the crop in Brazil is grown using genetically modified seed. Why are farmers using these seeds? Monsanto, one of the large companies that produces genetically modified seeds, used the advertising slogan: "Produce more. Conserve resources. Improve living conditions." The rationale used to support this statement is this: when the cultivation of genetically modified soybeans produces larger crops, the same amount of land can be used to produce more soybeans. This conserves resources. The increase in income improves farmers' living conditions. Here, the teacher or facilitator can point out that this rationale will be tested and discussed as the day goes on.



Video tip:

The presentation now shows the link to the video “What Is a Genetically Modified Food? – Instant Egghead #45” by Scientific American <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMPE5wIB3Zk>. The video can be started by clicking on the link. The video provides a three-minute introduction to genetic engineering and its uses. Following the video, a short question-and-answer period can be used to clarify its content. It is important that the participants understand the difference between artificial selection and genetic engineering.



Additional information

Genetically modified soybeans (GM soybeans) have various characteristics that differentiate them from heirloom soybeans. Most frequently, they are modified to be resistant to herbicides. Almost all GM soybeans are now resistant to the herbicide glyphosate. Glyphosate is a broad-spectrum herbicide that kills most plants, except those which have been genetically modified to resist it. Due to the high use of glyphosate in agriculture, some plants – the so-called “super-weeds” – have developed a resistance to it. Seed producers are reacting by developing a new generation of genetically modified soybeans that are resistant to additional herbicides, which can then be used to kill the “super-weeds” (such as 2,4-D).

KEY FACTS ABOUT BRAZIL

The next step is to establish the link to the country of Brazil. The facilitator should begin by asking the participants what they know about Brazil, and then address the topic areas listed below. Discussing the topics of “ancient cultures” and “colonialism” will help to ensure that no pejorative or disrespectful remarks are made about indigenous people. In addition, discussing these topics emphasizes the political dimension of the simulation game and introduces the position of the indigenous communities.

Ancient cultures

Indigenous people have lived for thousands of years on the territory of the present country of Brazil. The oldest archeological findings date back to 11700 BCE.

Indigenous people cultivated the land, were engaged in fishery, navigated the rivers, built roads, and established cities with areas of up to 60 hectares.

Colonialism

The first Europeans arrived in South America around 1500 CE. In the beginning, they traded goods and services with the indigenous communities, but a period of violent colonization followed. When the Portuguese arrived, approximately 5 to 10 million indigenous people were living in South America – the estimates vary greatly. So many people died from forced labor on plantations and were decimated by ‘unknown’ infectious diseases introduced by the Europeans, that the colonizers began importing enslaved persons from Africa to labor on the plantations. Today, about 400,000 indigenous people live in Brazil. The current situation of the Guaraní, the indigenous people who play a major role in this simulation game, is a result of the brutal European colonization of South America.

Democracy

Brazil has been a democracy since 1985. In addition to elections, Brazilians have many channels to exercise political influence, including public opinion polls and referenda.

Economy

Brazil is currently the eleventh largest economy in the world. Politically backed infrastructure programs and economic growth measures have led to high growth rates. The most important economic sectors are crude oil extraction, mining, and agriculture. Brazil’s largest trading partner is the USA.

Land of Diversity

Brazil is a country of great geographical, topographic, and social diversity, and a land of many contrasts. For example, Brazil is rich in natural resources and is economically successful, yet the level of economic disparity in Brazil is one of the highest in the world. (Brazil’s Gini coefficient of 0.53 in 2019 is relatively high.) In 2021, 10% of the population held nearly 80% of the wealth. The distribution of public services, such as education and health care, mirrors this inequity. São Paulo is one of the largest, most modern, and most expensive cities in the world, and the Amazon Basin holds the world’s most extensive primary tropical rainforest. These strong contrasts have led to numerous conflicts, such as efforts to maintain economic growth by pursuing large-scale projects that damage the environment and violate human rights (the Belo Monto Dam, for example).

The situation in Mato Grosso do Sul is tense because agriculture companies want to use the land where the Guaraní are living. For centuries, these indigenous peoples have been gradually driven from their lands, in recent decades by agriculture companies that cultivate sugarcane and soybeans for the export market. Today, Guaraní are forced to live on crowded reservations or in makeshift roadside camps. For the first time, the government has called a meeting for everyone involved to discuss the conflict.

WHAT IS A SIMULATION GAME?

A simulation game is not a theater play, but rather an extensive role-play exercise. It begins with a situation based on a real problem that needs to be solved. All participants assume roles in the groups involved in the conflict. In their respective roles, they discuss and debate with one another, and try to compromise to reach solutions that take their interests into account.

PROCEDURE AND RULES OF THE GAME

After the roles have been assigned, the groups are given 20 minutes to familiarize themselves with their roles. They are not allowed to make contact with the other groups during this time. After 20 minutes, participants are allowed to send written messages to the other groups (the teacher or a facilitator delivers the letters) in order to clarify common interests, forge alliances, formulate demands, etc. A group may request to meet with another group in person. The meeting can take place if the other group agrees. This phase of contact between the groups can be extended, depending on the level of engagement of the participants, and how well the dynamic of the game is progressing. When the contact phase has come to an end, the government invites all parties to an assembly. At the end of the assembly the government will decide who will be allowed to use the Guaraní's land and how they will be permitted to use it.

ROLE ASSIGNMENT

At the start of the simulation game, the groups are introduced and roles are distributed. The groups should all be approximately the same size, except for the government, which can be somewhat larger.

A large, stylized number '2' is the central graphic element. It is composed of two overlapping shapes: a darker green shape on the left and a lighter green shape on the right. The number is positioned on the left side of the page, partially overlapping a vertical green bar that runs down the left edge.

MODUL 2

Main Course



EXERCISE 02

MAIN COURSE

Implementation of the Simulation Game

DURATION

90 minutes

MATERIAL

Government

Description of the current situation (Worksheet 1), excerpts from the Constitution of Brazil (Worksheet 2), role description (Worksheet 3), strategy paper (Worksheet 11), white paper, markers, pencils, presentation cards
CLOTHING: sports jackets (or name tags)

Guarani

Description of the current situation (Worksheet 1), excerpts from the Constitution of Brazil (Worksheet 2), role description (Worksheet 4), five templates for drawing papayas (Worksheet 5), strategy paper (Worksheet 11), cardboard for protest posters, recycled paper, two pencils if there are three or less group members, three pencils if there are four or more group members
CLOTHING: blue caps (or name tags)

SOS Mato Grosso do Sul Environmental and Human Rights Organization

Description of the current situation (Worksheet 1), excerpts from the Constitution of Brazil (Worksheet 2), role description (Worksheet 6), strategy paper (Worksheet 11), recycled paper, cardboard for protest posters, pens, markers
CLOTHING: Brazil caps (or name tags)

Grupo Albertini Agriculture Company

Description of the current situation (Worksheet 1), role description (Worksheet 7), strategy paper (Worksheet 11), six bills of play money, white and colored paper, pens, markers, highlighters
CLOTHING: sports jackets, hats (or name tags)

German Farmers' Association

Description of the current situation (Worksheet 1), role description (Worksheet 8), strategy paper (Worksheet 11), six bills of play money, white and colored paper, pens, markers, highlighters
CLOTHING: shirts (or name tags)

Reporters for the Correio Agrário daily newspaper

Description of the current situation (Worksheet 1), role description (Worksheet 9), strategy paper (Worksheet 11), white and colored paper in DIN A3 and DIN A4, colored markers, highlighters, pens, scissors, glue, pinboard
CLOTHING: neckties (or name tags)

Reporters for the Diário do Mato daily newspaper

Description of the current situation (Worksheet 1), role description (Worksheet 10), strategy paper (Worksheet 11), recycled paper, markers, pens, pinboard

CLOTHING: neckties (or name tags)

SETTING AND GAME PROCEDURE

After the roles have been assigned, the groups meet in separate rooms or at separate tables. The meeting places should be clearly marked with signs on the doors or the tables, and separate from one another. The arrangement of the group locations should mirror their actual power relations. The press and the government should be more in the center, whereas the Guaraní activists can be seated in a more remote location. The groups' meeting places should be equipped with the kinds of materials which may correspond to their positions of power. Grupo Albertini is a successful, profit-oriented company, and thus has various impressive illustration materials at its command. On the other hand, the environmental and human rights organization SOS Mato Grosso do Sul prefers to use environmentally-friendly recycled materials. The Guaraní have only limited access to materials and will have to improvise if they decide, for example, to make protest posters. They have only pencils to write with, and the game leader will confiscate them one by one if they do not harvest (draw) enough papayas. Reporters who are friendly with the agriculture company have access to an abundance of paper, pens, glue, scissors, and a pinboard with needles. The critical press has to make do with simpler publication methods. The groups don't need to be provided with the exact materials on the list, but the more realistic the setting, the stronger the groups' identification with their roles and the intensity of their emotional experience with the game will be. Costumes such as a sports jacket for a government official or a fancy hat for the management of the Grupo Albertini make it easier for the participants to identify with their roles. The suggested costumes are only examples. If providing costumes is inconvenient, name tags are a good alternative.

ORIENTATION PHASE**20 minutes**

The participants now have 20 minutes to develop a group identity, agree on a division of roles within the group, design a group logo, slogan, or emblem and become familiar with the worksheets and materials they have been given. They are not allowed to contact each other during the orientation phase. They may, however, ask the facilitators questions at any time. In this phase, the groups determine their goals, decide which of the other groups are potential allies or adversaries, and define the strategies they will use to achieve their goals.

OPTIONAL INTRODUCTION ROUND

At this point, it might help the participants to gain an overview of the situation by staging a short round of introductions. In this step, the groups come together, and a representative of each group briefly explains its role and the group's demands.

INTERACTION PHASE

45 minutes

When the orientation phase is over, interaction between the groups begins. They are allowed to contact each other only by writing messages. The letters are delivered from one group to the next by the facilitators, and the groups may use them to ask for informal or public in-person meetings. Invitations must be accepted or rejected in writing.

The facilitators can control or even censure the mail, thus intervening to steer the game in a certain direction. They should read every letter, keeping an eye on how the game is proceeding, and give the press valuable tips, if they deem it necessary. They can influence the course of the game by inventing and announcing unexpected events such as a sudden drought and a resulting hunger crisis, a corruption scandal involving the government, or a change in the stock prices of a corporation. To avoid slowing down the dynamic of the game, they should use these interventions sparingly.

If there are more than two people in each group, it can be helpful to ask the participants to convene in their respective groups every ten minutes for a short round of discussion. Often, the groups will divide into smaller teams to discuss with individual members of the other groups. They may make agreements or promises that the other group members need to know about. Meeting every ten minutes will ensure that everyone in the group is following the same strategy.

After 45 minutes, the government calls for an assembly, either via a press release or by personal invitation. All groups are invited.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

20 minutes

After an opening statement by the government (greetings, explanation of the current situation and the reason for the meeting), all parties are invited to state and explain their viewpoints and positions. The government can moderate the discussion or delegate the role to an external moderator (facilitator). The press documents the meeting, and is allowed to ask questions and make comments. After about 20 minutes, the government withdraws to meet behind closed doors and deliberate. After they reach a decision, they announce that either the Guaraní or the Grupo Albertini Agriculture Company will be allowed to use the land, and under which conditions. The government's announcement is the conclusion of the game.

It is better not to take a break until after the de-roling phase (see the "Dessert" chapter).



Worksheet 1

MURDER IN MATO GROSSO DO SUL

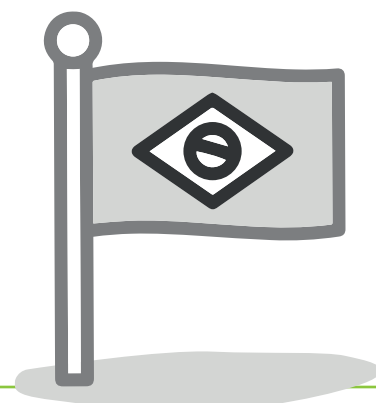
Current Situation

The **Grupo Albertini** is the largest soybean producer in the world. In the Brazilian state, Mato Grosso do Sul (often simply called 'Mato', which means "Forest"), the Grupo Albertini is cultivating large areas of farm land with genetically modified soybeans (GM soybeans).

Sugarcane, wheat, cassava, and cotton are also grown in Mato. Environmental organizations such as **SOS Mato Grosso do Sul** openly criticize the fact that large areas of the forest have been cleared for farmland to grow soybeans. CEO Blairo Albertini was also the governor of Mato from 2003 to 2010, meaning that during this time there was not much that could deter him from advancing what some call "progress", while others call it a "global catastrophe": deforestation, expanding the infrastructure (streets, harbors), growing soybeans and sugarcane for the export market, and increasing the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Brazil's largest indigenous community, the **Guaraní**, also live in Mato. The Guaraní have lived in this region of the forest for centuries, long before Europeans came to South America. Although indigenous people in Brazil are guaranteed legal protections and recognized as the legal owners of their lands, large areas of the rainforest have been occupied by agriculture companies, deforested, and planted with soybeans and sugarcane. All of the Guaraní's complaints to the government agencies responsible for the protection of indigenous peoples have been unsuccessful: forest lands have been cleared, GM soybeans and sugarcane have been planted, pesticides have poisoned the rivers and the soil, many Guaraní have been displaced, and now live on reservations or in provisional roadside camps. The Guaraní's traditional way of living has been destroyed, and their lives are in danger. Many Guaraní leaders have been murdered. Most recently, the Guaraní leader Ambrósio Vilhalva was stabbed to death because he defended the land rights of his people. In 2012 alone, 34 Guaraní were murdered in Mato Grosso do Sul. Intense feelings of despair have caused many Guaraní to commit suicide.

There are now plans to confiscate even more Guaraní land for soybean farms. The Guaraní learned about this when laborers suddenly appeared to clear the land, accompanied by security personnel who threatened them. Only the chance presence of an international film team prevented something terrible from happening.





Due to increasing international pressure, the **state government** has decided to intervene. They have called a meeting and invited everyone involved in the conflict to present their viewpoints and their interests.

The following groups are invited:

- Guaraní
- Grupo Albertini Agriculture Company
- SOS Mato Grosso do Sul Environmental and Human Rights Organization
- German Farmers' Association
- the Correio Agrário daily newspaper, which is sympathetic to agribusiness
- the Diário do Mato daily newspaper, which is sympathetic to indigenous communities

Game procedure, rules, and group assignments

- Decide who will represent your organization. You can give your group a logo, a slogan, or an emblem. Reflect upon your goals and which strategies you can implement to reach them. How willing are you to compromise?
- Prepare an opening statement for the round of introductions.
- You have 20 minutes to become familiar with your roles. You are not allowed to contact the other groups during this time. If you have questions, contact a teacher or the game facilitators.
- The facilitators will announce the end of the orientation phase and the beginning of the simulation game. You will then have 45 minutes to interact with the other groups. Can you identify common goals and develop a platform with other groups, and find ways to support each other? Get to know your adversaries. Is there a way to agree on an early compromise? You are only allowed to contact other groups by sending written messages. Give your letters to the facilitators; they will deliver them to the other groups. You may also request to meet with another group privately or in a public meeting.
- Use press releases, advertising campaigns, or similar information to encourage the media to pass on important information!
- If you have money, here are examples of how you can use it: publish an advertisement in a newspaper or bribe the government to give you the last word at the assembly.



Worksheet 2

EXCERPTS FROM THE CONSTITUTION OF BRAZIL

October 5, 1988

PREAMBLE

We, the representatives of the Brazilian People, convened in the National Constituent Assembly to institute a democratic state for the purpose of ensuring the exercise of social and individual rights, liberty, security, well-being, development, equality and justice as supreme values of a fraternal, pluralist and unprejudiced society, founded on social harmony and committed, in the internal and international orders, to the peaceful settlement of disputes, promulgate, under the protection of God, this Constitution of the Federative Republic of Brazil.

Constitution of the Federative Republic of Brazil

TITLE I

Fundamental Principles

[...]

Article 3. The fundamental objectives of the Federative Republic of Brazil are:

- I** – to build a free, just and solidary society;
- II** – to guarantee national development;
- III** – to eradicate poverty and substandard living conditions and to reduce social and regional inequalities;
- IV** – to promote the well-being of all, without prejudice as to origin, race, sex, color, age and any other forms of discrimination.

TITLE II

Fundamental Rights and Guarantees

CHAPTER I

Individual and Collective Rights and Duties

Article 5. All persons are equal before the law, without any distinction whatsoever, Brazilians and foreigners residing in the country being ensured of inviolability of the right to life, to liberty, to equality, to security and to property, on the following terms:

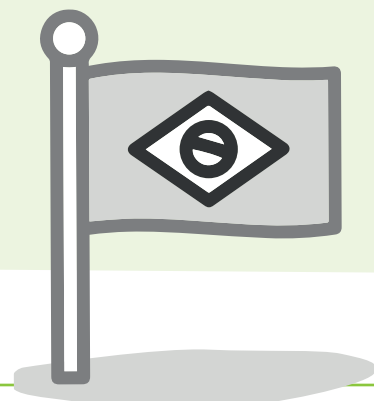
- I – men and women have equal rights and duties under the terms of this Constitution;
- II – no one shall be obliged to do or refrain from doing something except by virtue of law;
- III – no one shall be submitted to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment;
- IV – the expression of thought is free, and anonymity is forbidden; [...]

CHAPTER VIII

Indians

Article 231. Indians shall have their social organization, customs, languages, creeds and traditions recognized, as well as their original rights to the lands they traditionally occupy, it being incumbent upon the Union to demarcate them, protect and ensure respect for all of their property.

Paragraph 1. Lands traditionally occupied by Indians are those on which they live on a permanent basis, those used for their productive activities, those indispensable to the preservation of the environmental resources necessary for their well-being and for their physical and cultural reproduction, according to their uses, customs and traditions.



Paragraph 2. The lands traditionally occupied by Indians are intended for their permanent possession and they shall have the exclusive usufruct of the riches of the soil, the rivers and the lakes existing therein.

Paragraph 3. Hydric resources, including energetic potentials, may only be exploited, and mineral riches in Indian land may only be prospected and mined with the authorization of the National Congress, after hearing the communities involved, and the participation in the results of such mining shall be ensured to them, as set forth by law.

Paragraph 4. The lands referred to in this article are inalienable and indisposable and the rights thereto are not subject to limitation.

Paragraph 5. The removal of Indian groups from their lands is forbidden, except ad referendum of the National Congress, in case of a catastrophe or an epidemic which represents a risk to their population, or in the interest of the sovereignty of the country, after decision by the National Congress, it being guaranteed that, under any circumstances, the return shall be immediate as soon as the risk ceases.

Paragraph 6. Acts with a view to occupation, domain and possession of the lands referred to in this article or to the exploitation of the natural riches of the soil, rivers and lakes existing therein, are null and void, producing no legal effects, except in case of relevant public interest of the Union, as provided by a supplementary law and such nullity and voidness shall not create a right to indemnity or to sue the Union, except in what concerns improvements derived from occupation in good faith, in the manner prescribed by law.

[...]

Source: <https://www.mpf.mp.br/atuacao-tematica/sci/normas-e-legislacao/legislacao/legislacao-em-ingles/constitution-of-the-federative-republic-of-brazil> (Accessed on June 2, 2023)



Worksheet 3

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT OF MATO GROSSO DO SUL

The national government of Brazil has instructed you to address land rights conflicts between indigenous communities and agriculture companies in your state. Demonstrations are becoming larger and more frequent, and pressure from national and international human rights organizations, foreign governments, and the United Nations is increasing. The most recent confrontations occurred when an international film team was present, which was very unfortunate.

As the acting state government, you have continued the policies of past governments and supported the agriculture industry, an important driver of economic wealth and progress in Mato Grosso do Sul (often simply called 'Mato', which means "Forest"). The cultivation and sale of soybeans and sugarcane is an important source of foreign currency, and the tax income has enabled the government to improve public education and health care, as well as financing new sport facilities (for example golf courses and tennis courts). Unfortunately, progress sometimes gets in the way of the rights of the indigenous communities. As a member of the government, you are responsible for enforcing Brazilian legal rights: no one can be summarily displaced from their land.

You are the host of the assembly. It is your responsibility to facilitate and structure the meeting.

- Invite the participants to make initial statements explaining their demands and the arguments in their favor.
- You may allow a discussion to follow the statements.
- Interrupt the meeting for a break, in which you as representatives of the government withdraw to deliberate behind closed doors and reach your decision.
- At the end of the meeting, announce your decision as to how you will allow the land to be used.





Worksheet 4

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GUARANÍ

You are shocked and extremely angry because for centuries your land has been progressively taken away. It is common knowledge that the land belongs to the **Guaraní**. But what good does that do when it is occupied by agriculture companies like the **Grupo Albertini** and guarded by their armed security forces? Politicians and the police are standing by idly – even as the people they represent are threatened and murdered. Many Guaraní are now forced to live on crowded reservations where there is not enough land to grow fruits and vegetables. Others live in makeshift camps they have built on the sides of country roads. Malnutrition and hunger are on the rise.

The health status of many **Guaraní** is an additional problem. Since you live very close to the large farms operated by the Grupo Albertini Agriculture Company, you are suffering from the undesirable effects of pesticides that are used on the fields, especially the most commonly used broad-spectrum herbicide glyphosate (a weed killer). Airplanes spray it extensively on the fields. Due to wind and driftage, the poison has made its way into Guaraní villages, and is negatively affecting people's health and the environment. Miscarriages and higher cancer rates are the result. The rivers are also being contaminated. Mass fish mortality events are frequent occurrences, and fish, an important source of protein, are becoming scarce.

From the very beginning, the **Guaraní** have fought against the seizure of their lands. Time and again, Guaraní groups have reoccupied their territory, sometimes successfully, sometimes less so. You have appealed to the public, international policy makers, and international advocacy organizations, and you have received a great deal of support from these groups, but unfortunately you have received less support from your own government, which has aligned itself with the agriculture companies.

Your expectations of the upcoming assembly are mixed: you hope that the government will finally do something to protect your rights, but at the same time you are worried that there will be no change for the better.

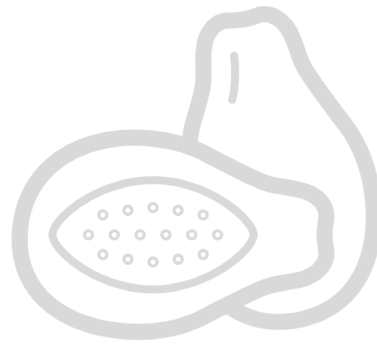
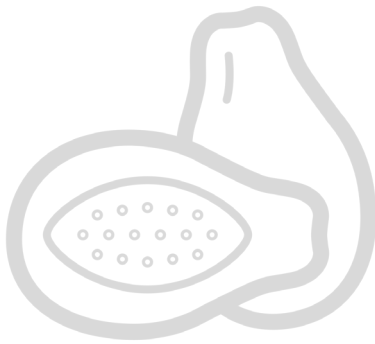
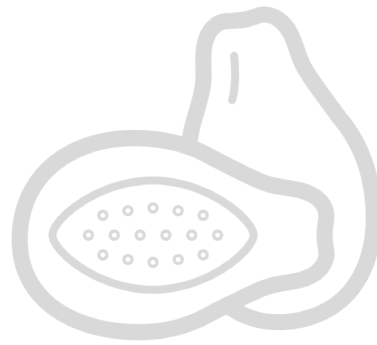
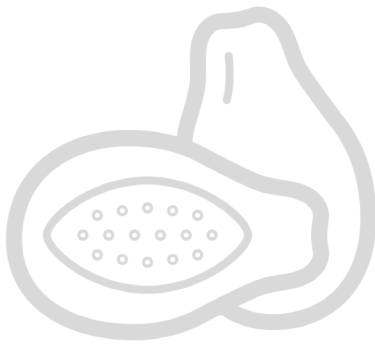
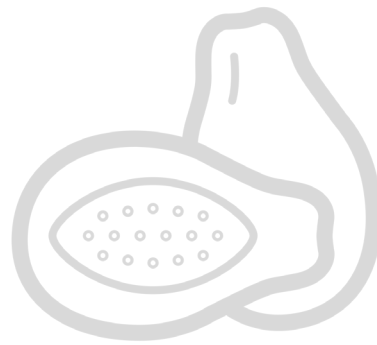
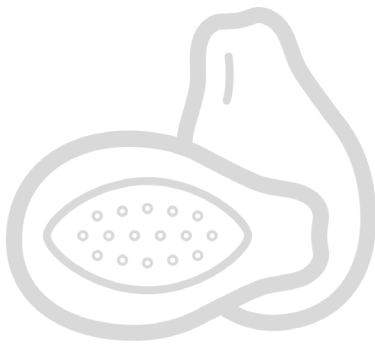
You can't spend all of your time defending your interests. In order to have enough to eat, you need to harvest (draw) 20 papayas every hour and bring them to the game facilitators. A pencil will be taken away each time you are unable to accomplish this timed task.





Worksheet 5

PLEASE DRAW THE PAPAYAS AND BRING THEM TO THE GAME LEADER





Worksheet 6

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOS MATO GROSSO DO SUL ENVIRONMENTAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION (SOS MATO)

You work for an environmental and human rights organization that has many members across the nation, as well as extensive international contacts. Some of your co-workers are **Guaraní** or representatives of other indigenous groups.

You are especially worried about the mass cultivation of genetically modified soybeans. These plants can tolerate large amounts of pesticides to treat unwanted weeds. This has led to an increase in the use of chemicals on the fields. The soil and the water are gradually being poisoned. Animals are dying.

SOS Mato Grosso do Sul criticizes the fact that all scientific studies on the impact of genetic engineering have been commissioned and paid for by the agriculture industry. This is why you are calling for independent research, especially on the implications for humans.

Brazilian law clearly states: **Guaraní** and other peoples who have lived here for centuries are entitled to special protection. It should be possible for them to live in their traditional ways. This includes, among other things, religion, healthcare, and agriculture. They are the traditional owners of the land they are living on today. However, none of these laws have been respected in recent years. On the contrary, Guaraní have been displaced by armed security guards, threatened, and even murdered.

The forests of their traditional homelands have been cleared to make way for soybean farms. Deforestation has also contributed to global climate change (global warming and increased occurrences of natural disasters such as drought and flooding).





Worksheet 7

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GRUPO ALBERTINI AGRICULTURE COMPANY

You are the managers of **Grupo Albertini**, the largest producers of genetically modified (GM) soybeans in Brazil. Thanks to you and other large agriculture businesses, Brazil has emerged as one of the world's leading economies. Particularly in the State of Mato Grosso do Sul (often simply called 'Mato', which means "Forest"), you have expanded the infrastructure needed to cultivate and transport soybeans. You have helped to finance the building of roads and a modern harbor, which has enabled the entire region to thrive economically. This has led to the creation of many new jobs in the building sector, as well as at the harbor and in agriculture.

By cultivating genetically modified soybeans (GM soybeans), you are making a contribution to the global war against hunger. Because the yield per hectare of GM soybeans is greater than with non-GM soybeans, you can produce soybeans at lower cost. An additional important factor is the resistance of the plants to pesticides. When you spray the plants, you kill the weeds without harming the GM plants. This also leads to a higher yield from the fields.

Genetically modified soybeans and crop protection agents are not harmful. This has been proven by scientific studies commissioned by the seed companies. The seed companies have financed extensive research, and they have assured you that neither the pesticides, nor the genetic modification of plants, have any harmful effects on humans, animals, or the environment. The pesticides break down after a certain period of time, and cannot be detected in the soybeans when they are harvested, which means they are no longer harmful. In your opinion, individual samples with high amounts of residue are exceptions and don't need to be taken seriously. At any rate, there are more advantages than disadvantages.

You have nothing to do with the murders of **Guaraní** people. The police have never been able to prove anything. And since the indigenous people keep occupying the land, you need armed security forces to protect your fields.





Worksheet 8

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GERMAN FARMERS' ASSOCIATION

You have travelled to Brazil to strengthen German-Brazilian trade relations, especially with Grupo Albertini, the largest soybean producer in the country. Brazil is an important supplier of soybeans for protein, especially for cattle feed, but these soybeans are also essential feed for pigs and chickens. You will be representing the interests of German farmers at the assembly. Your colleagues are planning to expand meat production, so they will need even more soybeans. German farmers hope this increase in meat production can be exported (to China, for example).

You don't agree with the criticism of genetically modified seeds. Studies commissioned by the agriculture industry have proven that – when used correctly – they have no negative consequences for humans, animals, or the environment. In cases where animals have died, or there has been environmental damage, it has been due to the mistakes of individual farmers. In addition, genetically modified soybeans are cheaper than other soybeans, which makes it possible for German farmers to produce meat at a lower cost.

You are lobbying for laws that allow the cultivation of genetically modified soybean seeds in Germany. You're hoping for a larger harvest on the same amount of land. Studies show that it will be necessary to increase global food production in order to feed everyone. German farmers are responsible global citizens who are happy to contribute to the fight against world hunger. This can only be done with effective and efficient agricultural methods.

At the same time, you attach great importance to respecting human rights and honoring international agreements. It makes you feel uncomfortable to know that people are being driven from their land.





Worksheet 9

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CORREIO AGRÁRIO DAILY NEWSPAPER, WHICH IS SYMPATHETIC TO AGRIBUSINESS

You work for **Brazil's largest national daily newspaper**. Due primarily to the expansion of the agriculture sector, the country has succeeded in joining the inner circle of the world's leading economic powers. Today, Brazil is a trailblazer in the use of new agricultural technologies and the number one exporter of soybean, sugarcane, beef, and chicken, to name a few examples.

In the past few years, your newspaper has often reported on trouble caused by indigenous peoples like the **Guaraní**. They occupy agricultural land because they want to live on it, and they are damaging the image of Brazil and the agriculture industry. Your job is to report on everything that happens at the assembly.

Wouldn't it be a good idea to conduct interviews with some of the participants?

You're reporting live from the assembly and writing short articles about how it is progressing. Illustrate your bulletins with photos or drawings, and display them for everyone to see, or distribute them during the conference.

One good way to attract attention would be to shout out the titles of your articles during the meeting.





Worksheet 10

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DIÁRIO DO MATO DAILY NEWSPAPER, WHICH IS SYMPATHETIC TO THE INDIGENOUS CAUSE

You work for a **large national daily newspaper**, which is sympathetic to the indigenous cause. For many years, you have been reporting on infringements of the rights of indigenous peoples, especially the **Guaraní**. Although indigenous communities in Brazil are entitled to special protection, human rights violations are very common. Your team of reporters has recently discovered how politics and agribusiness are entangled with each other. And the political and legal consequences? None!

You're following the story, and now you're attending the assembly to report on the discussion and the results. Wouldn't it be a good idea to conduct interviews with some of the participants?

You're reporting live from the assembly and writing short articles about how it is progressing. Illustrate your bulletins with photos or drawings and display them for everyone to see, or distribute them during the conference.

One good way to attract attention would be to shout out the titles of your articles during the meeting.





Worksheet 11

CONSIDER POSSIBLE STRATEGIES AND WRITE DOWN YOUR IDEAS.

The following key questions may be helpful:

What are your goals?

Which arguments support your position?

Who might be your possible allies?

Who do you want to convince of your opinion?

MODUL 3

Dessert



EXERCISE 03

DESSERT

Implementation of the Simulation Game

DURATION

90 minutes

METHOD

- Role play
- short speeches
- discussion
- videos

MATERIAL

- Flip chart
- computer
- projector
- YouTube video "Intensifying Violence Against the Guarani Kaiowá in Brazil's Soy Belt"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uBmsfasq4PY>, Worksheets 12 and 13

COMMUNICATION ANALYSIS

30 minutes

The first step is to analyze what happened during the game. Each group comments on their goals, who it was easy or difficult to work with, and what they have achieved. These are usually emotionally charged discussions. If the participants should begin to argue because they are still in the dynamic of the game, remind them that the game is over, and assure them that every group will be able to have their say. It helps to visualize the discussion on a flip chart or blackboard. Green or red arrows can be used to link group names and visualize common interests or differences.

DE-ROLING

20 minutes

The second step is to de-role. Each participant is invited to say how they felt in their role, and what went well and what didn't. As a way of distancing themselves from their role, they should also be asked to state their personal positions on the issues. Finally, they should "take off" their roles by laying their costumes or role props aside, or they can mime "stepping out" of their roles, as if their roles were a jumpsuit. At this point, it would be good to take a break or play an action game.

DISCUSSION OF POWER AND INEQUALITY

Spread out the signs from the tables or the doors onto the floor.

Remind the participants that they are no longer in their roles and ask them to answer the following questions by moving close to the sign with the name of the group they have chosen:

→ Which group had the most power?

→ Which group's interests in the game situation do you personally consider to be the most important?

When the participants have taken a position on each question, ask them for the reason why they have chosen this particular group. Typically, they will spontaneously begin to analyze the power relationships in the game and to discuss the issues of injustice and responsibility.

REALITY CHECK

40 minutes

The reality check is focused on asking which elements of the simulation game are close to real-life situations, and discussing ways of addressing the issues in the participants' professional lives. The discussion can be structured by dividing it into three topic areas:

Guaraní; soybean cultivation and genetic engineering; hunger and German farmers. Prepare a flip chart for each topic with the statements below, which are relevant to the simulation. Ask the participants to guess if a statement is true or false, and mark their answer with a check mark or an X. When they have finished, write the correct answer in the right-hand column. We have provided background information following the questions.

DEBRIEFING QUESTIONS WITH ANSWERS

Reality Check: Guaraní	Your Guess	Check
Is it true that Guaraní have been driven from their land to make way for large soybean farms?		✓
Do the Guaraní now live on reservations or in street camps?		✓
Are the Guaraní really trying to make their cause known?		✓
Have Guaraní leaders been murdered in recent years?		✓
Has the government made any efforts to protect the Guaraní's constitutional rights to their traditional homelands?		✓
Do all Guaraní wear traditional clothing and feather ornaments?		✗

Reality Check: Soybean Cultivation and Genetic Engineering	Your Guess	Check
Are the government and agriculture business in Brazil closely connected?		✓
Does Grupo Albertini really exist?		✓
Does SOS Mato Grosso do Sul really exist?		✗
! Are pesticides and the cultivation of genetically modified soybeans really harmless?		✗

Reality Check: Hunger and German Farmers	Your Guess	Check
Could hunger be substantially reduced if German farmers would produce more food?		✗
! Is genetically modified animal feed really used in Germany?		✓

There are several ways to take a closer look at these issues:

- You can discuss each statement.
- You can decide to concentrate on one or more topic areas.
- You can ask the participants which issues they would like to learn more about.

In any case, you should draw attention to the final question with the !, because it leads to a discussion of how to address the issues in a professional setting.

GUARANÍ

Detailed Debriefing

Is it true that Guaraní have been driven from their land to make way for large soybean farms?

Yes. Guaraní and other indigenous peoples have been driven from their homelands since the beginning of European colonization, often to make way for sugarcane or rubber farms. In recent years, soybean production has increased massively because of the demand for meat. In modern-day Brazil, almost all Guaraní have been displaced from their original lands. The situation in the Brazilian State of Mato Grosso do Sul is especially urgent.



Film tip:

Show the video “Intensifying Violence Against the Guaraní Kaiowá in Brazil’s Soy Belt” by the non-profit environmental science and conservation news platform Mongabay

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uBmsfasq4PY>, 6:24 minutes.

The video provides insight into the struggle of the Guaraní to reclaim their ancestral land.



Do the Guaraní now live on reservations or in street camps?

Both. Many Guaraní have been displaced from their territories and are now living in makeshift houses on the sides of roads or on crowded reservations. Without access to land or forests as resources, they cannot continue their traditional way of life. Often, they do not have enough land to produce sufficient food to survive. Some Guaraní have reoccupied their traditional lands and are living on them in uncertainty, under constant threat by the security forces of the agriculture companies. Today, about 51,000 Guaraní are living in Brazil, the largest indigenous population in the country. Guaraní also live in Paraguay, Bolivia, and Argentina. As a result of poor living conditions and a lack of future prospects, many Guaraní have taken their own lives. (According to Survival International, the suicide rate is 19 times higher than the national average in Brazil.)

Are the Guaraní really trying to make their cause known?

Yes. The Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (Articulação dos Povos Indígenas do Brasil (APIB)) is a coalition of indigenous movements in Brazil. Their goal is to strengthen the unity of the indigenous peoples, consolidate the indigenous protest movement, and mobilize indigenous peoples and organizations against threats and attacks to indigenous rights (for additional information, see <https://apiboficial.org/?lang=en>).

Through extensive public relations work, frequent protest actions, and public rallies with excellent media coverage, the ABIP and its members have become an influential and authoritative voice at the national and international level. ABIP indigenous leaders from all regions of Brazil were present at the COP27 climate summit in Egypt, where world leaders met in 2022 to discuss measures to tackle climate change. ABIP leaders demanded urgent action to address forest protection and the consequences of the climate crisis. ABIP has also called for the inclusion of all Brazilian biomes in EU legislation addressing deforestation-free products, and lobbied the Lula government to make the demarcation of the Indigenous Lands a central agenda in its fight against climate change.

Márcio Kokoj is one of the APIB coordinators. He is 38 years old, Kaingang, and originally from the state of Paraná (south of Mato Grosso do Sul). Kaingang is the name of an indigenous group which is still living on its ancestral lands in southern Brazil (including the states of Paraná, Rio Grande do Sul, and Santa Catarina, and the south-eastern state of São Paulo, but also in parts of Argentina (for additional information, see <http://portalkaingang.org/>)). Márcio has been an activist for the interests of the indigenous population since he was fifteen years old.

Like Mato Grosso do Sul, Márcio's home state Paraná is strongly impacted by the cultivation of soybeans. In an interview on May 27, 2014, he said: "They (the agricultural producers) say that the indigenous people are an obstacle. They are using tractors to run over our rights and our land. This has caused the beginning of the national mobilization of the indigenous population, and it will not cease [...]."

Source: MST – Movimento dos Trabalhadores Sem Terra: <https://mst.org.br/node/16159> (accessed on October 2, 2014)

Have Guaraní leaders been murdered in recent years?

Yes, many Guaraní leaders have been murdered in the past several years. Ambrósio Vilhalva, who is named in the description of the initial situation of the simulation game, was brutally stabbed to death in late 2012.

He had actively advocated for the rights of the Guaraní, and starred in "Birdwatchers", a documentary showing the current situation of the Guaraní people. The film was shown at the Venice Film Festival and is available with subtitles in several languages. Survival International, an organization that advocates for the causes of indigenous peoples, has documented the killing of Guaraní activists and others in violent confrontations.



Web tip:

The website of the organization Survival International provides extensive information about the situation of indigenous peoples.
<https://www.survivalinternational.org/>



Has the government made any efforts to protect the Guaraní's constitutional rights to their traditional lands?

Yes, but there have only recently been occasional positive outcomes. The Brazilian constitution guarantees indigenous peoples extensive rights to use their traditional lands (but not ownership rights). The problem is that demarcation (documentation in the land registry) is progressing too slowly. The Guaraní have filed their claims, but they aren't being processed quickly enough. This means that the land they have been living on for years is not recognized as their own. In March of 2014, the human rights organization Survival International was able to report one success. For the first time, land that was being used by an agriculture company was legally recognized as Guaraní territory. The people were able to return to their traditional lands. Their future, however, is still uncertain, because the agriculture company has hired a security firm to harass and threaten them.

The Lula government has created a new cabinet seat, the Ministry of Indigenous People, as a key actor in the indigenous policy framework. It has also penalized land grabbers, shut down illegal mining operations, accelerated the demarcation of indigenous land, and created new conservation areas. As a result of these changes and new European Union laws on deforestation-free trade, deforestation fell by 34% in the Amazon in the first six months of 2023, compared with the same period in 2022.

Do all Guaraní wear traditional clothing and feather ornaments?

No. Guaraní wear t-shirts, jeans, and other street clothing. Many Guaraní add traditional ornaments, such as feathers or jewelry. For many indigenous people, these symbols are important signs of their identity, and they wear them proudly at protests.

SOYBEAN CULTIVATION AND GENETIC ENGINEERING

Detailed Debriefing

Are the government and agriculture business in Brazil closely connected?

Yes. Unfortunately, there are many interdependencies. Because they have common interests, politicians often take sides with agriculture companies.

Does Grupo Albertini really exist?

No. As far as we know, there is no agriculture company with this exact name. However, the Grupo Amaggi, the principle soybean producer in the world, does exist, and cultivates the largest agricultural area in the State of Mato Grosso do Sul. Blairo Maggi, the owner of the company, was the governor of Mato Grosso do Sul from 2003 to 2010. He tried to convince the Brazilian national government not to recognize the land rights of the indigenous people. In addition, the rainforest was so massively cleared for new farm land during his time in government that Greenpeace granted him the Golden Chainsaw Award in 2005.



Film tip:

You will find more information on Grupo Amaggi in the critical documentary “We Feed the World”



Does SOS Mato Grosso do Sul really exist?

No, but there are many similar organizations. The national Campaign for a Brazil Free of Gene-Modification Technology (Campanha Por um Brasil Livre de Transgênicos) unites numerous non-governmental organizations (NGOs), associations, and social movements, who are all working together to stop the use of genetically modified seeds. The NGO Land of Human Rights or Terra de Direitos is engaged in the campaign. The organization was founded in 2002 and is active in northern Brazil (for example in the city of Santarém in the state of Pará) and in southern Brazil (for example in Mato Grosso). The organization’s numerous members promote respect for human rights and the protection of the environment. They support indigenous communities in their fight for their traditional land, and they are against the cultivation of genetically modified soybeans.



Web tip:

For additional information about the campaign and the NGO Terra de Direitos, see: <https://terradedireitos.org.br/en/>



Are pesticides and the cultivation of genetically modified soybeans really harmless?

No, critical researchers warn there are many questions that have not yet been answered.

This is what is known:

- In Brazil, the cultivation of soybeans has caused the displacement of small farmers. For the most part, only large companies are making a profit. The number of violent conflicts over land rights has increased in many countries where soybeans are grown.
- The use of large-scale farm machinery has caused jobs to disappear.
- The use of herbicides has increased significantly. Genetically modified soybeans (GM soybeans) are resistant to the broad-spectrum herbicide glyphosate. Labor-intensive weeding can be avoided by simply spraying herbicides. Over time, some plants develop resistance to glyphosate. (In the USA, there are now 48 glyphosate-resistant weeds.) This leads to the use of even stronger herbicides, which make their way into ground water and lakes.
- With time, new insects with resistance to pesticides move into the fields. The genetic engineering industry is reacting by researching new varieties of GM plants that are resistant to the new pests.
- Long-term impacts on human health have not yet been determined.
- GM genes are spreading by wind, and cross-pollinating with GM-free plants.
- Almost all studies on GM cultivation have been commissioned by companies that sell GM seeds. There is very little independent research.

HUNGER AND GERMAN FARMERS

Detailed Debriefing

Could hunger be substantially reduced if German farmers would produce more food?

No. Hunger is primarily a symptom of poverty. Poor communities in the Global South will not become richer if Germany produces more food. It's the other way around: imports of cheap, subsidized food make it impossible for local farmers to sell their products, driving them into poverty. It would make much more sense to ensure that regions in the Global South can satisfy their most important food needs through their own local food production. Globally, meat production is rising, but malnutrition would be better addressed by growing grain and vitamin-rich vegetables to satisfy basic food needs.

In Germany, 4 m² of farmland can yield either:

- feed for 250 grams of beef,
- feed for 750 grams of pork, or
- enough grain to make 50 bread rolls.



Film tip:

The video “We need GMO-free Europe”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_Q-txvCxxE, 3:55 minutes
was created by the Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament
to explain the impact of the use of genetically modified organisms on
agricultural biodiversity and the financial independence of farmers.



Is genetically modified animal feed really used in Germany?

Yes, genetically modified feed (soy) is generally used in factory farming in Germany. Approximately 34 tons of soybeans and soy meal are imported into the European Union each year, especially from North and South America. Only products that are labeled as GM-free are not genetically modified. There are requirements to label genetically modified (GM) food, but not for animal products such as meat, cheese, eggs, and milk, which are produced using GM feed.

The following labels are used to certify GM-free food products: German organic farming labels such as Bioland, Demeter, and Neuland, the EU Bio label, and the TransFair label.



Worksheet 12

KNOW YOUR LABELS

These labels can be found on foods that have not been genetically modified. Draw arrows to match the labels and their descriptions.



- A** The welfare of the animals has been provided for with access to pasture, straw, and natural sunlight to stalls when indoors.
- Species-appropriate, locally grown animal feed that has not been genetically modified



- B** Products that do not contain any genetically modified ingredients (including animal feed)
- Controlled by the Federal States
- Certification by the Verband Lebensmittel ohne Gentechnik e. V. (Association for Non-GM Food) on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture



- C** Indicates better working and living conditions for small-scale farmers



- Compliance with certain environmental standards. Use of genetically modified plants is not permitted.
- Independent audits of the producers
- Certification by TransFair, a non-profit organization



- D** Certifies compliance with EU requirements for organic farming
- The EU organic logo is mandatory for identification of all pre-packaged organic food produced in the EU. It is optional for imports from non-European countries.
- E** The use of the German organic label is voluntary.



Worksheet 13

LEGAL INFORMATION

Since 2004, products in the EU must be labelled as “genetically modified” (GM) or “produced with genetically modified ingredients” if they contain genetically modified ingredients.

- This applies to imported products in particular.
- Currently, no genetically modified plants are cultivated in Germany.
- GM food products can, however, be sold if they are correctly labelled.
- The use of genetically modified animal feed is allowed.
- The labelling of products from animals raised on GM feed is not required.


Legal information for the hotel and restaurant industry

Genetically modified foods must be identified on the menu.

If this rule is not followed, a restaurant can be fined up to 50,000 Euros.

- **Pay special attention to soy products!**



A large, stylized number '4' is the central graphic. It is composed of several overlapping rectangular shapes in various shades of green, from a vibrant lime green to a pale, almost white green. The number is positioned on the left side of the page, with its right edge extending towards the center. The background is a light, pale green gradient.

MODUL 4

Do You Agree?



EXERCISE 04

DO YOU AGREE?

Taking a Stand

MATERIAL

- Projector
- laptop
- speakers
- YouTube videos “Mr. Know-It-All: Genetically Modified Food at Dinner Parties” and “How to Avoid GMOs in Restaurants”

METHOD

- Video
- taking a stand
- discussion



Begin by two short videos:

the WIRED video
“Mr. Know-It-All: Genetically Modified Food at Dinner Parties”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bu3N9r0dpAk>
1:30 minutes



“How to Avoid GMOs in Restaurants”
by the Institute for Responsible Technology
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hqQlrnNolps>
0:53 minutes



The first video addresses the responsibility of hosts to inform their guests when they are serving GM food. The second video discusses how difficult it is to eat out and avoid GM foods.

After watching the videos, the participants discuss their central messages by taking different positions in the room. The facilitator asks a question, and the participants who agree go to one side of the room. Those who disagree go to the other side of the room. Ask the participants for the reasons for their positions, and encourage them to discuss their opinions. Then move on to the next question.

- Chefs have a responsibility to act as 'gatekeepers' for healthy food.
- It is impossible to avoid serving guests GM foods.
- Our eating habits make us accomplices to animal cruelty and the destruction of rainforests.
- Governments should provide more regulation of genetically modified foods.

TAKING ACTION

In addition to using GM-free food, there are numerous ways to become involved or to take action. You and the participants can find current petitions or other ways to take action on the websites of the following organizations:

Visit Greenpeace



<https://www.greenpeace.org/eu-unit/>

Visit Foodwatch



<https://www.foodwatch.org/en/foodwatch-international/>

Visit Survival International



<https://www.survival-international.org/>



PICTURE CREDITS

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