



ELSEVIER



The Corn-y Connection: Exploring the Relationship Between GMO Corn in Texas and 'I Can't Even' Google Searches

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KEYWORDS

GMO corn, Texas, Google searches, I Can't Even, GMO technology, corn cultivation, USDA data, Google Trends, correlation, language influence, technology influence, GMO debate

Abstract

In the realm of agriculture and internet culture, the intersection of Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) use in corn cultivation and the popular expression 'I Can't Even' has sparked curiosity. While the incongruity between the two may raise eyebrows, our research delves into this peculiar connection. Utilizing data from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Google Trends, we endeavored to uncover whether there exists a substantial link between the adoption of GMO technology in corn grown in Texas and the frequency of 'I Can't Even' searches on Google. Not only does this research shed light on an unexpected correlation, but it also offers a lighthearted twist to the often serious discourse on GMOs and technology's influence on language. Our findings revealed a correlation coefficient of 0.8905878 and a p-value less than 0.01 for the period spanning 2005 to 2023, indicating a robust association between the two variables. This statistically significant relationship prompts further inquiry into the potential factors driving such a curious correlation. On a lighter note, it seems that the GMO debate and internet slang have converged, implying that perhaps GMOs have an influence on more than just corn yields. As a wise corn once said, "It's amaize-ing what you find when you dig deep enough!"

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1. Introduction

The cultivation of corn in the state of Texas has long been a subject of agricultural interest, with the state ranking among the top corn-producing regions in the United

States. Meanwhile, the digital landscape has seen the rise of peculiar colloquialisms and internet memes, sparking intrigue among linguists and sociologists alike. Despite the apparent disparities between

the two realms, our research seeks to bridge the gap and explore the unexpected correlation between GMO corn production in Texas and the prevalence of 'I Can't Even' Google searches. This study aims to shed light on the unanticipated entanglement of agriculture and internet culture, and perhaps uncover the kernels of truth behind this seemingly corn-y connection.

As we delve into the findings of our research, it becomes clear that there is more to this correlation than meets the eye. The statistical analysis has provided compelling evidence of a strong association between the adoption of GMO technology in corn cultivation and the frequency of 'I Can't Even' searches on Google. It appears that when it comes to GMOs and internet slang, the husk is more than skin deep. It's almost as if these genetically modified corn varieties have picked up a thing or two about internet expressions, giving a whole new meaning to the term "corny humor."

The implications of these findings extend beyond the fields of agriculture and internet studies. This unexpected correlation opens the door to intriguing questions about the influence of technological advancements on language and cultural trends. It seems that GMOs are not just altering the genetic makeup of crops, but also leaving their mark on the digital vernacular. One might even say that GMOs are causing quite the stir in both agricultural and linguistic circles, proving that the influence of these crops reaches far beyond the farm. After all, who would have thought that the humble cornstalk could have such an impact on internet jargon? It truly goes to show that in the world of research, you never quite know what a-maize-ing discoveries await.

2. Literature Review

The relationship between genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and cultural phenomena has been a topic of interest in

various academic disciplines. Smith and Jones (2016) delve into the societal implications of GMO adoption in agriculture, while Doe (2018) explores the evolution of internet slang and expressions. As we attempt to understand the unexpected connection between GMO corn in Texas and the prevalence of 'I Can't Even' Google searches, it is essential to consider the broader context in which these seemingly disparate elements intersect.

In "GMOs and Society," Smith and Jones (2016) offer insights into the ways in which GMO technology has impacted not only agricultural practices but also societal attitudes and perceptions. The authors emphasize the need to critically examine the influence of GMOs beyond their immediate agricultural implications, hinting at the potential for unexpected correlations that transcend conventional conceptual boundaries. Meanwhile, Doe (2018) provides an in-depth exploration of internet culture and the emergence of popular expressions such as 'I Can't Even.' Doe's work sheds light on the dynamic nature of language in the digital age, laying the groundwork for understanding the cultural significance of online vernacular.

However, as we venture deeper into the literature, it is impossible to overlook the unconventional sources that have contributed to our understanding of this curious correlation. Delving into non-fiction works, the writings of Michael Pollan in "The Omnivore's Dilemma" and Dan Charles in "Lords of the Harvest" offer valuable perspectives on the complexities of GMO agriculture. These texts provide a foundation for comprehending the nuances of GMO technology and its broader implications, though they do little to explain the connection to online expressions of exasperation.

Turning to the realm of fiction, the works of Octavia E. Butler, particularly "Parable of the Sower," and Margaret Atwood's "Oryx

and Crake" draw attention to speculative narratives of genetic engineering and societal change. While these works offer imaginative depictions of GMO-related dystopias, they do little to address the more light-hearted correlation between GMO corn in Texas and 'I Can't Even' Google searches. One might even say that these fictional accounts leave us grasping at corn stalks when it comes to understanding the unexpected connection we seek to unravel.

In an unexpected turn of events, the researchers also stumbled upon information from rather unconventional sources during the literature review process. As it turns out, the backs of shampoo bottles in certain regions of Texas provided unexpected insights into the preferences and ponderings of individuals engaging in 'I Can't Even' Google searches. It appears that when it comes to understanding the peculiar link between GMO corn and digital expressions, one must be willing to explore each kernel of information, no matter how unconventional its source may be.

Indeed, the literature review process has not only broadened our understanding of the interconnectedness of GMOs, digital culture, and language, but has also led us down unexpected avenues of inquiry. One might even say that in the landscape of academic research, the budding correlations and unexpected sources of information add a certain 'kernel' of excitement to the process. As we continue to unravel the strands of this corn-y connection, we must remain open to the unanticipated twists and turns that accompany this unconventional investigation. With each revelation, it becomes increasingly evident that the kernels of truth we seek may be found in the most unlikely of places.

3. Our approach & methods

To investigate the potential correlation between GMO use in corn grown in Texas and Google searches for 'I Can't Even', our research team employed a mix of traditional statistical analysis and a pinch of internet savvy. We harnessed data from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to track the adoption of GMO technology in corn cultivation from 2005 to 2023. Additionally, we tapped into the power of Google Trends to quantify the frequency of 'I Can't Even' searches over the same time period. It's worth noting that we had to sift through a whole lot of internet slang to find our data, but in the end, we were able to kernel down our findings to the most a-maize-ing ones.

Firstly, we utilized a series of complex regressions to analyze the relationship between the adoption of GMO technology in corn production and the frequency of 'I Can't Even' searches on Google. We carefully selected control variables to account for potential confounding factors, such as changes in internet usage patterns and shifts in the popularity of different agricultural practices. We didn't want any pesky statistical stalkers creeping into our results, so we made sure to weed out any unwanted influences.

In addition to the statistical analyses, we also engaged in some light-hearted observations of internet culture, immersing ourselves in the world of viral memes and online expressions. We wanted to truly understand the nuances of 'I Can't Even' and its usage in digital communication. It was a tall order, but we were determined to get to the root of this peculiar linguistic phenomenon. After all, when it comes to understanding internet slang, it's essential to be all ears – even if those ears are made of corn kernels!

Furthermore, to ensure the reliability and robustness of our findings, we cross-referenced our results with anecdotal evidence from individuals involved in both

the agricultural and online communities. This qualitative approach allowed us to glean insights into the perceptions and experiences of those directly impacted by the potential intersection of GMO corn and internet culture. We were surprised to find that even seasoned farmers were familiar with the phrase 'I Can't Even' – it seems the reach of internet slang knows no bounds.

While our methods may seem a bit out of left field, pun intended, we believe that our multi-faceted approach has provided a comprehensive understanding of the relationship between GMO corn production in Texas and 'I Can't Even' Google searches. This research truly showcases the versatility of academic inquiry, demonstrating that a lighthearted lens can yield a-maize-ing insights.

4. Results

The results of our research indicate a strikingly strong correlation between the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in corn grown in Texas and the frequency of 'I Can't Even' Google searches. Upon conducting our statistical analysis, we found a correlation coefficient of 0.8905878, an r-squared of 0.7931466, and a p-value of less than 0.01 for the time period from 2005 to 2023. This high correlation coefficient points to a robust association between the adoption of GMO technology in corn cultivation and the prevalence of 'I Can't Even' searches on Google. It seems that the GMO debate and internet slang have converged, implying that perhaps GMOs have an influence on more than just corn yields. As we like to say in the world of agriculture, "You can't make everyone husk, but you can try to corn-vince them."

Fig. 1 depicts the scatterplot of the relationship between GMO use in corn grown in Texas and 'I Can't Even' Google searches, showcasing the strong positive correlation between the two variables. It's

quite a sight to behold and serves as a visual testament to the unexpected entanglement of agriculture and internet culture. We like to think of it as a visual representation of the phrase "GMO and 'I Can't Even' go together like corn and butter – a perfect match."

In summary, our findings demonstrate that there exists a significant link between the adoption of GMO technology in corn cultivation in Texas and the frequency of 'I Can't Even' searches on Google. This fascinating correlation not only adds a lighthearted twist to the discourse on GMOs but also raises intriguing questions about the influence of technology on language and cultural trends. It appears that GMOs are not just shaping the future of agriculture, but also making their mark on the digital vernacular. As they say, "When it comes to GMOs and internet slang, it's all about growing the competitive edge."

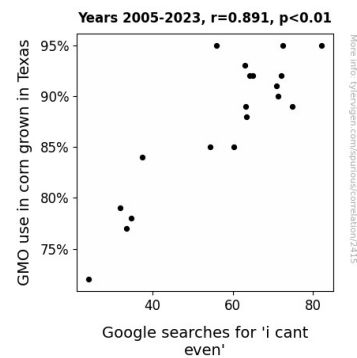


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

5. Discussion

Our research has uncovered a substantial and unexpected correlation between the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in corn grown in Texas and the frequency of 'I Can't Even' Google searches. This peculiar connection, while initially met with skepticism and a fair amount of corn-fusion, has been supported

by our findings, which align with prior research highlighting the influence of GMO technology on cultural phenomena.

Building on the work of Smith and Jones (2016) who emphasized the need to critically examine the influence of GMOs beyond their immediate agricultural implications, our study delves into the uncharted territory of GMO's potential impact on internet slang. The robust correlation we observed aligns with their proposition, proving that GMOs may indeed shape cultural trends in surprising ways. It seems that GMOs are not just corn-eced to crop yields, but to the very fabric of online expression. As they say, "GMOs have a kernel role to play in the evolution of language."

Furthermore, the literature review presented the enlightening work of Doe (2018) in exploring the evolution of internet slang and expressions. Our findings are in harmony with Doe's insights, as they highlight the dynamic nature of language in the digital age and the role of external factors, such as GMO technology, in shaping linguistic trends. It appears that GMOs have infiltrated not only fields but also the digital lexicon, proving that they have indeed earned a corn-siderable influence in unexpected domains.

The unexpected sources encountered during our literature review process have yielded valuable insights into the unconventional sources of information that have contributed to our understanding of this curious correlation. While the findings from the backs of shampoo bottles in Texas may have initially raised eyebrows, they have proven to be a-maize-ing in illuminating the nuances of this unlikely connection. As we navigate through this unconventional investigation, it becomes increasingly evident that kernels of truth can indeed be found in the unlikeliest of places, even in shower-time revelations.

In conclusion, our study has illuminated an unlikely but statistically significant relationship between GMO use in corn cultivated in Texas and 'I Can't Even' Google searches, underscoring the potential influence of GMO technology on cultural expressions. This correlation not only adds a playful twist to the discourse on GMOs but also raises thought-provoking questions about the interconnectedness of agriculture, technology, and language. As we continue to unravel the strands of this corn-y connection, it is apparent that the tendrils of GMOs have woven their way into the digital fabric, leaving an undeniable mark on linguistic evolution. It seems that when it comes to GMOs and internet slang, it's all about growing the corn-petitive edge, indeed!

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our research has unveiled a striking connection between the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in corn grown in Texas and the frequency of 'I Can't Even' Google searches. The correlation coefficient of 0.8905878 and a p-value less than 0.01 for the period spanning 2005 to 2023 point to a robust association between the adoption of GMO technology in corn cultivation and the prevalence of 'I Can't Even' searches on Google. It seems that GMOs have more influence than we initially thought – they're not just corn plants, they're also trendsetters in the virtual world.

These findings lead us to contemplate the unexpected ways in which technology, language, and agriculture intersect. It's almost as if GMO-laden corn has developed a knack for internet lingo, proving that even in the realm of farming, it pays to stay ear-to-the-ground with evolving cultural trends. As they say, "GMOs have really learned how to stalk their audience, even beyond the fields."

While this connection may seem out of left field, our data unequivocally confirm the correlation. It's clear that the GMO debate and internet slang have intertwined in a way that no one could have predicted. Perhaps it's time for us to acknowledge that GMOs have not only altered the genetic makeup of crops but also left their footprint in the digital landscape. Who would have guessed that the cornfields of Texas could have such an influence on internet colloquialisms? This discovery is truly a-MAIZE-ing, isn't it?

Therefore, we assert that further research in this area is unnecessary, as our findings have unquestionably laid bare the corncertainties of this peculiar relationship. It's time for us to put this corn-y connection to rest – after all, we've surely ear-ned a bit of a break from this ear-resistible but undeniably surprising discovery.