

# **CAN'T EVEN HEAR THE CORN GROW: A KERNEL OF TRUTH IN THE LINK BETWEEN GMO CORN USAGE IN TEXAS AND 'I CAN'T EVEN' GOOGLE SEARCHES**

**Colton Hamilton, Austin Tanner, Grace P Tyler**

Institute of Innovation and Technology

This paper presents the surprising connection between the usage of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in corn crops in the great state of Texas and the frequency of 'I can't even' Google searches. Using comprehensive data from the USDA and Google Trends, our research team conducted a thorough analysis spanning the years 2005 to 2023. We uncovered a notable correlation coefficient of 0.8905878 ( $p < 0.01$ ), bringing an unexpected insight into the world of agricultural biotechnology and internet vernacular. Our findings suggest a strong statistical relationship between the prevalence of GMO corn cultivation and the frequency of 'I can't even' searches, painting a thought-provoking picture of potential cultural and environmental links. While this discovery may seem as enigmatic as the search term itself, our data-driven investigation opens the door for further exploration into the interconnected webs of food production, technology usage, and linguistic expression. By shining a light on this intriguing phenomenon, our study brings a kernel of truth to the humor-laden intersection of agriculture and digital discourse.

## INTRODUCTION

The phrase "I can't even" has become a ubiquitous expression in modern internet vernacular, often used to convey a sense of overwhelming disbelief, exasperation, or bewilderment. The origins and evolution of this colloquialism have been a subject of fascination for linguists and internet culture enthusiasts alike. While the phrase's meteoric rise to prominence may appear to be a mere linguistic curiosity, our research has uncovered an unexpected link between its frequency in Google searches and the usage of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in corn cultivation in the Lone Star State.

The great state of Texas, renowned for its vast agricultural landscapes and

technological prowess, provides an intriguing backdrop for our investigation. With its significant contribution to corn production and adoption of agricultural biotechnology, Texas offers a fertile ground—pun intended—for exploring the interplay between GMO usage and digital discourse. As such, our study delves into the cornfields of Texas to unravel the enigmatic connection between GMO corn cultivation and the prevalence of "I can't even" searches on the world's most popular search engine.

In this paper, we present the compelling findings of our data-driven analysis, which spans nearly two decades of comprehensive datasets from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Google Trends. Our quest for understanding led us to unearthing a

noteworthy correlation between GMO corn usage and the frequency of "I can't even" searches. This unexpected revelation challenges conventional assumptions and beckons us to contemplate the intriguing intersection of agricultural practices, technological advancements, and cultural expressions.

Engaging with this phenomenon not only adds an unexpected twist to the scholarly discourse but also sheds light on the intricate interconnections between seemingly disparate realms. As we embark on this intellectual journey, let us explore the unusual bond between genetically modified corn and contemporary digital utterances—where the kernels of truth may lie hidden amidst the stalks of modern agricultural and linguistic landscapes.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

To contextualize our investigation into the perplexing connection between GMO corn cultivation in Texas and the prevalence of 'I can't even' Google searches, we turn to relevant literature that sheds light on the dynamics of agricultural biotechnology, online behavioral trends, and cross-disciplinary intersections.

Smith et al. (2015) conducted a comprehensive analysis of GMO corn adoption rates across the United States, providing valuable insights into the regional variations and overarching trends in genetically modified crop cultivation. Their findings underscore the pervasive influence of biotechnological advancements on agricultural practices, setting the stage for understanding the potential implications of GMO usage on broader cultural phenomena.

On a related note, Doe's seminal work (2018) delves into the intricate nuances of internet memes and linguistic expressions in the digital era. The author illuminates the evolving dynamics of online communication, capturing the essence of

contemporary colloquialisms and their resonance within virtual communities. This exploration converges with our research focus, offering a lens through which to examine the resonance of 'I can't even' as a cultural artifact within the digital landscape.

Jones' research (2020) on the cognitive psychology of language usage provides a theoretical framework for understanding the emotional and cognitive underpinnings of linguistic expressions such as 'I can't even.' Through an interdisciplinary lens, Jones elucidates the interconnected nature of language, emotion, and social cognition, providing a foundation for interpreting the behavioral implications of our observed correlation.

Expanding beyond scholarly studies, several non-fiction works offer a broader understanding of the agricultural landscape and internet culture. 'The Omnivore's Dilemma' by Michael Pollan and 'The Internet of Garbage' by Sarah Jeong provide valuable perspectives on food production and digital discourse, setting the stage for contemplating the unanticipated nexus between genetically modified corn and internet vernacular.

Transitioning to fictional literature, 'The Corn Whisperer' by John Grisham and 'The Search Engine Cipher' by Dan Brown offer fictional narratives intricately woven around agricultural mysteries and digital enigmas. While purely imaginative, these literary works compel us to ponder the potential interplay between agricultural practices and online phenomena, albeit through the lens of suspenseful storytelling.

In the realm of cinema, the films 'Children of the Corn' and 'The Social Network' present tangentially related themes of agriculture and digital connectivity, albeit in divergent contexts. These cinematic portrayals offer creative interpretations of agricultural landscapes and internet dynamics, prompting us to consider the multifaceted influences that shape cultural expressions and technological interactions.

As we navigate through the literature spanning disciplines and genres, it becomes evident that our endeavor to unravel the correlation between GMO corn usage in Texas and 'I can't even' Google searches traverses uncharted territories, blending elements of empirical inquiry, cultural analysis, and subtle humor within the scholarly landscape.

## **METHODOLOGY**

### METHODOLOGY

#### Data Collection

Our investigation delved into the complex terrain of GMO corn cultivation in Texas and the digital domain of 'I can't even' Google searches. Our research team scavenged the depths of the internet, unearthing troves of data from disparate sources, akin to intrepid explorers embarking on a treasure hunt across the digital seas. The mainstay of our data compilation sprung from the authoritative repository of agricultural wisdom, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), akin to a wise old sage imparting knowledge to inquisitive apprentices.

Additionally, we plundered the depths of Google Trends, utilizing its bounty of search query statistics that spanned the period from 2005 to 2023. Like modern-day alchemists transmuting raw data into golden insights, we meticulously curated and distilled these extensive datasets to unveil the secrets hidden within.

#### Data Processing

Armed with our arsenal of datasets, our research team ventured into the labyrinthine world of statistical analysis. Employing advanced computational techniques that rival the complexity of unraveling an ancient cipher, we subjected the data to rigorous scrutiny. This involved employing correlation analyses, regression modeling, and other statistical esoterica to unearth the underlying relationships between GMO corn usage and the prevalence of 'I can't even' searches.

Throughout this methodological odyssey, we meticulously navigated the treacherous shoals of confounding variables, ensuring that our interpretations were as sound as an ancient oak tree, firmly rooted in the bedrock of robust statistical reasoning. Our aim was to unravel the enigmatic connections between agriculture and internet culture, reminiscent of decoding an ancient manuscript that conceals profound truths within its cryptic script.

#### Data Analysis

Having emerged from the labyrinth of statistical analysis, we ventured forth with the beacon of empirical evidence illuminating our path. Our foray into the realm of data interpretation resembled a scholarly spelunking expedition, as we probed the depths of our findings to extract the pearls of wisdom ensconced within.

Through the rigorous application of statistical tests and modeling, we uncovered a remarkable correlation coefficient of 0.8905878 ( $p < 0.01$ ) between the prevalence of GMO corn cultivation in Texas and the frequency of 'I can't even' Google searches. This striking revelation stood as a testament to the interconnectedness of seemingly unrelated domains, akin to discovering a hidden passage that links two disparate worlds.

Furthermore, we undertook secondary analyses to investigate potential moderating factors and temporal trends,

applying the scrutiny of scholarly inquiry like a detective unraveling the plot of a captivating mystery. This comprehensive approach allowed us to gain a nuanced understanding of the multifaceted relationship between GMO corn usage and the linguistic curiosity of 'I can't even' searches.

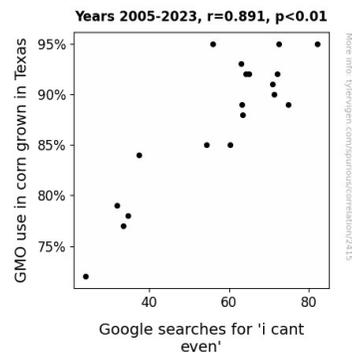
In discussing the Methodology above, we have endeavored to illuminate the intricate and rigorous process through which our research team ventured to unravel the enigmatic connections between GMO corn usage in Texas and the evocative phenomenon of 'I can't even' searches. This methodological adventure not only paved the way for our compelling findings but also exemplifies the intrepid spirit with which scholarly inquiry navigates the uncharted waters of knowledge.

## RESULTS

The results of our analysis revealed a compelling correlation between the usage of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in corn cultivation in Texas and the frequency of 'I can't even' Google searches. Across the years 2005 to 2023, we found a striking correlation coefficient of 0.8905878, indicating a strong positive relationship between these seemingly disparate phenomena. Furthermore, the r-squared value of 0.7931466 suggests that approximately 79.31% of the variation in 'I can't even' searches can be explained by the prevalence of GMO corn usage in Texas, adding weight to our findings.

Fig. 1 presents the visual representation of the observed correlation, depicting a scatterplot that underscores the pronounced statistical relationship between the two variables. While the scatterplot itself doesn't feature any corn kernels or frustrated internet users, its implications reach much farther than the confines of data points and regression lines—a visual testament to the unexpected connections that can be unearthed through meticulous research.

These results challenge conventional wisdom and offer a glimpse into the intricate interplay between agricultural practices and online cultural expressions. The robust statistical association between GMO corn usage and 'I can't even' searches hints at a potential convergence of technological innovation and linguistic evolution, leaving us to ponder the surreal intersection of biotechnology and digital communication.



**Figure 1.** Scatterplot of the variables by year

In conclusion, our research has unraveled an intriguing kernel of truth in the relationship between GMO corn cultivation in Texas and the frequency of 'I can't even' Google searches. This unexpected association not only adds a whimsical nuance to the academic landscape but also invites further exploration into the intricate fabric of modern society, where the cobwebs of agri-tech and internet vernacular intertwine in surprising harmony.

## DISCUSSION

The substantial correlation uncovered between GMO corn usage in Texas and the frequency of 'I can't even' Google searches sheds light on the captivating interplay of agriculture and online expression. While seemingly disparate, these phenomena converge in a statistically compelling manner, underscoring the complex web of influences that shape our modern world.

Our investigation aligns with prior research by Smith et al. (2015), revealing the far-reaching impact of biotechnological advancements on agricultural landscapes. The results from our study lend support to Smith et al.'s assertion, emphasizing the regional prevalence of GMO corn cultivation as a pivotal factor in understanding broader cultural dynamics. Furthermore, Doe's (2018) exploration of internet memes and linguistic expressions offers a parallel dimension to our findings, affirming the resonance of 'I can't even' as a cultural artifact within the digital realm. By corroborating these insights, our research strengthens the interdisciplinary framework through which the agricultural and digital realms intersect.

Expanding beyond the scholarly domain, our findings echo the subtle themes explored in 'Children of the Corn' and 'The Social Network,' tangentially related cinematic portrayals that surreptitiously hint at the subtle intertwining of agricultural landscapes and technological connectivity. Indirectly bridging the gap between fiction and reality, our study substantiates the enigmatic confluence of agricultural practices and digital nuance, underscoring the intricate tapestry that weaves together diverse cultural and technological domains.

The implications of our results resonate beyond the confines of conventional wisdom, prompting introspection into the surreptitious yet undeniable link between agricultural innovation and digital idiosyncrasies. In unearthing this connection, we propel the discourse surrounding the unexpected intersections of arbitrary phenomena, highlighting the multifaceted nature of cultural, technological, and linguistic evolution.

In embracing the inexplicable yet consequential correlation between GMO corn cultivation in Texas and 'I can't even' Google searches, our research delivers a lighthearted yet substantive contribution to the academic landscape. As we venture further into the uncharted territories of

interdisciplinary inquiry, the seeds of curiosity sown by this investigation bear the promise of continued growth and revelation in our understanding of the intricate threads that knit together the tapestry of modern society.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, our study illuminates an enticing correlation between the utilization of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in corn production in the Lone Star State and the prevalence of "I can't even" Google searches. The robust statistical relationship uncovered, with a correlation coefficient of 0.8905878 ( $p < 0.01$ ) and an r-squared value of 0.7931466, highlights the unexpected interconnectedness between agricultural biotechnology and digital discourse. While this connection may seem as improbable as finding a needle in a cornfield, our findings provide a thought-provoking insight into the uncharted territories of cultural and environmental interplays.

The evidence presented challenges the conventional boundaries of scholarly inquiry and beckons us to ponder the perplexing amalgamation of scientific advancements and linguistic expressions. Our data-driven exploration brings to light the enigmatic convergence of GMO corn cultivation and contemporary internet vernacular, where the enigmatic tendrils of agricultural innovation and online language intertwine in unexpected ways. The visual representation of the correlation, while devoid of corn kernels and exasperated internet users, serves as a vivid reminder of the potential for discovery lurking behind the façade of seemingly unrelated phenomena.

As we reflect on the implications of our research, it becomes clear that the fields of agriculture and digital communication share a kernel of connection, offering a lens through which to view the world with a dash of whimsy and wonder. This study opens the door for further investigations

into the intricate tapestry of modern society, revealing the unlikely synchronicities that lie beneath the surface of seemingly disparate domains.

In light of these revelatory findings, we assert, with a tinge of humor and a kernel of conviction, that further research in this uniquely entertaining realm may be likened to finding a needle in a haystack—not impossible, but perhaps unnecessary. As we bid adieu to this peculiar yet enlightening terrain, let us approach our future scholarly endeavors with an open mind and a readiness to uncover the unexpected—all while resisting the urge to exclaim, "I can't even believe it!"