

# The impact of new technologies on economic growth and trade : a case study of biotechnology

Citation for published version (APA):

Acharya, R. (1995). *The impact of new technologies on economic growth and trade : a case study of biotechnology*. [Doctoral Thesis, Maastricht University]. Datawyse / Universitaire Pers Maastricht.  
<https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.19950126ra>

**Document status and date:**

Published: 01/01/1995

**DOI:**

[10.26481/dis.19950126ra](https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.19950126ra)

**Document Version:**

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

**Please check the document version of this publication:**

- A submitted manuscript is the version of the article upon submission and before peer-review. There can be important differences between the submitted version and the official published version of record. People interested in the research are advised to contact the author for the final version of the publication, or visit the DOI to the publisher's website.
- The final author version and the galley proof are versions of the publication after peer review.
- The final published version features the final layout of the paper including the volume, issue and page numbers.

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**The Impact of New Technologies on Economic Growth and Trade:  
A Case Study of Biotechnology**

**Rohini Acharya**

**STELLINGEN (STATEMENTS)**

1. Evolution is not a simple notion of struggle. There is a dichotomy within the general notion of struggle: 1) organism against organism of the same species for limited resources, leading to competition; and 2) organism against environment leading to cooperation (Kropotkin).
2. Biodiversity prospecting catalogues vital information contained in genetic resources, and will lead to the privatisation of natural resources, much like the tragedy of the commons. (see Acharya, R. (1994) and Chapter 1).
3. The GATT agreement signed in 1994 will retard technological change in developing countries (see Acharya, R. (1991), and GATT (1994)), but will not retard the minds of the French or Indians whose entertainment industry is now safe from "outside rubbish".
4. By providing specialized R&D services, the small firm has given established multinationals a run for their money (Chapters 2 and 3).
5. The variety of products and therefore consumer welfare will increase as new products enter the market. However, once genetically engineered techniques and products become cheaper and more widely available, total variety will decline as consumers opt for the highest quality (Chapters 5 and 8).
6. While the variety of culture will increase as borders vanish under Schengen, *total* cultural variety in Europe will decline as "Schengenization" closes borders to cultures outside Europe.
7. If Mendel, despite failing as a priest, then as a schoolteacher, and having had the misfortune of being eclipsed by Charles Darwin's Origin of Species, still succeeded in becoming known as "the father of modern genetics", there is some hope for the rest of us, yet.
8. While getting a residence permit in the Netherlands involves answering questions like, "Why are you still here...don't you want to go home?", getting a visa to travel outside the Netherlands involves answering questions like "Why don't you want to stay in the Netherlands?".
9. The requirement that students attend at least 75% of group meetings can lead to unlearning.