

# Beyond the Biology syllabus.....

## INTRODUCTION:

- Top Class of 22 students
- Simple survey done to assess level of personal interest in biology
- Simple survey done to assess preferred learning/ teaching methods
- Actions taken to introduce/ stimulate an interest in wider biology issues

## Comments from survey on interest in subject:

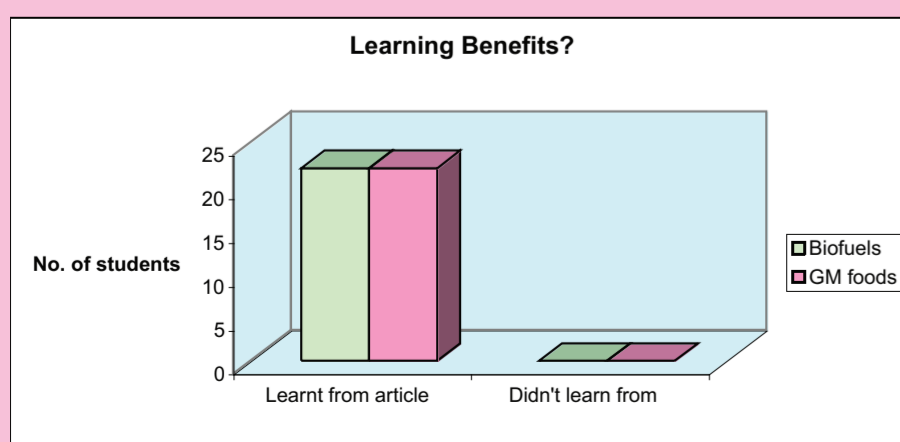
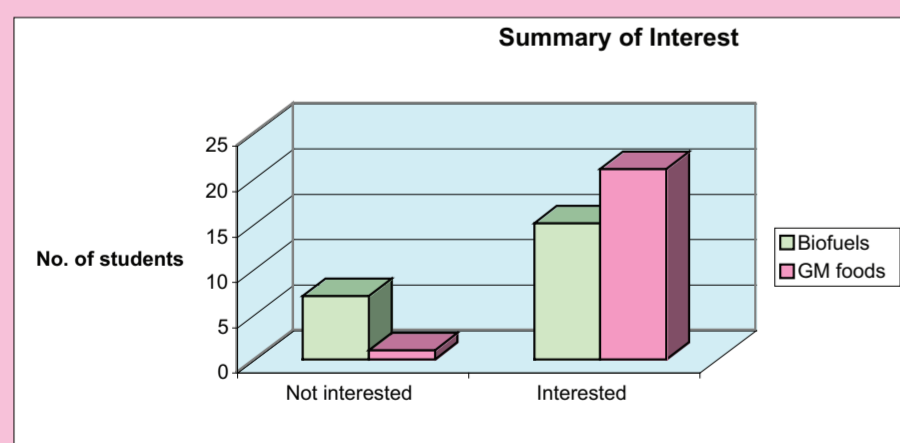
- Preferred biology at Junior level
- Interested in body, nutrition
- Least interested in Plants
- I am always questioning why...?
- Enjoy Learning about things that you can apply to everyday life
- Like environmental issues

## Comments from methodology survey:

- Homework makes us take the book home and do something!
- Brighten up the labs!
- PowerPoint is colourful and easy to remember/take down notes
- Copying diagrams from board/book important
- Word searches/crosswords add a bit of fun

## ACTION 1: ORGANIC WEEK

- 2 articles from "Organic Matters" magazine copied and read in class
- Topics: GM foods, Biofuels



## ACTION 2:

### ENTRY TO REMEDI ESSAY COMPETITION

- Class discussion on topic
- Group work, Time to do research
- Only 9 participated
- Issues emerged – e.g. Not on syllabus etc.
- Again, all students learnt from the experience

## ACTION 3: SCIENCE WEEK

- Each student chose a science -related career
- Research done on perusing it at third level
- Simple poster prepared by student for display

## ACTION 4: EXAM PAPERS!

- Terms such as "lemmings", "forage" highlighted to students

## SUMMARY FINDINGS

- Students more aware of need for general interest in broader biological issues
- Going "off-course" will take time which will have implications for covering material etc.
- A Daily Newspaper is being organised for class

## FOLLOW – ON:

- Newspapers being organised for class