

The response reproduced below was submitted further to an invitation to comment on the draft Discussion Paper by the Nuffield Council on Bioethics: *The use of genetically modified crops in developing countries*, during June to August 2003. The views expressed are solely those of the respondent(s) and not those of the Council.

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The idea that GM crops will help developing countries is naive in the extreme. Anyone who has worked in developing countries is aware that the problems of food there are political and cultural. Current simple technology and existing crops are not being grown effectively and nor will GM crops be - with the additional problem of probably reliance on the GM companies for seed. This argument for the use of GM crops is a 'quick fix' solution. It is obvious that even if GM crops were to say, double food production, this would simply support a more massive population with worse environmental impact and more problems in future. If your Committee hasn't noticed, the world is overpopulated and its resources are unequally distributed and used. We do not need more people. We need fewer people and better attitudes to those we have. No quick fixes. Remember the promises of cheap, inexhaustible nuclear power. It turned out to be expensive and dangerous.

Your support for blind tinkering with the food that has developed in the most intimate conjunction with animal life since its beginning is horrifying. Future generations will curse people like yourselves. ◀