

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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COMMENT: GM crops in Africa? International agricultural corporations marketing in Africa have a long and unhappy history - and in some cases have led directly to hunger, poverty and environmental degradation (each country has its horror stories). All these past failures of Western ideas in African agriculture should be brought out of the closet and their failures analysed. For the most part they are hushed up because the corporations who profited from them (or in some cases the aid agencies who dreamed them up) don't want questions asked. But this is perhaps the most important perspective to take when looking at the GM question - learning from past mistakes.