

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.

Judy Brander: Consumer 'representative' and scientist, UK

Dear Dr. Thomas

re Times Article, Page 10 "Europe's Stand on GM Crops
'hitting the poor'

As a Consumer "representative" and a Scientist, I have been awaiting the publication of the Chronic safety evaluation data produced by the Scientific Studies.

While appreciating that claims of increased yield, pest or disease resistance, or added nutritional value have been made, I have yet to see evidence of careful evaluation of the longer term benefits - or for that matter - any recognition by the developers that there might be some unexpected disbenefits, and their undertaking to be fully accountable.

The first recombinant product which was proposed for the British market was rBST. The trials in this country were carried out in secret, and the milk produced added to the national pool. One would have expected there to have been a trial, of at least five years, when both the cows injected, and their

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Calves could have been monitored closely and the results published for all to see.

If the technology has so many advantages may the public not be invited to see the results. Can the names and addresses of farms where this new technology is being applied not be publicised and the produce be clearly labelled. Here and overseas.

What examples of new crops, genetically modified organisms, fish, and transgenic animals have been studied by members of the Nuffield Council, and what post-license monitoring is being examined by your Council - to be assured that the claims made are indeed being upheld, year after year?

Having a microbiological background, I am well aware of the techniques employed, of the potential benefits which there may be in the future, but also of the potential for disruption to ecological food webs. Many insects, birds and mammals are species specific and disruption to the natural biodiversity can have many longterm consequences.

I have been concerned, and disappointed, that the Nuffield Council has appeared to give its approval to the large scale application of this new technology before the Science of Safety over the longer term has been fully published. I hope that you will be able to reassure me?