

## **October 2008**

Update of paragraph 10.7

### **UK GOVERNMENT WANTS A NEW DEBATE ON GM CROPS**

Rising food prices, increased environmental threats and the possibility that such challenges might be met by growing GM crops have led to renewed calls for a public debate. According to Phil Woolas, the environment minister, 'There is a growing question of whether GM crops can help the developing world out of the current food price crisis.'

Following the GM Nation? public debate in 2004 (see paragraph 14.7), the government decided that commercial planting of GM crops would only proceed on a 'case-by-case' basis, after each proposal had been subjected to strict testing for human and environmental safety. But government ministers clearly now consider that circumstances have changed sufficiently to re-open the debate.

Website reference: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7462707.stm>