

## People do not agree about genetic modification of crops

People are concerned about some issues related to GM crops. These range from whether or not genetic modification of living things should take place at all, to whether the promise of genetic modification to feed the increasing population of the world is achievable.

At the end of this activity you will:

- understand some of the issues about GM crops that concern Australians
- clarify your own values on some or all of the issues involved.

### You will need:

- access to the internet
- information on GM crops from *Biotechnology Online*.

### What to do:

1. Work in a group of six people. Each person selects and reads one of the resource articles listed below.
2. Each person then takes two minutes or less to explain the article to the other members of the group. No questions should be asked at this time.
3. When all articles have been explained, each person has an opportunity to ask up to two questions about any of the articles.
4. Think about what your group has read. Ask yourself whether you are not concerned, mildly concerned or very concerned about genetic engineering of crops.

### What to do with your information:

The information you have read could be used as source material for a debate. Possible topics for the debate include statements that:

- genetic modification techniques have revolutionised Australian agriculture for the better
- genetically modified crops are dangerous to the Australian environment
- genetically modified food is safe to eat
- genetically modified crops will produce food more cheaply
- butterflies win over boll weevils any day.

**Resources:**

- Biotechnology Australia: Arguments for and against genetic modification  
<http://www.biotechnology.gov.au/index.cfm?event=object.showContent&objectID=D2D25898-BCD6-81AC-1580E45464029EE0>
- CSIRO: The science behind biotechnology  
<http://www.csiro.au/science/ScienceBehindBiotech.html>
- ProQuest: <http://www.csa.com/discoveryguides/gmfood/overview.php>
- Greenpeace's concerns at the True Food Network:  
<http://www.truefood.org.au/index2.html>
- Agrifood Awareness Australia:  
[http://www.afa.com.au/pdf/10\\_For\\_and\\_against.pdf](http://www.afa.com.au/pdf/10_For_and_against.pdf)