

# Education Pack



## Plant Biotechnology - A Solution for Africa

### Advanced Questions for Debate

1. Are new varieties produced in this way 'riskier' than new varieties produced by other methods in plant breeding?
2. Are other traditional methods in plant breeding now obsolete?
3. What controls are there on how plant biotechnology is used?
4. Will plant biotechnology be used to develop crops specifically to address the problems of African agriculture, or will Africa largely miss out on the benefits, as it has done in the past?
5. Who will pay for the development of plant biotech crops specifically for Africa?
6. Will the attitudes of '1<sup>st</sup> world' consumers and pressure groups prevent Africa from benefiting from plant biotech (e.g. to protect trade with Europe)?
7. Why have some African countries refused food aid because of fears about biotech crops?
8. Will the products of plant biotech be 'owned' by '1<sup>st</sup> World' multinationals through patenting, meaning that Africa would have no control on the development of plant biotech and have to pay a high price for the benefits?
9. What are 'terminator' seeds, can plant biotech crops produce viable seed?
10. Does Africa have its own plant biotech industry and can it attract investment in this area from overseas?