

# Education Pack



## Plant Biotechnology - A Solution for Africa

### Questions for Discussion

1. We have discussed the fact that plants can suffer from stress in natural environments. Why and how do plants suffer from stress?
2. What do you think are the most severe problems facing Africa in the next 5-10 years?
3. Are the problems faced by Africa in food production any worse than those faced by other countries?
4. What do you understand by plant biotechnology and do you think that it will help farming and crop production in Africa?
5. Why do scientists use model plants like Arabidopsis to study how plants grow and survive stressful environmental conditions?
6. How far might plant biotechnology be used to some of the basic problems of poverty and food security in Africa?
7. What do you understand by climate change and how will it affect plants in natural and farmed environments?
8. Do you know of any examples of products that you use every day where plant or other biotechnologies have been used to develop the product?
9. What are the wider implications of the use of biotechnology for human health and the environment?
10. Is seed saving by the farmer from year to year a good thing since it might risk outbreaks of plant diseases?
11. Which African countries are already using plant biotechnology commercially and how is it being used?
12. Is the teaching of the basic principles of Biotechnology in Schools and Universities in Africa sufficient to allow the development of a strong science base that can take full advantage of the opportunities offered by plant biotechnology?

