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Access to Gene Technology

I write in reference to the inquiry into primary producer access to gene technology. The opinions expressed below are my own and do not necessarily represent the policies or opinions of Charles Sturt University.

... Assistance to small producers to develop new varieties and the protection of the rights of independent breeders in relation to genetically modified organisms

I have grave concerns for the ability of small producers to develop genetically modified organisms. In recent talks with a farmer cooperative I discussed the possibility of developing new varieties by genetic engineering. The head of the research and development section was enthusiastic about the prospect, however, he indicated that they were not able to pursue this line of investigation due to the current consumer perception of genetically modified organisms (gmo). The negative perception of gmo is hindering their development as small research organization see them as a high risk research area and are not prepared to invest their limited funds in their development. On the other hand large multinational corporations who have substantial research budgets are investing in this area and it is likely that they will dominate and control this technology in the future. The only solution I can see is for the government to subsidize research into this area on behalf of small producer groups to ensure they are able to reap the benefits from this technology in the future.

... Opportunities to educate the community of the benefits of gene technology

As a researcher in the area of gene technology, I have the knowledge and experience to educate the community of the benefits of gene technology. However, the only forum I have to educate in this area is through a food biotechnology subject taught at Charles Sturt University. There seems to be no mechanisms for those with a knowledge and passion for the technology to pass on their knowledge to the general public. The solution to this problem is to fund and coordinate an action group consisting of scientists and publicists to organize a publicity campaign to educate the public on the benefits of gmo technology.

I trust you will take these opinions into consideration in your enquiry.

yours sincerely,

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