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GM crops and animals: no answer to Global Warming

Gene Ethics supports the call for real action on climate change by the national Walk Against Warming on Saturday November 15. But GM crops and animals are a useless response to the climate threat.

“Genetically Manipulated (GM) crops and animals cannot reduce the impacts of climate change,” says Bob Phelps, Gene Ethics Director.

“They also steal scarce public funds from other R&D projects that could make a vital difference.

“Companies, scientists and governments have spent billions of dollars on GM over the past 25 years but only herbicide tolerance and insect toxins are engineered into soy, corn, cotton and canola.

“Promises of GM crops that are more productive, more drought and salt tolerant, can fix nitrogen in grains and other non-legumes, are all false,” he says.

“Crude cut-and-paste GM techniques cannot transfer multi-genic traits and have failed to deliver.

“The existing GM traits commit farmers to more intensive monocultures, making them even more dependent on depleting stocks of oil-based chemical, fertilizers and fuels.

“We must get off the oil and GM treadmills, and get on with developing smart management systems that nurture agricultural biodiversity and help farmers to be environmentally and economically sustainable.

“Only then will farmers be able to deliver GM-free food securely to this and future generations of Australians,” Mr Phelps concludes

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