

JULIE HILL

Responding to [Rosie Hails](#) *et. al.*'s comments, I agree that we need to understand whether genetic modification strategies are environmentally better or worse than conventional agricultural practices. I stress practices, because organic practice or integrated pest management have very different consequences to higher-input systems. But it would be a mistake to conclude that just because a genetic modification strategy is no worse than existing practice, it is all right.

We are in the process of re-evaluating the relationship between farming and biological diversity, especially in the light of obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity to protect our wildlife. Genetic modification must fit into a broader vision of the future (if indeed it fits in at all) rather than just accepting the agricultural status quo.

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