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## How can food and farming research deliver for the long-term public good?

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Food and farming research has taken a wrong turn in the UK due to successive governments' obsession with genetically modified (GM) crops. Our research institutes and scientists have misused public money to align the research agenda with the interests of GM corporations. This has come at the expense of public interest research into areas of practical benefit, such as crop rotation, non-toxic pest management, and building healthy soil - which in turn make healthy crops and healthy people.

Even GMO promoter Achim Dobermann, head of the UK's Rothamsted Research, has **finally admitted** that GM crop technology is not a "major solution for agriculture". We've known for years that GM simply isn't up to the task of producing more or better food - including the new gene editing techniques, which Dobermann claims "will change the whole picture" of farming. In reality, new GM poses the **same risks** as old GM and will lead us down another blind alley.

Dobermann's institute has swallowed **millions of pounds** of public funding since it jumped on the GM bandwagon. Yet this arm of its work has produced nothing of benefit to farmers or the public. It's ironic that the UK government and scientific establishment are trying to impose this failed system, which only benefits GM seed and chemical companies, on other nations. It's time to focus on participatory research that involves farmers and the public in a transparent way from the outset.

We already produce **enough food** for 14 billion people. Over **400 world experts agree** that non-GM breeding, integrated pest management and agroecology can meet our present and future food needs in a sustainable way. Scientists should look at how they can serve these objectives while retaining the support of the public that pays their wages.