

The Letter from America
Replies from MPs to your personal concerns about GMOs
(HINT: you deserve better than a form letter)



Dear Ms xxxx

Thank you for contacting me about genetically modified (GM) food and crops.

I do appreciate your concerns on this issue. I am, however, assured that used properly, GM promises effective ways to protect or increase crop yields. It can also combat the effects of unpredictable weather and disease on crops and may be able to reduce fertiliser and chemical use, improve the efficiency of agricultural production and reduce post-harvest losses. Nevertheless the protection of human health and the environment must be the overriding priorities.

GM crops can only be grown, other types of GM organism released, or GM food or feed products marketed if a robust risk assessment indicates it is safe for people and the environment. GM products are assessed on a case-by-case basis, taking full account of the scientific evidence. I am glad that Ministers are also committed to ensuring that consumers can exercise choice through clear GM labelling rules and suitable information, and will listen to public views about the technology.

Provided these safeguards are in place, it is equally important for farmers to have access to new technologies and be able to choose whether to adopt them. With the world's population expected to grow from 7 billion to 9 billion by 2050, it is right that we play a leading role in feeding the world and increasing the resilience of global food supplies.

I am confident that if and when GM crops are grown in England commercially, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will implement pragmatic and proportionate measures to segregate them from conventional and organic crops, so that choice can be exercised and economic interests appropriately protected.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me about this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

Amber Rudd, MP
Hastings & Rye

Dear Mr xxxx

Thank you for contacting me about genetically modified (GM) food and crops.

I understand your concerns on this issue. However, the Government believes that used properly, GM promises effective ways to protect or increase crop yields. It can also combat the effects of unpredictable weather and disease on crops and may be able to reduce fertiliser and chemical use, improve the efficiency of agricultural production and reduce post-harvest losses. Nonetheless the protection of human health and the environment must be the overriding priorities.

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I am reassured that if and when GM crops are grown in England commercially, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will implement pragmatic and proportionate measures to segregate them from conventional and organic crops, so that choice can be exercised and economic interests appropriately protected.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me about this important issue.

Regards,

Andrew Griffiths, MP
Burton & Uttoxeter

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I am confident that if and when GM crops are grown in England commercially, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will implement pragmatic and proportionate measures to segregate them from conventional and organic crops, so that choice can be exercised and economic interests appropriately protected.

I hope that this information reassures you and thank you again for taking the time to contact me about this important issue.

Kind regards

Caroline Dinanage, MP
Gosport