

China to grow GM crops

China intends to grow genetically modified (GM) crops for commercial purposes in the year 2001 as a government-backed project moves from research to production level. The US\$36.25 million project is expected to supply 270 t of corn seeds, 30 t of soya beans and 200 t of rice seeds in 2001. These GM crops will be resistant to pests, which would help farmers to save on pesticides and also protect the environment from pesticide abuse. Every year, 20 to 30 per cent of China's annual corn output is lost to pests while 10 per cent, or even more, of annual soya bean output is lost. This project promises to curb these crop losses. (India Grains, July 2000)