

MEDIA RELEASE 16 APRIL 2008

A backwards glance: New Zealand's GM history revisited

In order to consider the next steps forward for genetic modification in New Zealand, it is vital to look at the history of the issue, says Sustainable Future in its just released report, *The History of Genetic Modification in New Zealand*.

"The paper is a chance to reflect on the history of genetic modification in this country, in order to consider the next steps regarding policy and practice in what has been one of the more complex and publicly engaging debates of the last ten years," says Sustainable Future's Chief Executive, Wendy McGuinness.

She says the paper provides a useful background for policy-makers and members of the wider community who are interested in exploring ways of tackling the diverse social, cultural, economic and environmental impacts of genetic modification.

"It provides an opportunity not to get tangled in the issues, but to view the overall landscape without the rhetoric or value judgements that so often underlie the debate," Wendy McGuinness says.

This paper forms the backdrop for two other papers from Sustainable Future: the *Review of the Forty-Nine Recommendations of the Royal Commission on Genetic Modification*, also released today, and the upcoming *Future of Genetic Modification in New Zealand*.

Sustainable Future is a research organisation and think-tank on sustainability issues in New Zealand. Based in Wellington, Sustainable Future aims to be a provider of relevant, accurate and comprehensive information, accessible by all New Zealanders. Sustainable Future welcomes feedback on this report, which can be found at www.sustainablefuture.info

[ends]

For further information please contact: Wendy McGuinness
Sustainable Future Chief Executive
021 781 200