

Textaufgabe in Kombination mit bildlichen Darstellungen, Aufgabenart B 1

Theme: Science & Technology – GM Food

Cartoon: Paul Wood, GMO (cartoon) <http://tinyurl.com/yss6pg>

Text: Council for Biotechnology Information, "Voices of Plant Biotechnology," 2006 (extract)

<http://www.whibiotech.com/index.asp?id=5664>



"Wilson's working on a gene programme that will make modified vegetables 100% organic."

Annotations:

17 canola – (trademark) genetically engineered rapeseed 25 yield – profits 29 arid – dry 34 strip-till – strips of land are not cultivated / ploughed; stalk – Stängel 45 irrigation – supply crops with water
 copywriter - someone who writes the words



for advertisements

Assignments:

1. Give an outline of the theme and the ideas that the text and the cartoon have in common. [Orientation/Context]
2. Compare the intentions of the copywriter and cartoonist Paul Wood analysing the language and pictorial elements in the process. [Analysis]
3. How should the authorities and the public deal with the issues that are raised in the above texts? [Evaluation]

Although biotech crops have obvious advantages for the developing world, their importance does not stop there. For example, largely as a result of demonstrated success, interest in biotech crops has been steadily increasing in Europe. By 2005, five European Union (EU) countries, including agricultural powers France, Portugal and Spain, had planted biotech crops. A recent study by the National Center for Food and Agricultural Policy suggested EU farmers could add 1.6 billion euros in income by adopting the nine biotech crops approved for production. Although big income numbers are impressive, local-level impact can be even more telling. [...]

North American farmers are also succeeding with biotech crops. In 2005, Canadian farmers planted 5.8 million hectares of biotech canola, corn and soybeans. Adoption rates of herbicide-tolerant canola have reached 82 percent, with biotech corn and soybean adoption at more than 60 percent.

In the United States, 49.8 million hectares constitute 55 percent of the world's biotech-farming area. According to a 2005 report by the National Center for Food and Agricultural Policy, biotech crops boosted U.S. farm yields by 6.6 billion pounds, improved collective farm income by \$2.3 billion and reduced pesticide use by 15.6 million pounds.

Mark Williams and his family run a 7,500-acre farm in semi-arid West Texas, where they produce wheat, cotton, corn and cattle. They choose biotechnology because it benefits soil conservation and protects young cotton crops, which suffer damage when high winds blow sand. Biotechnology enables Williams to practice a strip-till system that leaves stalks in the field and keeps bare dirt to a minimum to protect young seedlings.

"Biotechnology has played an extremely important role on my farm," Williams said. "We've increased yields, improved weed control and decreased the total amount of spraying. Biotech crops also have provided more time for other work and free time, and has just made me a better producer overall."

The biotech revolution is in motion. The combination of higher yields, greater pest resistance and lower dependence on irrigation makes biotech a resource too powerful to ignore — whether in Bangladesh or an Iowa cornfield.

5

10

15

20

25

30

35

40

45