

-----Original Message-----

From: NLP Wessex [<mailto:nlpwessex@btinternet.com>]

Sent: 23 February 2008 19:43

To: Undisclosed-Recipient::;

Subject: Reduced Yields And Rising Costs - Set-Back For GM Cotton Growers In USA

Monsanto's original Bt cotton 'Bollgard' technology has not proved as effective as originally intended in controlling insect pests. Interestingly Monsanto apparently knew this before it was commercially introduced to farmers.

Now Monsanto are withdrawing it and introducing a new version with two Bt pesticides embedded in the plant rather than one.

The problem here is that the seed is more expensive and the new crop type produces lower yields. It is estimated that this set-back could cost farmers in the state of Georgia alone \$60-100 million per year. The production value of Georgia cotton is expected to fall by a minimum of \$100 per acre.

Integrated pest management (IPM) control, as pioneered by cotton growers in Australia with great cost effectiveness, is little used in America. (<http://www.btinternet.com/~nlpwessex/Documents/ipmpays.htm>).

However, interest in it may rise if GM technology continues to encounter husbandry and economic difficulties.

NLPWESSEX

www.nlpwessex.org

Will GM Crops Deliver Benefits To Farmers?

www.nlpwessex.org/docs/gmagric.htm

The Acceptable Face Of Ag-biotech

www.nlpwessex.org/docs/monsantomaspossibilities.htm
