

## UK environmental secretary: We must lead the world in GE crops

*The following is an edited excerpt.*

UK Environmental Secretary, Owen Paterson, delivered a speech about genetically engineered crops at the Rothamsted Research station near St. Albans. He called for a new approach to considering GM crops, which he said could help farming become more sustainable and efficient.

I believe that it's time to start a more informed discussion about the potential of genetically modified crops. A discussion that enables GM to be considered in its proper overall context with a balanced understanding of the risks and benefits. While I believe that there are significant economic, environmental and international development benefits to GM, I am conscious of the views of those who have concerns and who need reassurance on this matter. We must lead this discussion, explaining to the public not only what GM technology is but also how it can help.

Read the full speech here: [Patterson: UK must lead the world in GM crops](#)