

THE PARLIAMENTARY AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

AN ASSOCIATE PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

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MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

on **TUESDAY, 15th DECEMBER 2009 AT 5.30 pm**

IN THE BOOTHROYD ROOM, PORTCULLIS HOUSE*

(Please recheck the room allocation on <http://www.scienceinparliament.org.uk> on the day)

COME BACK GM – ALL IS FORGIVEN?

Addresses by

Professor Peter Shewry

Acting Director, Head of Centre for Crop Genetic Improvement
Rothamsted Research

Professor Howard J. Atkinson

Lead, Africa College, University of Leeds

Can GM help to feed 9 billion people by 2050?

- The G8 leaders agreed to aim to restrict global temperature rises to no more than 2 degrees (Celsius) above pre-industrial levels by 2050.
- This policy could result in a significant reduction in the amount of locally grown food which will be available, especially in some regions of the globe.
- This could impact negatively on regions suffering from high food security risks arising from a combination of famine, poverty, lack of access to economic water supply and high population growth rates, as indicated on global maps – and/or create new risk zones.

So should we try again to demonstrate and apply – especially in high risk regions – a new generation of GM technologies to satisfy this unmet need for food?

- What actions should be taken now to demonstrate and apply GM to feeding the planet? Can serious trials be protected from attack?
- Should GM grain soon be introduced for feeding livestock?
- There are warnings prices would have to rise because of food shortages. Other than GM, are there other more cost-effective ways of satisfying these urgent needs for food?
- Apart from GM, how do we reassure people in high risk regions that we can combat acute starvation?
- Are any other relevant novel technologies likely to be available in time?
- In this debt-laden world, will governments be in a position to afford to help support the needs of others for adequate food supplies without help from GM?
- How do we change public opinion here and in the EU?

Come and listen and join in the Debate!

IAN TAYLOR MBE MP

Chairman

**The Meeting will be followed by an informal reception in the Club Room,
1 Parliament Street**

*Portcullis House is on the corner of Bridge Street and Victoria Embankment; the entrance is on Victoria Embankment. The Boothroyd Room is on the first floor.