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## GM crops – Time for a real cause?

The global financial crunch continues, job losses in Western Australia have been announced and household budgets are tightening, but meanwhile organisations supposedly looking after community interests are focused on chasing farmers and destroying new crop varieties. ("Trashing GM paddocks completely acceptable, says activists" *West Australian* 26 January 2009). Is it not time for a reality check?

In Canada, GM canola represents over 85 per cent of the sustainable and profitable canola industry. It has been successfully grown, traded and consumed for 12 years and sold to countries such as Japan, China, the USA, Mexico, India and Pakistan.

In Australia last year, 108 farmers in New South Wales and Victoria joined the international trend and grew new GM canola varieties for the first time. Their crops were so successful that much more is expected to be grown this year.

This result is supported by reports from two Australian universities stating that GM canola will deliver better weed control, less herbicide usage, greater yields, better oil quality, and more consistent production.

GM canola has demonstrated its green credentials and in 2009 a very small number of WA farmers will have the opportunity to examine the crop in their own farming systems. Hunting down farmers to destroy their crops, and our sound food supply, is surely not a good use of membership funds? Perhaps it is time for Greenpeace and friends to focus on some real issues?

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(Letter to the Editor, *West Australian*, 29 January 2009)