

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** CSIRO  
**Output Group:** - CSIRO

#### DEST Question No. E247\_05

Senator Carr provided in writing.

#### Question:

1. One of the documents tabled in the Senate was Herbicide Tolerant Crops and Soil-Borne Plant Diseases. It points to emerging evidence that both the herbicide tolerant GE plant and the herbicide that is necessarily used on that plant may be implicated in the increase in soil borne diseases associated with HT-GM plants. That report was authored by a Dr Gupta of CSIRO. Was the OGTR made aware by CSIRO of the findings in that report?
2. Was the OGTR provided with a copy of the paper?
3. Were there any meetings or correspondence in relation to that paper or its findings between CSIRO and the OGTR?
4. The paper indicates that there are a number of other areas relating to soil interactions and HT-GM plants that need investigation. Has CSIRO been asked by the OGTR to undertake any further studies in relation to soil borne diseases and HT-GM plants?

#### Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

#### *Ecological Implications of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) project*

1. Yes - first in February 2004 and later in June 2004.
2. Yes (see above).
3. The OGTR simply requested a copy of this paper and it was provided by CSIRO (see above).
4. No.