

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: - CSIRO

DEST Question No. E248_05

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

Another Gupta paper released to the Senate related to the impacts of Bt cotton on soils: *Impact of Bt-cotton on biological processes in Australian soils*. It point to new research showing that the roots of Bt Cotton – in other words GE cotton – exude the Bt toxin and that the Bt toxin significantly changes the biota and biological processes of soils. Gupta points out that the impacts of this Bt exudation is unknown. Would you agree this is an important research area?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Ecological Implications of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) project

Yes, this is a research area of some importance and CSIRO currently has a CRDC-funded project looking at Rhizosphere microbiology of cotton which focuses on GM varieties.