

- g) Development of a strong public research capacity on biotechnology is critical, especially if biotechnology is to be applied to the problems of developing countries. Corporate control of 75% of the research and development monies for such an important and also potentially hazardous technology is unacceptable;
- h) The public sector and non-governmental organizations should be funded to disseminate clear and unbiased information about the applications of biotechnology; and
- i) Since there is an overproduction of food in the developed countries, many investigations of crop plants are geared not toward increasing yield, but rather toward using food crops to produce non-food products. One line of research that could be useful in contributing to world food security is the development of virus resistant plants;

The joint statement also commented on the UNCED Secretariat's proposed programme to maximize the potential benefits of biotechnology in the context of the overall goal of sustainable development:

- a) Rather than searching for ways to degrade industrial and hazardous waste efforts should be directed toward waste reduction and elimination. The incentive to change to safer compounds will be significantly reduced if biotechnology is seen to offer the prospects of "quick fix" for hazardous waste elimination;
- b) It is possible that certain applications of biotechnology may eventually replace certain insecticides. However, biotechnology is far from providing a panacea for insect control. Many effective alternatives to chemical insecticides are currently available but have not been sufficiently used nor publicized. Such alternatives as parasitic wasps and ladybird beetles, cultural controls such as crop rotation and trap cropping are potentially cheaper to use than patented bioengineered products;
- c) Biotechnology interests encourage systems of intellectual property ownership which reward the formal scientific sector, but which do not recognize or compensate the efforts of farmers in developing or developed countries who identify important characteristics; create new varieties; and donate that material to