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GMOs could reduce greenhouse gas

THE Danish Ministry of Food and Agriculture has released a report on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) showing that the production of GM crops has the potential to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases such as CO₂.

The report also shows that GMOs are a promising way of producing plants that are more resistant towards changes in climate conditions.

Danish trials show that GM crops give farmers an opportunity to achieve the same harvest yield with reduced use of pesticides.

The report also highlights the continued need for research into the possibilities and risks associated with GMOs, with the Ministry allocating additional funding for research into the use of biotechnology in farming and food.

In commenting on the report, Danish Food and Agriculture Minister Eva Kjer Hansen said eight per cent of the world's agricultural land was used for growing GM crops.

She said GMOs had a positive potential "that we must consider seriously".

"It would be unwise of us not to choose genetic technologies simply because we do not have sufficient information," she said.

"These technologies have the potential to contribute to meeting the challenges facing us in terms of the climate and the environment as well as in questions of sufficient food supply."

According to the report, the Danes are the people in the EU community who feel best informed about GM foods.

They are also among the consumers who associate the lowest risk with genetic technologies.

However, the report further shows that Danish consumers have very poor faith in the public authorities' ability to ensure that GMO organisms do not damage environment and human health.

Ms Hansen said 20pc of Europeans believed wrongly that their own genes would be modified if they ate GM food.

"It can be difficult to tell truth from fiction when you are talking about modern biotechnology, and that is why I wanted this report, which collates the present knowledge about the subject," she said.

"There are many myths about GMOs and it is my hope that we will be able to wave goodbye to some of them with updated knowledge and debate."

Read more about the report at <http://www.fvm.dk/gmokonference>