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example, there are well over 40 herbicide- and biocide-tolerant varieties available for weed control in sugar beet, and many of these have been developed to reduce agricultural practice throughout the world. Over 10 years, GM technology has shown significant financial advantages for the farmer and has led to a reduction in residues for the global population. In the UK Residues Guide 2010, for example, there are well over 40 herbicide- and biocide-tolerant varieties available for weed control in sugar beet, and many of these have been developed to reduce agricultural practice throughout the world. Over 10 years, GM technology has shown significant financial advantages for the farmer and has led to a reduction in residues for the global population. In the UK Residues Guide 2010, it has been argued that the use of such herbicide-tolerant varieties ranges from major agrochemical companies, who supply both the seed and the herbicides. This is an oversimplification, as most herbicides are no longer covered by patent, and generic versions are just as effective as branded products. In addition, the genes that allow the use of non-selective herbicides selectively are also in the public domain and most companies, large and small, have access to the technology. Is this so different from other protection agents?

Another often-used argument is that of the onset of resistance. The US Department of Agriculture put in place a strategy of planting refuges to allow beneficial insects access to crops that did not contain, and were not treated with, Bt or other insect-active proteins. This markedly reduced the possibility of the onset of resistance and it was a required strategy for all US farmers.

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