*BBC Documentary*

Aliens in Field

**Pre-listening activity**

# *In pairs or groups discuss these questions.*

1. What is the difference between the conventional plant and the GM plant?
2. Have you ever eaten any GM food?
3. Do you think GM stuff is okay or do you fully reject it?

# **Listening activities**

I.

1. *Look at these vocabulary items. Are you familiar with some of them? Try to explain their meaning in English.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| to outweigh | dependent on | resistance |
| suicide | cotton | to increase yields |
| drawback | debt | harvest failure |

1. *Fill in the name of the first country spoken about in the video* ……………………. .
2. *Decide whether these statements are true or false.*
   1. Cash-crop here means the main plant cultivated by the farmers to earn money.
   2. The Indian farmers don’t use pesticides against cotton pests.
   3. The unsuccessful farmers in India often kill themselves.
   4. So-called BT cotton is in fact natural, organic cotton.
3. *Answer these questions.*
   1. What is the advantage of BT cotton?
   2. What happened when the Indian farmers invested in BT cotton?
   3. What is the disadvantage of BT cotton?
   4. How did the BT cotton producer respond to the protesting farmers?
4. *Try to explain these phrases in English.*
   1. Drought-prone area is ………………………………………………
   2. BT converted farmers are …………………………………………..
   3. BT crops are no magic bullet means ……………………………….

II.

1. Look at these vocabulary items. Do you understand what they mean? Try to explain their meaning in English.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **desperately needed** | **to embrace** | **disclosure** | **starvation** |
| **famine** | **maize** | **astonishment** | **to reject** |
| **pest** | **persist** | **proof** | **impoverished nation** |

1. *Give the name of the second country described in the video………………………………*
2. *In your own words explain what happened in the second country in 2002as a result of famine.*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. *Decide whether these statements are true or false.*
   1. The Zambians were not informed that the US maize was GMO.
   2. The international community was not surprised by Zambia’s rejection of the US food aid.
   3. This scandal provoked a stormy debate about GM food not only in Zambia but in all Africa.
   4. All new technologies should be properly tested before brought into practice.
   5. Poor countries have enough capacity for introducing new technologies.

III.

1. Look at these expressions and try to explain their meaning in English.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **to share doubts** | **arable land** | **to switch to** | **to quit** |
| **to compete** | **to afford** | **corn** | **to withstand** |
| **weed** | **herbicide** | **fumigation** | **vested interests** |

*2. Give the name of the third country described in the video……………………… .*

*3. Listen to the video and then fill the missing words in the following sentences.*

1. At the end of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ GM soy was introduced in the third country.
2. Even though GM soy is very profitable for big producers, over \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ small farmers have quit their farms because they were not competitive.
3. The country is a big exporter of soy but it has to import basic foods as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ which are very expensive.
4. The campaign called “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” has started to help the hungry by giving them free soy meals.
5. There is a strong increase of use of agrochemicals in the country; its use has increased from less than \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to more than \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ nowadays.

4. Answer these questions.

What are the health hazards of agrochemicals?

How do the big GM producers defend their products?

What are the environmental hazards of the new ago-technologies?

1. This is an old saying that was mentioned in the video. Read it and in pair or groups discuss its possible meaning from the environmental point of view.

“God always forgives, man sometimes, nature never.”

Post-listening activity

In groups try to find the answers to these questions.

1. What is the problem of implementation of new technologies into poor countries’ farm production?
2. After watching the video, what, do you think, the pros and cons of GM stuff are?