

Social capital

Governance

- Ownership of the technology and its public image by a few companies, proprietary ownership of genetic material, removing ability of small scale farmers to save seed or breed their own cultivars

Marketplace acceptance

- Consumers don't want them in Europe - GM foods for human consumption have been banned in a number of countries and territories. UK consumers have responded with a resounding 'no' to the introduction of GM foodstuffs

Human Capital

Health concerns

- Threats to human and animal health from consuming GM crops
- GM crops relying on application of pesticides exposing farmers to harmful substances, particularly in the developing world

Natural capital

Environmental concerns

- Current GM crops – Bt resistant soya and maize - rely on the application of pesticides and fertilisers – which can cause damage to ecosystems, and are reliant on fossil-fuels
- Cross contamination and herbicide resistance traits in weeds
- GM crops threaten contamination of organic farmland

Manufactured capital

Inconsistent technologies

- Inconsistent results from the use of GM crops that we do have¹ show mixed results of the use of GM crops particularly by poor farmers

Blocking innovation

- Highlighted under governance concerns, tying farmers into specific production systems that may not be suitable for a range of sites, natural variations and climate change, reduces capacity for innovation and bottom-up development of new techniques and technologies

Financial capital

Inconsistent yield results

- Yields can be depressed in GM crops - the Soil Association has produced summaries of studies which prove this point again and again
- Financially unviable for many farmers
- GM crops within conventional agricultural systems still rely on the application of fossil-fuel derived inputs, and often a highly mechanised production system; production systems which are not sustainable in an oil-scarce future, particularly for small farmers. Some fertilisers have already increased in cost by 600% in the last 12 months.