**Transcript**

***Professor John Mason – Crop improvement using modern technologies***

Well the work I do is fairly broad and as a general guideline what we’re trying to do is better understand how genes work in plants and the working assumption is that genes interact with each other in predictable ways. So we want to use that knowledge to develop new crops, new varieties for different environments or different markets if you like.

So the key outcome of all this work will, will be new varieties of crops and these crops are crops like wheat which are for human consumption but they’re also forage crops for the dairy industry for example. And the idea is that the future will be different to how it is now, there’ll be different environments, climates may change, nutritional requirements may shift according to market demands and we want to provide farmers with new varieties of crops to meet these demands to better feed more people but also to change the type of feed that we provide for people or livestock.

I think in general terms it’s focussed on agriculture so the benefit there is for productivity so that farms can survive and meet the challenges of the future and linked to that is food for people or for livestock and ultimately that’s really for people, so it’s our consumption, which is for Australians but it’s also for people outside the country because it’s really a global industry.