Environmental justice seeks fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people with respect to environmental laws, regulations, and policies (US EPA, 2012). Much of the environmental justice movement has sought to rectify the injustices suffered by lower socioeconomically ranked citizens that have historically been disproportionally exposed to the environmental risks of modernizing societies. The scholar Ulrich Beck considers modern, industrialized nations to be risk societies in which wealth is accumulated by highly ranked socioeconomic individuals and risk accumulates with low socioeconomic individuals (Beck, 1992).

While it is extremely unlikely that a GM product with a potential for direct human harm would be approved for release, or even developed, it is important to consider the rights and potential impacts of all people following a release.

Beck, U. (1992). *Risk society: Towards a new modernity* (Vol. 17). Sage.

United States Environmental Protection Agency. (2012). *Environmental Justice*. Available at http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/basics/ejbackground.html Last accessed 15 Oct 2014