IELTS Matching Headings

A) Europeans tend to be skeptical about the consumption of genetically modified foods and there is strong consumer pressure, supported by the Green parties, to ban farmers from growing GM crops in the European Union (EU). However 5.5 million farmers worldwide, mainly in the US, Argentina, Canada and China, now grow GM crops covering more than 50 million hectares, an area the size of Spain. Other Asian countries such as India are enthusiastic and Indonesia is about to join the GM club, so despite the Europeans, GM crop growth is increasing globally.

B) A recent British scientists' report emphasizes that inserting genes into plants is still a very inexact science, so unexpected biochemical side effects are possible, affecting foodstuffs and human consumers. Legally, GM companies have to demonstrate that their crops are "substantially equivalent" to the originals, but what does this mean? That they should contain the same nutrients? That they should look and smell similar? Scientists who not long ago dismissed public concerns as hysteria are now concurring with green consumer activists and advising tougher regulation.

C) More consensus and definition is required on this controversial topic. Currently, it seems that most American consumers trust GM food producers and associated big businesses, whilst Europeans do not. Canadians are skeptical: their studies of cross pollinated "super strains" indicate problems such as potential super viruses. Dutch studies however, suggest that engineered sugar beet is friendlier to wildlife and less damaging to the environment: it needs less herbicide for the same yield, allowing more weed biomass and increased insects and spiders, which in turn feed increased birdlife. These results are significant, as European law states that GM crops may be banned if they can be proved to damage the environment.

Choose the correct heading for each paragraph from the list below:

1. Environmentalist's reaction

2. Legal Implications

3. Growing importance of GM foods

4. GM crops and viruses

5. Attitudes worldwide to GM foods

LIVEWORKSHEETS