Industry & Research

The tail is beginning to wag the dog

Industry is a Johnny-come-lately to agriculture but threatens to become a dominant and potentially misguided force if current trends in the transformation of agricultural research continue unabated.

The gradual development of agrarian society, from that of hunters and gatherers over a 10,000 year period, has resulted in the provision of an abundant supply of nutritious food, as well as providing the necessary fibres and means of transportation that society has utilized in different forms over the years. However, it has not always been easy for agriculture to supply the demand for food, and the struggle to find a balance between feast and famine has always been a challenge.

Public investment in agricultural research in the last 100 years has greatly alleviated this problem, providing improved crop
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