



EFSA in focus *PLANTS*

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Contents

Key topics

- > EFSA evaluates wheat disease fungus 1
- > EFSA delivers advice on pine pitch canker and the oriental chestnut gall wasp 2
- > EFSA evaluates possible risks from the pesticide chlormequat in grapes 3
- > EFSA provides scientific advice on the spread of common ragweed 3
- > Model for the assessment of the impact of GM crops on non-target organisms 5

Be part of Europe's network of top food safety scientists

4

Working together

- > EFSA outlines guidance on pesticide emissions from greenhouses and crops grown under cover 5
- > Report on dermal absorption of pesticides published 5
- > EFSA to strengthen cooperation with its Stakeholder Platform 6
- > EFSA's expert database two years on 6
- > EFSA meets Member State experts on environmental risk assessment of GM plants 7

Scientific contracts and grants

7

Consultations

- > EFSA launches public consultation on guidance for environmental risk assessment of GM plants 8

Mandates accepted

9

Opinions and other outputs adopted

13

> Key topics

EFSA evaluates wheat disease fungus



EFSA has published a scientific opinion on *Tilletia indica*, a fungus that causes a disease in wheat called Karnal bunt. The Plant Health Panel (PLH) concludes that *T. indica* can enter the European Union through imported wheat grain. The European Commission asked EFSA for advice on this plant disease following a request from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to

review current EU control measures on wheat grain imported from the United States.

The spores of *Tilletia indica* are very resistant to adverse environmental conditions and can survive in soil for several years. Once established, Karnal bunt disease is very difficult to eradicate.

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> STOP PRESS

EFSA invites NGOs to discuss welcomed draft GMO Environmental Risk Assessment Guidelines

As part of its on-going consultation with stakeholders, EFSA announced its intention to call a meeting in September 2010 with environmental NGOs on its guidelines for the Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO). This follows the meeting held in June with Member States (see p.7).

[For more information.](#)

EFSA publishes its second annual report on pesticide residues in food

EFSA has published its Annual Report on Pesticide Residues, which provides an overview of pesticide residues in food in the European Union during 2008 and assesses the exposure of European consumers to those residues through their diets. The report shows that 96.5% of the samples analysed comply with the maximum residue levels (MRLs) of pesticides permitted for food products in the EU.

[For more information.](#)

When weather conditions become favourable for the fungus it can infect wheat flowers and then develop spores on kernels. Wheat infected with *Tilletia indica* has an unpleasant fishy smell and severely infected grain cannot be used for flour.

In support of their request the USDA put forward a mathematical model which is based on the assumption that a minimum of 150 thousand spores per hectare are needed before the disease can occur in non-contaminated areas. According to this model, the number of spores in wheat grain imported from the US is not high enough to trigger the disease in the EU.

Following its evaluation, the PLH Panel concludes in the opinion that there is no published evidence to show that a minimum number of spores are needed for the fungus to trigger the

disease in new areas. Therefore, EFSA does not consider that the rationale for the proposal put forward by the USDA is scientifically substantiated.

Karnal bunt is currently not present in Europe. All imported wheat grain originating from areas contaminated by the fungus must be tested both at harvest and before shipment and must be found free from the spores of the fungus.

Karnal bunt is widespread in some Asian countries and since the 1970s it has spread to parts of South and North America. In the United States, the disease has been detected in Arizona, California and Texas, areas that export wheat to the EU. ■

[For more information.](#)

EFSA delivers advice on pine pitch canker and the oriental chestnut gall wasp



EFSA's Plant Health Panel (PLH) has published scientific advice on two plant pests detected recently in Europe. In one opinion, the Panel considers the risk of pine pitch canker caused by the fungus *Gibberella circinata*, and in another opinion, the risk posed by the oriental chestnut gall wasp, *Dryocosmus kuriphilus*. The European Commission asked EFSA to evaluate risks posed by these pests for the EU and to identify and evaluate the effectiveness of possible risk management options.

Based on a review of scientific literature and analysis of climate suitability, the Panel concludes that both pests have the capacity to establish and spread further in areas vulnerable to these pests, in particular in some areas of Portugal, Spain, Italy and France. Temporary controls have already been introduced by the European Commission to prevent further introduction and spread of both pests in Europe. EFSA's scientific advice was requested to help the Commission consider permanent measures.

Present in countries such as the United States, Japan, Korea and South Africa, *Gibberella circinata* is one of the most devastating diseases of pine and Douglas fir trees. In Europe, reports of outbreaks of pine pitch canker have come recently from Spain,

Portugal, France and Italy. Pitch canker enters unaffected areas through contaminated seeds, wood materials and ornamental plants such as Christmas trees. Trees infected with *Gibberella circinata* grow slowly and suffer serious branch damage. The effects of this pest could be very significant in pine-growing areas of certain regions of Portugal, Spain, France, Italy and Greece.

The Panel concludes that in the absence of measures to protect plant health, pine pitch canker is very likely to take hold and spread across vulnerable areas in Europe. Its potential impact could be massive as pine plantations and forests in the endangered areas cover over 10 million hectares. According to the Panel, the spread of this disease in the European Union is most effectively prevented by limiting the movement of seeds, plants, wood, soil and machinery from infested to non-infested areas.

The oriental chestnut gall wasp, indigenous to Asia but now also present in the United States, affects chestnut trees. In autumn, the wasps lay eggs in the tree buds. In spring, feeding larvae cause swellings, called galls, that disrupt leaf development. The pest slows plant growth and reduces chestnut production. The oriental chestnut gall wasp is introduced to new areas mainly through the planting of infested chestnut plants.

Following its introduction into the Piedmont region (northern Italy), the oriental chestnut gall wasp has now been detected in most regions of Italy and has been reported in France, Slovenia, Switzerland and Hungary. The Panel concludes that areas of chestnut fruit production in northern Portugal, northern Spain and south-west France are particularly at risk. In order to help reduce the risk of introduction and spread of this pest EFSA recommends that all chestnut planting material should be certified as free from the pest.

Both scientific opinions were developed in line with the Panel's new guidance document on a harmonised framework for pest risk assessment and evaluation of pest risk management options. ■

[For more information on pine pitch canker and the oriental chestnut gall wasp.](#)

EFSA evaluates possible risks from the pesticide chlormequat in grapes

Following information from food business operators on table grapes containing residues of the pesticide chlormequat, the European Commission has requested urgent scientific advice from EFSA on possible risks for public health. The use of the pesticide chlormequat is not permitted in the EU for use on grapes.

In a statement published in April, EFSA's experts say that if the concentration of chlormequat on grapes does not exceed the threshold of 1.06 milligrams per kilogram, it is not likely to pose a short-term risk for public health. However, the experts say that children in those EU countries with the highest consumption levels of table grapes would be the most exposed group. If children were to eat, at one time, a large amount of grapes containing chlormequat at levels above 1.06 mg/kg, health risks could not be excluded. EFSA specified that acute symptoms would include irritation to mouth or throat, vomiting, nausea, abdominal pain and headache.

EFSA also specified that this threshold should not be understood as a recommendation for a change of the current Maximum Residue Level (MRL), as it is the result of a safety assessment for a specific case and has been provided only to support EU decision makers in managing possible consumer health risks. ■

[For more information.](#)



EFSA provides scientific advice on the spread of common ragweed

EFSA has published a scientific opinion on the possible effects on public health, animal health and the environment of the further spread of weeds from the *Ambrosia* species (including *Ambrosia artemisiifolia*, or common ragweed) in the European Union. As requested by the European Commission, the opinion pays particular attention to the role of animal feed, especially birdseed, in helping to spread the weeds. The main conclusions of the opinion are as follows:

- In humans, the major adverse health effects caused by *Ambrosia* plants are allergic symptoms – such as a runny nose, conjunctivitis and asthma – brought about by inhaling their pollen. Skin allergies and food allergies are of relatively minor concern. *Ambrosia* plants may also make people sensitive to other allergens.
- There is some evidence that animals, particularly horses, can be allergic to *Ambrosia* pollen.
- There is no direct evidence that *Ambrosia* can lead to the extinction of other plant species. However, there are some indications that *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* could become highly invasive in certain habitats, therefore further ecological studies are needed in this area.

- Seeds for wild and ornamental birds often contain significant quantities of *Ambrosia* seeds and could play an important role in introducing *Ambrosia* plants to previously uninfested areas. In contrast, the contribution of commercial feed for livestock to the spread of *Ambrosia* is negligible as the seeds are destroyed during processing.

Ambrosia artemisiifolia is mainly found on waste ground and agricultural land. It can be spread naturally or transported by animals (for example, through bird droppings) or by human activity (e.g. on transport or through the movement of contaminated soil).

Cleaning procedures can reduce the extent to which birdseed is contaminated with *Ambrosia* seeds. To help limit the spread of *Ambrosia* plants, the opinion recommends that such techniques should be developed for all seeds used in bird feed.

However, the opinion notes that the relative importance of bird feed compared with other routes of dissemination cannot be determined from the available information. ■

[For more information.](#)

Be part of Europe's network of top food safety scientists



- Make a difference to European food safety
- Deliver scientific advice to Europe's risk managers
- Be considered for EFSA's Scientific Committee and Panels

The role of EFSA

EFSA is the European Union's scientific risk assessment body on food and feed safety, nutrition, animal health and welfare, and plant health and protection, tackling issues all along the food chain. Its Scientific Committee and Panels consist of independent scientists from universities, research institutions and national food safety authorities. They deliver high-quality scientific advice for Europe's decision-makers to act on and protect consumers, animals and plants.

EFSA currently seeks independent experts for its Scientific Committee and Panels.

EFSA's Scientific Committee and Panels

- Experts sought to join the Food Additives & Nutrient Sources and the Food Contact Materials, Enzymes & Flavourings Panels, starting in 2011. Experts can sit on Panels for up to 3 years, renewable.
- Experts also sought to join a reserve list for all Panels to cover plant health and plant protection, GMOs, feedstuffs, animal health and welfare, toxicology, contaminants in the food chain, biological hazards, dietetic products, allergies, novel foods and nutrition, and may be called any time.
- Selected through an open procedure based on proven scientific excellence and independence.

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Model for the assessment of the impact of GM crops on non-target organisms

A mathematical model developed by scientists from EFSA's GMO Panel and the Panel's Environmental Working Group has been published in the peer-reviewed scientific journal, *Proceedings of the Royal Society - Biological Sciences*.

The model has been developed to estimate the exposure of the European butterflies and other moth species to the pollen of Bt-maize and to assess any possible adverse effects resulting from this exposure. In evaluating the renewal application of

Bt-maize MON 810 EFSA's GMO Panel also took into consideration data generated through this mathematical model. This allowed EFSA's GMO Panel to make an assessment on the environmental impact of Bt-maize pollen on non target organisms such as the European Peacock and Red Admiral butterflies and the Diamondback moth. ■

[For more information.](#)

> Working together

EFSA outlines guidance on pesticide emissions from greenhouses and crops grown under cover

EFSA's Panel on Plant Protection Products and their Residues (PPR) has found that further investigation is needed into the methods used to assess the risks from pesticide emissions from greenhouses and crops grown under cover. In an opinion published in April, the Panel outlined some initial guidance.

The Panel's starting point was to define and classify the different types of protected crop systems, and from there look at the different pesticide emission routes to air, soil, surface and ground water. The Panel found that protected crop systems generally do not prevent emissions and that, in some cases, specific environmental risk assessment methodologies may need to be developed.

Pesticide emissions mainly exit these closed environments through the ventilation system and the release of excess water.

Consequently, the Panel proposes to first consider emissions as if they were in the open field. In addition, the Panel has developed a conceptual decision scheme to identify which systems might have different emissions from field crops. But to further refine the decision scheme, the Panel concluded further work is needed.

The Panel also concluded that it is not necessary to develop new methods for soil exposure in protected crop systems as this is sufficiently covered by current methods.

In addition to the opinion, a report from a stakeholder workshop in November 2009 on this subject was published in February. ■

[For more information on the opinion and workshop report.](#)

Report on dermal absorption of pesticides published

Dermal absorption is the main route of exposure to pesticides for operators applying pesticides as well as for workers re-entering treated zones. Unprotected bystanders and residents can also be exposed accidentally. Thus, the assessment of dermal absorption for estimating possible health risks from pesticides resulting from these exposures is crucial.

EFSA is reviewing existing guidance on evaluating the dermal absorption for plant protection products that was last revised in 2004. Given the lack of consistency in the interpretation of dermal absorption data, EFSA launched a call for a "Proposal for a revision of the Guidance Document on Dermal Absorption" in order to help support its work in this area.

EFSA awarded the contract to carry out this work to the UK's Chemicals Regulation Directorate. Their report is now available on the EFSA website. It is based on a public consultation on the current guidance document launched by EFSA, a literature review and an analysis of data from dermal absorption studies. The findings will help EFSA revise the current guidance document. ■

[For more information.](#)

EFSA to strengthen cooperation with its Stakeholder Platform



Members of the European Food Safety Authority's Stakeholder Consultative Platform met on 13 and 14 April 2010 to discuss a number of scientific topics as well as the strengthening of EFSA's relationship with the representatives of consumer, industry and environmental groups in order to boost cooperation.

EFSA launched two new projects at the meeting aimed at stimulating further stakeholder involvement in the Authority's activities and at encouraging greater contribution to EFSA's scientific work. One project, called the Rolling Work Plan, lists all EFSA activities and events organised for, and with, the Stakeholder Platform and other stakeholder organisations throughout the year. The members also agreed to establish a Working Group to look at ways to increase the engagement of stakeholder organisations and consumers in EFSA's activities. The Working Group will come up with proposals to bring to the Platform plenary meeting in November.

At the meeting in Brussels, the stakeholders were also informed about plans to establish a pan-European food consumption survey, called the EU Menu. Coordinated by EFSA and in cooperation with Member States, the survey will allow the collection of detailed and harmonised food consumption data from individuals of all ages across the European Union essential for EFSA's work.

Continuing EFSA's dialogue with stakeholders on its work in nutrition, the head of EFSA's Dietetic products, nutrition and allergies (NDA) unit, Juliane Kleiner, provided an overview of the Authority's activities in nutrition, such as the setting of dietary reference values that can be used across the EU for establishing nutritional recommendations. She also explained EFSA's work on food-based dietary guidelines, labelling reference intake values and the NDA Panel's latest work on health claims evaluations.

EFSA Executive Director, Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle, updated the Platform members on the priorities and challenges for 2010 and 2011. Stakeholders were presented with the results of target audience research in the EU and beyond, commissioned by EFSA, which triggered considerable interest and discussion. Findings indicated that EFSA has become a well-respected European body, producing independent, science-based support for its policy makers. The findings also showed that EFSA should provide more predictable timetables for its scientific work, improve the simplicity of its communications and continue to strengthen its Member State network. The research has also helped shape the review of EFSA's communications strategy for 2010-2013. Presented to the Management Board, the draft communications strategy was also discussed with stakeholders before the document is published for public consultation. ■

[For more information.](#)

EFSA's expert database two years on

Two years have passed since EFSA launched its database of scientific experts on 5 June 2008, a key tool for EFSA and EU Member States to draw on when searching for experts to deliver high-quality independent scientific advice. Over these two years, the database has grown to over 2,500 experts covering all the main areas of EFSA's remit.

EFSA uses the expert database to look for specialist knowledge in a given field when it is setting up Working Groups to support the activities carried out by the Authority's Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels, and EFSA's Networks. The database has contributed and will continue to further reinforce EFSA's capacity to deliver high-quality independent scientific advice and to assist the Authority with its growing workload.

Members States, countries in the European Economic Area/ European Free Trade Association (EEA/EFTA) and the European Commission are also able to query the database in search of expertise. Around 90% of the experts have indicated their willingness to share their profiles with external users of the database. EFSA users, national authorities in Members States and EEA/EFTA countries are very satisfied with the database, according to results from a survey carried out in autumn 2009. They encourage its further improvement and growth.

The expert database remains permanently open. EFSA encourages all experts who have not already signed up to do so. ■

[For more information.](#)

EFSA meets Member State experts on environmental risk assessment of GM plants

EFSA scientists held a day of discussions with experts from Member States on the newest scientific developments and approaches to assess possible environmental risks from genetically modified (GM) plants. Experts in the field of environmental risk assessment of GM plants from Member State authorities and members of GMO Panel Working Groups reviewed a guidance document outlining how EFSA carries out its environmental risk assessment (ERA) of GM plants and the data requirements which must be met by applicants.

Participants at the technical meeting held in Berlin on 17 June discussed comments made by Member States following a public consultation on the draft EFSA guidance document as well as a draft scientific opinion addressing the specific issue of non-target organisms (NTOs). The meeting was webcast live on EFSA's website.

EFSA's GMO Panel continuously seeks to ensure that its risk assessment approach reflects the scientific state-of-the-art in its guidance to applicants. It regularly reviews all its guidance documents on GM plants with updates made in 2005, 2006 and 2008. Since 2007, the GMO Panel has been further developing and strengthening its environmental risk assessment (ERA) which is now the subject of the separate guidance document discussed in Berlin. This focuses on potential long-term environmental effects, the potential effects on non-target organisms, and criteria for setting up field trials, taking into account the diverse environments where the GM plant will be cultivated.

"The ERA should follow a step-by-step approach, according to the clearly defined framework laid out in the guidance. Each GMO is unique and must be assessed individually. This requires specific evaluation of the plant, its traits, how it will be used and its possible interactions with the receiving environment," said Professor Salvatore Arpaia, chair of the GMO Panel's Working Group on Non-Target Organisms.

When carrying out their assessment, independent experts of EFSA's GMO Panel use their extensive knowledge and wide experience in evaluating the data provided by applicants as well as all other available scientific literature.

More than 250 comments were received from Member States during the public consultation of the draft ERA guidance. At the meeting, EFSA experts explained specific areas which have to be addressed by applicants and experts carrying out the risk assessment. These include: the possibility of gene transfer between the plant and micro-organisms, the potential invasiveness of the plant itself; the plant's potential effects on human and animal health, including both target and non-target organisms; and the implications for cultivation, management and harvesting techniques.

With respect to NTOs, the draft opinion of the GMO Panel sets out proposals on the criteria for the selection of NTOs and advice on testing methodology. EFSA's Working Group on NTOs considered the impact of GM plants on invertebrates and also took account of ecosystems that could be altered.

This meeting follows technical discussions during the preparation of the ERA and NTO opinions held last year with Member States and stakeholders such as applicants, environmental groups and non-governmental organisations.

EFSA works closely with Member States in the environmental risk assessment of GMOs; for instance, for cultivation applications for GM plants, an initial environmental risk assessment is carried out by one Member State, which can be assisted by and share expertise with other Member States.

EFSA also engages in dialogue with Member States and stakeholders. For example, in September the Authority plans to meet environmental NGOs to discuss its ERA guidelines for GMOs. These discussions, along with the ones from Berlin, will help EFSA's GMO Panel and its Working Groups finalise the documents which are due to be adopted and published by the end of the year.

All supporting documents of the Berlin meeting will be published on EFSA's website as will a written report and video recording of the meeting. ■

[For more information.](#)

> Scientific contracts and grants

One of EFSA's priorities is enhanced cooperation and networking in Europe. In this context, EFSA uses grants and procurement to carry out scientific cooperation with organisations from across the EU and beyond.

The Authority can financially support, through grants, projects and activities that contribute to EFSA's mission according to Article 36 of its Founding Regulation. This financial support is exclusively given to competent organisations capable of assisting EFSA in its work, who have answered successfully a specific call for proposals. These are organisations on a list, drawn up and regularly updated by EFSA's Management Board on the basis of nominations made by Member States.

EFSA is committed to openness, transparency and dialogue. As a result EFSA also regularly publishes calls for tenders on a number of scientific subjects. Contracts are awarded by strictly following EU public procurement rules.

External reports published

Report of crisis simulation exercise

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/41e.htm>

Applicability of QSAR analysis to the evaluation of the toxicological relevance of metabolites and degradates of pesticide active substances for dietary risk assessment

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/50e.htm>

Impact of metabolic and degradation processes on the toxicological properties of residues of pesticides in food commodities

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/49e.htm>

Applicability of thresholds of toxicological concern in the dietary risk assessment of metabolites, degradation and reaction products of pesticides

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/44e.htm>

Draft report on the outsourced preparatory work for the revision of the guidance document on dermal absorption

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/52e.htm>

Cumulative exposure assessment of triazole pesticides

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/40e.htm>

> Consultations

EFSA launches public consultation on guidance for environmental risk assessment of GM plants

EFSA launched a public consultation on the revised guidance of its GMO (Genetically Modified Organisms) Panel for the environmental risk assessment of GM plants. EFSA provided updated guidance for assessing the impact of GM plants on the environment and held discussions with stakeholders and Member States as part of this work. Together with new, strengthened requirements in terms of data generation, collection and analysis, this guidance also contains a revised section on the evaluation of possible effects on non-target organisms. The document is the result of two years' work and demonstrates EFSA's commitment to staying at the forefront of recent developments in the field of GM plant environmental risk assessment.

EFSA reviewed and updated the specific areas that need to be addressed when assessing the environmental impact of a GM plant. These cover in particular the persistence and invasiveness of the GM plant, taking into account plant-to-plant gene transfer; the likelihood and consequences of gene transfer from the plant to micro-organisms; the potential evolution of resistance in target pests; the impact of the GM plant on non-target organisms; and the impact that the cultivation, management and harvesting techniques associated with the GM plant may have. Specific attention was also given to other environmental processes that may be affected by the GM plant, as well as to the impact that these may have on human and animal health.

EFSA also supplemented its guidance document with specific aspects which will need to be taken into consideration for the assessment. Detailed requirements are given for the choice of appropriate non-GM comparators (which are the non-GM plants with which the GM plant is compared during the safety evaluation) and types of receiving environments to be

considered; the experimental design of laboratory and field studies, and their statistical analysis; and the consideration of possible long-term effects.

Some GM plants can produce an insecticide which wards off attacks from certain insects and it is important to ensure that they do not adversely affect other insects (the so-called non-target organisms or NTOs). In the context of its work on the new guidance, the GMO Panel produced a scientific opinion on how to evaluate the impact of a GM plant on non-target organisms. The opinion defines criteria for the selection of relevant non-target species; for the identification of those aspects of the environment that need to be protected from harm; and for the experimental design of laboratory and field studies and their statistical analysis.

The revision of the guidance document was undertaken in response to a request from the European Commission. To complement this, EFSA undertook work on non-target organisms on its own initiative. Also, a series of technical discussions was organised to bring together GMO Panel experts, stakeholders and technical experts from the EU Member States to exchange views on the scientific issues and various aspects of the documents. Following the public consultation, EFSA will publish a report with an overview of the comments received and will address the relevant comments in the final EFSA GMO Panel guidance document and related opinion on non-target organisms.

The public consultation closed on 30 April.

[For more information on the guidance document and the draft opinion on non-target organisms.](#)

Mandates accepted: January-May 2010

Information on all other on-going requests is available in EFSA's [register of questions](#).

Emerging Risks (EMRISK)

Internal mandate for a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Joint Research Centre (JRC) for the customisation of MediSys for the monitoring of food and feed hazards.

Deadline: 31-Dec-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0210

Internal Collaboration Working Group on emerging risks in food and feed

Deadline: 31-Dec-10 Mandate number: M-2009-0344

Stakeholder Consultative Group on emerging risks

Deadline: 31-Dec-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0063

Working Group on data collection for the identification of emerging risks related to food and feed

Deadline: 31-Dec-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0130

Crisis preparedness training

Deadline: 30-Apr-11 Mandate number: M-2010-0141

Establishing an Emerging Risks Exchange Network

Deadline: 31-Dec-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0180

Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)

Public consultation on the "assessment of potential impacts of genetically modified plants on non-target organisms"

Deadline: 30-Apr-10 Mandate number: M-2008-0089

Public consultation of the draft "Guidance document for the environmental risk assessment of genetically modified plants"

Deadline: 30-Apr-10 Mandate number: M-2008-0100

Application for authorisation of genetically modified GHB614xLLCotton25 cotton for food and feed uses, import and processing submitted under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 by Bayer CropScience (EFSA-GMO-NL-2010-77)

Deadline: n/a Mandate number: M-2010-0085

Application for authorisation of genetically modified MON87705 Soybean for food and feed uses, import and processing submitted under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 by Monsanto (EFSA-GMO-NL-2010-78)

Deadline: n/a Mandate number: M-2010-0128

Ronozyme® RumiStar (L/CT) (α-amylase) for dairy cows

Deadline: n/a Mandate number: M-2010-0112

Optiphos® (6 phytase) for chickens and turkeys for fattening, chickens reared for laying, turkeys reared for breeding, other birds for fattening and laying, weaned piglets, pigs for fattening and sows

Deadline: n/a Mandate number: M-2010-0123

Ronozyme® HiPhos (M/L)(6-phytase) for all pigs and poultry

Deadline: n/a Mandate number: M-2010-0167

Establishing a database of bio-ecological information of non-target arthropod species to support the environmental risk assessment of genetically modified crops in the EU

Deadline: Beginning 2012 Mandate number: M-2010-0143

Statistical support for evaluation of risk assessment of GMO dossiers

Deadline: May 2013 Mandate number: M-2010-0196

Plant Health (PLH)

Wood packaging material originating in the US and used to pack and transport military ammunition

Deadline: Mandate number: M-2010-0044

Development of guidance for the assessment of environmental risks by EFSA Panel on Plant Health

Deadline: 30-Sep-11 Mandate number: M-2010-0182

Request to provide a scientific opinion on the Pest Risk Analysis on *Phytophthora ramorum* prepared by the FP6 project RAPRA

Mandate number: M-2010-0199

Public consultation on the document 'EFSA Actions on the "Guidelines for EC Coordination of Pest Risk Analysis Process"'

Deadline: 31-Jul-11 Mandate number: M-2010-0203

Pesticide Risk Assessment and Peer Review Unit (PRAPeR)

Between January and May 2010, EFSA has received requests to:

- Assess MRL applications: EFSA received 32 requests under Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 to give a reasoned opinion on the modification of MRLs and 4 requests under Article 43 of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 concerning a scientific advice on certain MRLs
- Advise on certain MRLs: EFSA issued 29 reasoned opinions (under Article 10) on 137 MRLs, responding to 33 requests.

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/mrls/mrlscdocs.htm>

Request for an EFSA peer review on the active substance:

1-decanol

Deadline: 27-Aug-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0122

1-naphthylacetamide

Deadline: 28-Feb-11 Mandate number: M-2010-0221

1-naphthylacetic acid

Deadline: 28-Feb-11 Mandate number: M-2010-0220

6-benzyladenine

Deadline: 29-Aug-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0120

Acrinathrin

Deadline: 21-Oct-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0162

Aluminium sulfate

Deadline: 08-Nov-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0126

Asulam

Deadline: 23-Sep-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0064

Azadirachtin

Deadline: 11-Oct-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0108

Bitertanol

Deadline: 06-Oct-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0104

Bromadiolone

Deadline: 15-Sep-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0099

Bromuconazole

Deadline: 01-Aug-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0025

Bupirimate

Deadline: 20-Sep-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0105

Carbetamide

Deadline: 22-Nov-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0197

Carboxin

Deadline: 21-Oct-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0106

Chloropicrin

Deadline: 28-Feb-11 Mandate number: M-2010-0214

Clethodim

Deadline: 12-Sep-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0103

Cyanamide

Deadline: 21-Oct-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0175

Cycloxydim	Deadline: 08-Jul-10	Mandate number: M-2010-0027
Cyproconazole	Deadline: 08-Nov-10	Mandate number: M-2010-0194
Dazomet	Deadline: 07-Oct-10	Mandate number: M-2010-0107
Diethofencarb	Deadline: 20-Sep-10	Mandate number: M-2010-0146
Dithianon	Deadline: 15-Nov-10	Mandate number: M-2010-0170
Ethoxyquin	Deadline: 22-Aug-10	Mandate number: M-2010-0026
Etridiazole	Deadline: 24-Sep-10	Mandate number: M-2010-0119
Fenazaquin	Deadline: 03-Nov-10	Mandate number: M-2010-0169
Fenbutatin oxide	Deadline: 23-Aug-10	Mandate number: M-2010-0088
Fenoxycarb	Deadline: 14-Sep-10	Mandate number: M-2010-0110
Fluazifop-p-butyl	Deadline: 17-Nov-10	Mandate number: M-2010-0202
Flufenoxuron	Deadline: 24-Feb-11	Mandate number: M-2010-0206
Fluometuron	Deadline: 20-Dec-10	Mandate number: M-2010-0195
Flurochloridone	Deadline: 14-Oct-10	Mandate number: M-2010-0121
Flurprimidol	Deadline: 17-Dec-10	Mandate number: M-2010-0209
Flutriafol	Deadline: 14-Oct-10	Mandate number: M-2010-0155
Guazatine	Deadline: 18-Aug-10	Mandate number: M-2010-0061
Hexythiazox	Deadline: 07-Sep-10	Mandate number: M-2010-0091
Indolylbutyric acid	Deadline: 21-Oct-10	Mandate number: M-2010-0163
Isoxaben	Deadline: 10-Sep-10	Mandate number: M-2010-0086
Lime sulfur	Deadline: 08-Dec-10	Mandate number: M-2010-0201
Metaldehyde	Deadline: 11-Oct-10	Mandate number: M-2010-0147
Methyl bromide	Deadline: 03-Nov-10	Mandate number: M-2010-0102
Myclobutanil	Deadline: 11-Jul-10	Mandate number: M-2010-0028
Oxyfluorfen	Deadline: 22-Nov-10	Mandate number: M-2010-0145
Paclobutrazol	Deadline: 22-Oct-10	Mandate number: M-2010-0171
Pencycuron	Deadline: 25-Sep-10	Mandate number: M-2010-0062
Propanil	Deadline: 21-Feb-11	Mandate number: M-2010-0204
Propargite	Deadline: 21-Feb-11	Mandate number: M-2010-0205

Mandates accepted

Propisochlor

Deadline: 09-Sep-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0075

Sintofen

Deadline: 26-Nov-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0154

Tebufenozide

Deadline: 18-Oct-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0098

Tefluthrin

Deadline: 22-Aug-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0109

Terbutylazine

Deadline: 03-Nov-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0184

Triflumuron

Deadline: 10-Dec-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0208

Zinc phosphide

Deadline: 03-Sep-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0127

Risks for public health due to the presence of chlormequat in table grapes from India

Mandate number: M-2010-0179

Annual Report on Pesticide Residues

Deadline: 28-Feb-11 Mandate number: M-2010-0125

Plant Protection Products and their Residues (PPR)

Selection of scenarios for exposure of soil organisms to plant protection products

Deadline: 31-Dec-10 Mandate number: M-2007-0151

Internal Mandate proposed by EFSA to the PPR Unit for a procurement for investigating the state-of-science on combined actions of chemicals in food through dissimilar modes of action, including endocrine disruptors, and for a proposal of science-based approach for performing related cumulative risk assessment.

Deadline: Under consideration Mandate number: M-2010-0216

EFSA Report on modelling approach to estimate pesticide emissions from glasshouses to surface water in Mediterranean countries.

Deadline: 30-Sep-10 Mandate number: M-2008-0098

Request for estimation/calculation of emissions of Plant Protection Products from protected crops (greenhouses and cultivations grown and cover) to support the Development of risk assessment methodology under Council Directive 91/414/EEC and EU regulation 1107/2009 (EC).

Deadline: 30-Apr-11 Mandate number: M-2008-0098

Scientific Opinion on Proposal for scenario development and risk assessment of PPP use in protected crop systems

Deadline: 30-Apr-11 Mandate number: M-2008-0098

Public Consultation on cumulative exposure assessment

Deadline: 31-Dec-2011 Mandate number: M-2008-1020

Public consultation on exposure assessment of single active substances

Deadline: 01-Oct-2010 Mandate number: M-2008-1020

Internal Mandate for a grant agreement according to article 36 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 in order to collect and assess data relevant to non-dietary cumulative exposure to pesticides and to propose an approach for non-dietary cumulative exposure assessment.

Deadline: Under consideration Mandate number: M-2009-0270

Opinions and other outputs adopted: January-May 2010

Disclaimer: This is not the full list of all EFSA opinions but only those considered relevant to this newsletter.

Assessment Methodology (AMU)

Application of systematic review methodology to food and feed safety assessments to support decision making

Adopted on: 26-May-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-717
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1637.htm>

Quantitative risk assessment of *Salmonella* Enteritidis in shell eggs in Europe

Adopted on: 19-Apr-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2009-00790
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1588.htm>

Coding manual for data collection of existing data on protected crop system in the European Member States

Adopted on: 26-Mar-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2010-00686
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1568.htm>

Database of guidance on different toxicity end-points, risk assessment methodologies and data collection related to food, feed, animal health and welfare and plant health

Adopted on: 22-Feb-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2009-00944
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1518.htm>

Emerging Risks (EMRISK)

Collection and routine analysis of import surveillance data with a view to identification of emerging risks

Adopted on: 25-Jan-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2009-00854
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1531.htm>

Establishment and maintenance of routine analysis of data from the Rapid Alert System on Food and Feed

Adopted on: 05-Jan-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2009-00495
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1449.htm>

Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)

EFSA overall opinion on application for authorisation of genetically modified cotton 281-24-236 x 3006-210-23 for food and feed uses, import and processing (EFSA-GMO-NL-2005-16)

Adopted on: 26-May-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2010-00863

Scientific Opinion on application (EFSA-GMO-NL-2005-16) for the placing on the market of insect resistant genetically modified cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum* L.) 281-24-236 x 3006-210-23 for food and feed uses, import and processing under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 from Dow AgroSciences

Adopted on: 26-May-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2005-124
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1644.htm>

EFSA overall opinion on application for authorisation of genetically modified maize Bt11 x MIR604 and derived food and feed (EFSA-GMO-UK-2007-50)

Adopted on: 18-May-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2010-00833

EFSA overall opinion on application for authorisation of genetically modified maize MIR604 x GA21 and derived food and feed (EFSA-GMO-UK-2007-48)

Adopted on: 18-May-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2010-00832

Scientific Opinion on application (EFSA-GMO-UK-2007-48) for the placing on the market of insect resistant and herbicide tolerant genetically modified maize MIR604 x GA21 for food and feed uses, import and processing under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 from Syngenta Seeds

Adopted on: 29-Apr-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2007-196
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1611.htm>

Scientific Opinion on application (Reference EFSA-GMO-UK-2007-50) for the placing on the market of insect resistant and herbicide tolerant genetically modified maize Bt11xMIR604, for food and feed uses, import and processing under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 from Syngenta Seeds

Adopted on: 29-Apr-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2007-194
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1614.htm>

EFSA overall opinion on an application for authorisation of genetically modified maize Bt11 x MIR604 x GA21 for food and feed uses, import and processing (EFSA-GMO-UK-2008-56)

Adopted on: 29-Apr-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2010-00834

Scientific Opinion on application (Reference EFSA-GMO-UK-2008-56) for the placing on the market of insect resistant and herbicide tolerant genetically modified maize Bt11 x MIR604 x GA21, for food and feed uses, import and processing under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 from Syngenta Seeds

Adopted on: 29-Apr-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-375
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1616.htm>

Scientific Opinion on the revised molecular characterisation for Rf3 oilseed rape received from the Competent Authority of Belgium under Article 20(3) of Directive 2001/18/EC

Adopted on: 13-Apr-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2009-00956
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1582.htm>

EFSA overall opinion on an application for authorisation of genetically modified MON89034 x MON88017 Maize and derived food and feed (EFSA-GMO-NL-2007-39)

Adopted on: 30-Mar-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2010-00054

EFSA overall opinion on application for renewal of authorisation for continued marketing of existing food additives, feed materials and feed additives produced from MON863 maize (EFSA-GMO-RX-MON863)

Adopted on: 30-Mar-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2010-00175

Scientific Opinion on applications (EFSA-GMO-RX-MON863) for renewal of the authorisation for continued marketing of existing feed materials, feed additives and food additives produced from maize MON863, under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 from Monsanto

Adopted on: 10-Mar-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2007-163
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1562.htm>

Scientific Opinion on application (EFSA-GMO-NL-2007-39) for the placing on the market of insect resistant and herbicide tolerant genetically modified maize MON89034 x MON88017 for food and feed uses, import and processing under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 from Monsanto

Adopted on: 10-Mar-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2007-056
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1564.htm>

Scientific Opinion on a question from the European Commission related to the notification by Portugal, pursuant to Article 95 (5) of the EC Treaty, for the prohibition of cultivation of genetically modified plants in the Autonomous Region of Madeira

Adopted on: 27-Jan-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2009-00851
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1500.htm>

Plant Health (PLH)

Scientific Opinion on the effect on public or animal health or on the environment on the presence of seeds of *Ambrosia* spp. in animal feed

Adopted on: 31-May-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2010-00820

Scientific opinion on a quantitative pathway analysis of the likelihood of *Tilletia indica* M. introduction into EU with importation of US wheat

Adopted on: 11-May-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2009-00760
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1621.htm>

Risk assessment of *Gibberella circinata* for the EU territory and identification and evaluation of risk management options

Adopted on: 11-May-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2009-00678
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1620.htm>

Risk assessment of the oriental chestnut gall wasp, *Dryocosmus kuriphilus* for the EU territory and identification and evaluation of risk management options

Adopted on: 11-May-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2009-00677
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1619.htm>

Statement on a study proposal prepared by the US to support a future derogation request from the EU import requirements for wood packaging material originating in the US and used to pack and transport military ammunition

Adopted on: 26-Jan-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2010-00056
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1497.htm>

Guidance on a harmonised framework for pest risk assessment and the identification and evaluation of pest risk management options by EFSA

Adopted on: 20-Jan-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-704
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1495.htm>

Plant Protection Products and their Residues (PPR)

Scientific Opinion on the importance of the soil litter layer in agricultural areas

Adopted on: 20-May-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2010-00823
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1625.htm>

Scientific Opinion on emissions of plant protection products from greenhouses and crops grown under cover: outline for a new guidance

Adopted on: 24-Mar-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2010-00084
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1567.htm>

Report on the PPR Stakeholder Workshop PROTEA on pesticide emissions from protected crop systems: Are these emissions different from those in the open field?

Adopted on: 12-Feb-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2010-00083
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1509.htm>

Scientific Opinion on preparation of a guidance document on pesticide exposure assessment for workers, operators, bystanders and residents

Adopted on: 27-Jan-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-261
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1501.htm>

Outcome of the public consultation on the draft scientific opinion on preparation of a guidance document on pesticide exposure assessment for workers, operators, bystanders and residents

Adopted on: 27-Jan-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2009-00755
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1517.htm>

Pesticide Risk Assessment and Peer Review Unit (PRAPeR)

Between January and May 2010 EFSA has in total issued 33 reasoned opinions:

- 4 reasoned opinions under Art. 43 of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 on consumer health risks deriving from certain MRLs
- 29 reasoned opinions under Art.10 of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005) on the modification of pesticide MRLs:

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/mrls/mrlscdocs.htm>

Risks for public health due to the presence of chlormequat in table grapes from India

Adopted on: 22-Apr-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2010-00790
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1590.htm>

Conclusion on the peer review of the pesticide risk assessment on the active substances:

Azimsulfuron

Adopted on: 12-Mar-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2009-00808
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1554.htm>

Azoxystrobin

Adopted on: 12-Mar-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2009-00809
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1542.htm>

Buprofezin

Adopted on: 21-May-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2009-00913
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1624.htm>

Carbendazim

Adopted on: 30-Apr-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2009-00911
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1598.htm>

Dodine

Adopted on: 28-May-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2009-00914
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1631.htm>

Fenbuconazole

Adopted on: **18-Mar-10** Question number: **EFSA-Q-2009-00863**
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1558.htm>

Imazalil

Adopted on: **04-Mar-10** Question number: **EFSA-Q-2009-00786**
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1526.htm>

Metosulam

Adopted on: **23-Apr-10** Question number: **EFSA-Q-2009-00891**
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1592.htm>

Napropamide

Adopted on: **26-Mar-10** Question number: **EFSA-Q-2009-00857**
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1565.htm>

Prohexadione (considered variant prohexadione-calcium)

Adopted on: **12-Mar-10** Question number: **EFSA-Q-2009-00787**
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1555.htm>

Pyridaben

Adopted on: **28-May-10** Question number: **EFSA-Q-2009-00788**
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1632.htm>

Quinmerac

Adopted on: **26-Feb-10** Question number: **EFSA-Q-2009-00785**
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1523.htm>



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