

Enlargement, International Collaboration & Capacity Building

International Workshop on Harmonisation of GMO Detection and Analysis

Istanbul, 27-28 April 2009



It is part of a series of
Workshops and Training Courses
aimed to create the scientific background for the
2nd Global Conference on GMO Analysis,
to be held in 2011



Aim of the workshop

The use of GMOs, their release into the environment, their cultivation, import and, in particular, their utilisation as food, food ingredients and animal feed, is regulated in the European Union by a harmonised legislation [e.g. Directive 2001/18/EC; Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003].

The key elements of the EU legislation are the safety assessment as part of the authorisation procedure and the GM food and feed labelling provision to guarantee the consumers' freedom of choice whilst ensuring a high level of protection to human and animal health and to the environment and the effective functioning of internal markets. A key technical element for the implementation of the European legislation is the availability of analytical tools allowing the control and the monitoring of GM events on the market.



The Molecular Biology and Genomics Unit - nominated as the Community Reference Laboratory for GM food and feed (CRL-GMFF) - is validating each individual event-specific detection method to provide control laboratories with appropriate analytical tools. Among other responsibilities, the CRL is requested to conduct initial and further training courses for the benefit of staff from national reference laboratories and of experts from developing countries; and to collaborate with laboratories responsible for analysing feed and food in third countries [Article 32 1 (d) and (f)].

In Europe a very high level of harmonisation has been already achieved also as a result of the implementation of the European Network of GMO Laboratories (ENGL), initiated 10 years ago as a consequence of the lack of coordination in the field of GMO analysis around Europe. The ENGL operates officially according to Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 and it is the centre for the exchange of information among European Member States.

The workshop aims at illustrating the EU picture in relation to legal framework on GMOs, the current situation in relation to analytical methods and at sharing with representatives from the different countries the experiences derived from the implementation of the ENGL.

Moreover, it aims at stimulating the participation of expert representatives from national reference laboratories in the ENGL as a key support for improving their overall scientific competence on official testing services and, ultimately, to improve the adoption and application of testing methods validated in the EU.

The following legislation will be analysed:

- Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003,
- Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.

The event will involve representatives from Ministries and Regulatory Authorities in charge of enforcement of GMO analysis in the CC, PCC and ENP countries.

Finally, the meeting will bring a valuable contribution to the respect for Community rules in food/feed/animal exports to Europe.

Contact
European Commission
Joint Research Centre
Institute for Health
and Consumer Protection
Ispra, Italy
Tel. +39 0332 785959
Fax +39 0332 786159