

Aan de staatssecretaris van
Infrastructuur en Milieu
dhr. J.J. Atsma
POSTBUS 30945
2500 GX Den Haag

DATUM 24 januari 2012
KENMERK CGM/120124-01
ONDERWERP Additional advice on cultivation of glyphosate tolerant GA21 maize

Dear Sir,

In 2008, COGEM advised on the market application for cultivation, import and processing of the glyphosate tolerant maize line GA21.¹ COGEM concluded that cultivation, import and processing of GA21 maize poses negligible risks to the environment. Although the supplied general surveillance was considered acceptable, COGEM pointed out some weaknesses. The general surveillance plan was too informal and did not provide guarantees that data would be obtained.

Recently, EFSA published its opinion regarding import, processing and cultivation of the genetically modified maize line GA21.²

The Netherlands' Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment (IenM) asked COGEM whether the opinion of the EFSA GMO panel, including additional information from the applicant, gives reason to reconsider its previous advice.

COGEM considered the opinion of the EFSA GMO panel and concludes that its opinion does not give reason to reconsider COGEM's previous advice. COGEM remains of the opinion that cultivation, import and processing of GA21 maize poses a negligible risk to the environment.

The applicant has updated its general surveillance plan. COGEM is pleased that some of its previous concerns are met by the updated general surveillance plan. Although the updated general surveillance plan could be improved further, e.g. by including the formal arrangements with third parties (farmers and monitoring networks) in the general surveillance plan, COGEM considers the updated general surveillance plan sufficient for cultivation of GA21.

¹ COGEM (2008). Cultivation of genetically modified maize. Advice CGM/081219-02

² EFSA (2011). Scientific opinion on application (EFSA-GMO-UK-2008-60) for placing on the market of GM herbicide tolerant maize GA21 for food and feed uses, import, processing and cultivation under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2004 from Syngenta Seeds. EFSA Journal 9(12): 2480



In conclusion, COGEM is of the opinion that cultivation, import and processing of GA21 maize poses a negligible risk to the environment.

Sincerely yours,



Prof. dr. ir. Bastiaan C.J. Zoeteman
Chair COGEM

c.c. Dr. I. van der Leij
Drs. H.P. de Wijs