

Additional advice on import and processing of genetically modified cotton MON88913

COGEM advice CGM/140325-01

Introduction

Genetically modified cotton line MON88913 contains two *cp4 epsps* genes. As a result, the line is tolerant to glyphosate containing herbicides. In 2007, COGEM advised positively on import and processing of MON88913.¹ She questioned several aspects of the general surveillance plan provided. However, as cotton cannot survive the northwest European climate a more detailed general surveillance plan is of less importance for the Netherlands.

Recently, EFSA published her opinion for placing on the market for feed and food uses, import and processing of cotton MON88913.² EFSA concluded that in the context of its intended uses MON88913 is unlikely to have any adverse effect on human and animal health and the environment.

The Netherlands' Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment asked COGEM whether the opinion of the EFSA GMO panel gives reason to reconsider her previous advice.

Advice

As stated before, COGEM is of the opinion that the import and processing of genetically modified cotton line MON88913 poses negligible risks to the Dutch environment. In 2008, the applicant submitted a new general surveillance plan. The plan meets COGEM's previous concerns and fulfills the general surveillance criteria laid down by COGEM.³

COGEM points out that a food/feed safety assessment is carried out by other organizations. Therefore, COGEM abstains from advice on the potential risks of incidental consumption.

References

1. COGEM (2007). Import and processing of herbicide tolerant cotton MON88913. COGEM advice CGM/071218-01
2. EFSA GMO Panel (2014). Scientific Opinion on statement complementing the EFSA opinion on application EFSA-GMO-UK-2007-41 (cotton MON88913 for food and feed uses, import and processing) taking into consideration updated bioinformatics analyses. EFSA Journal 2014; 12(3): 3591
3. COGEM (2010). General Surveillance. COGEM topic report CGM/100226-01