



**ESF Scientific Programme: Assessment of the Impacts of
Genetically Modified Plants (AIGM)**

WORKSHOP:

**Risk assessment methods for genetically modified
plants - current trends and new developments**

Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic

13-15 September, 2001

**A workshop considering methods for risk assessment of
genetically modified plants, including studies of target and non-
target effects of transgenes and impact of gene flow and gene
introgression on biodiversity.**

BACKGROUND

Since the first commercial release in 1994 transgenic crops are now grown on a global scale on an area of approximately 50 million hectares. Although no direct problems have been reported during this fairly extended period of time, the scientific uncertainty still exists concerning their potential ecological impacts. While some environmental impacts were established quite early, others remain the subject of careful appraisal and long-term studies. The objective of the Workshop is to gather the community of researchers active in studying biosafety of genetically modified plants (GMPs) and other specialists, including representatives of regulatory bodies, in order to cover thoroughly the current state of knowledge and perspectives in the field of methods of the risk assessment. The Workshop programme covers numerous topics beginning with target and non-target effects of transgenes, including their possible effects on fitness and weediness, effects on gene silencing and on beneficial ecological mechanisms. The workshop then goes on to consider problems of short- and long-term monitoring, implications of transgenes on biodiversity of wildlife populations, modelling of transgene movement, prediction of ecological impacts of GMPs and impacts on agricultural systems. This Workshop of AIGM/ESF will particularly encourage the participation of specialists from Mid- and Eastern Europe. We hope that the workshop will stimulate an active debate on these issues and contribute towards a scientific basis for the regulation of GMOs in Europe.

PARTICIPATION

Participation is invited for scientists and specialists active in relevant areas of research or study, and priority will be given to those coming from countries supporting the ESF/AIGM programme. Financial support will be given to cover travel and attendance costs at the discretion of the organisers. We kindly ask company representatives to support the workshop by covering their own costs. Applications should include information on your relevant research activities, your contribution to the workshop (abstract of paper/poster) and financial assistance required. (APEX fares only will be reimbursed). Applications should be made in the first instance through your national representative and to the Organiser by 30 June 2001.

More detail information about this scientific meeting you can find on **Workshop web page:**

<http://www.umbr.cas.cz/wsaigm>

The AIGM Steering Committee / National Representatives

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VENUE

***Congress Hall,
Campus of Biological Institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Ceske
Budejovice***

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Please, use for your registration preferentially the electronic form on a Workshop web page:
http://www.umbr.cas.cz/wsaigm or faxback to: +420 38 777 55 37 (Attn: S. Rakousky)
or send by e-mail to: wsaigm@umbr.cas.cz and your national representative.

ESF/AIGM Workshop – CESKE BUDEJOVICE, CZECH REPUBLIC

Workshop on risk assessment methods for genetically modified plants

13-15 September 2001

Name:

Address

.....

e-mail:

Fax:

I would like to attend

I regret I am unable to attend

Estimated time of arrival on 12 September
or 13 September

Overnight accommodation required on 12 13 14 15 16 (circle required
dates)

Breakfast required on 13 14 15

Lunch required on 13 14 15

Dinner required on 13 14 15

Estimate of travel costs FF
(APEX fares only reimbursable)

I would like to present a talk/poster on

.....

Return by 30 June to S. Rakousky and to your national representative.

Preliminary Programme

**Risk assessment methods for genetically modified plants
- current trends and new developments**

Subject areas:

A. Introduction and focus of the workshop

B. Target effects of transgenes and GM plants

B1 - identification of the capacity for reproduction of GM plants

B2 - Fitness effects, adaptation, species substitution, weediness, colonisation, invasion

C. Non Target effects of foreign gene(s) on associated organisms

C1 - Effect on beneficial ecological mechanisms (beneficial organisms, trophic levels, etc..)

C2 - Effects of gene silencing

D. Impact of Gene Flow and Gene Introgression on individual species and biodiversity

D1 - Measuring gene dispersal

D2 - Impact on individual species

D3 - Implications of transgenes on biodiversity of wildlife populations

D4 - Modelling of transgene movement and prediction of ecological impacts

E. Impact on Agricultural systems

E1 - Direct impact of GM crop

E2 - Indirect impact on agricultural biodiversity through changes in farming systems

F. Discussion:

Monitoring - Methods and Objectives

G. Data required by regulators to establish risk and impact assessment

G1 - general information and identification of additional data needs

G2 - Risk and benefit analyses

H. Discussion : Regulatory Requirements and Interpretation

Preliminary Schedule

Thursday September 13

Arrival of participants

11:00-18:00	Registration
18:00-19:45	A. Opening of the workshop, session B
20:00-22:30	Dinner
22:30	Return to hotels

Friday September 14

8:00-8:30	Registration
8:30-10:30	Sessions B, C
10:30-11:00	Break
11:00-12:30	Session C
12:30-13:30	Lunch
13:30-15:30	Session D
15:30-16:00	Break
16:00-17:00	Session D
17:00 -18:00	F. Discussion on Monitoring - Methods and Objectives
18:00-18:20	Break
18:20-19:20	F. Discussion on Monitoring - Methods and Objectives
20:00-22:30	Dinner
22:30	Return to hotels

Saturday September 15

8:30-11:00	Session E
11:00-11:30	Break
11:30-12:30	Session G
12:30-13:30	Lunch
13:30-14:30	Session G
14:30-15:30	H. Discussion on Regulatory Requirements and Interpretation
15:30-16:00	Break
16:30-17:45	General discussion
17:45-18:15	Break
18:15-19:00	Conclusion
20:00-22:00	Dinner
22:00	Return to hotels

Sunday September 16

Departure of participants