

GM Developments and Challenges Organic Producers Conference 2013

Pete Riley GM Freeze



An Overview

- GM approvals.
- GM Animal feed.
- Growing threat of GM animals and insects.
- GM Legislation.
- Outstanding problems/issues.
- Markets for GM.
- UK developments.
- The next 12 months?

GM Cultivation Approvals

- Only Mon810 maize and Amflora potatoes 0.1% of arable land in 2012.
- In the pipeline – HT OSR, beet, HT/IR maize, HT soya, HT cotton.
- Industrial starch altered potatoes.
- Blight resistant potatoes.
- Imports for food and feed.



GM Animal Feed

- GM v non-GM soya price differential 20%.
- UK supply problems –soya meal and maize gluten.
- Morrisons and Asda lower standards.
- Still no labels on products,
- 0.1% unapproved GM threshold
- Carrefour ahead of UK retailers
- Contamination.
- Is there a cartel operating?



GM animals and insects

- EFSA guidance on GM animals risk assessment.
- GM salmon – USEPA say it's "safe".
- Oxitec – population reduction by releasing GM males which produce non viable offspring.
- Diseases vector control - mosquitoes.
- Pest control – Diamondbacked moth.
- Farm animals – cloning – GM calf born in 2011 in NZ.



GM Legislation

- Proposals to allow Member States to make the final decision on GM cultivation stalled but not dead?
- Currently EU wide approval based on “science”.
- Proposal would allow socio-economic and cultural issues to be used to ban GM crops.
- Problems-single market, outstanding GM issues and legal uncertainty.
- ECJ ruling on GM pollen in honey
- Pressure growing to “lighten” regulations.
- Unapproved GM threshold in food –thin end of wedge.

Outstanding GM issues

- Coexistence and contamination – avoid or minimise.
- Seed thresholds –zero or threshold?
- Risk assessment – highlighted by Séralini research.
- Liability of harm and economic damage.
- Protection for beekeepers.
- How to manage weed and pest resistance?
- How to protect non target organisms?



GM Markets?

- Supermarkets food remains largely GM –free across UK and EU.
- GM soya oil on sale and used in catering – requires labelling.
- Unapproved traits permitted up to 0.1% in feed.
- Non –GM supplies available but premium increasing. Asda and Morrisons a problem.
- Public concerns across EU remains high – 66% “concerned”



UK Developments?

- BASF- blight resistant potatoes.
- JIC blight resistant potatoes.
- Leeds University potato cyst nematode resistance.
- HT beet and oilseed rape.
- HT maize.
- Rothamsted GM wheat.
- Flatulence suppressing sprouts?



The next twelve months?

Negative

- EU to push ahead with GM cultivation approvals?
- Renewed attempts to revise regulations?
- GM salmon application?
- GM seed thresholds?
- Unapproved traits allowed in food?
- More UK GM tests sites?
- Continuation of pro-GM news coverage.
- GM wheat year two.

Positive

- Growing evidence of GM crop failure due to weed and insect resistance.
- Growing evidence of the harm caused by glyphosate.
- More evidence of GM contamination and the impossibility of coexistence.
- Continued consumer rejection across the EU.

GM wheat no thanks

