

**NETWORK'S TECHNICAL PROPOSALS
ON
COEXISTENCE BETWEEN GMO, AND CONVENTIONAL AND
ORGANIC AGRICULTURES**

Rennes, 30 November 2005

In order to deepen and clarify the "Network's Contribution on coexistence between GMO, and conventional and organic agricultures", below are reproduced the Technical proposals of the Network of "GMO Free" European Regions and Local Authorities relating to the European principles and rules that should be taken into account for defining, at Local and/or Regional level, the coexistence's rules between GMO, and conventional and organic agricultures¹.

The sustainable management of coexistence between GMO, and conventional and organic agricultures, require preserving of "non-GMO" zones in which any coexistence between GMO, and conventional and organic agricultures is excluded for technical, economic and/or scientific reasons.

1. "Non-GMO" zones excluding any coexistence between GMO, and conventional and organic agricultures on the basis of the following criteria:

- 1) Proximity of organic farms and/or quality conventional farms [agro-alimentary productions protected by a sign of quality (PDO, PGI, TSG, etc.)] and/or of farms having adopted agro-environmental measures of the Rural Development Program (RDP);

The exclusion of GMO from the production processes not appearing generally in the products specifications of the agro-alimentary productions protected by a sign of quality (POD, PGI, STG, etc.), the products specifications of those productions, for the majority, have been written before the introduction of the GMO.

- 2) Proximity of agricultural spaces (botanical gardens, etc.) where Local and/or Regional protected varieties are cultivated;
- 3) Proximity of natural protected site;
- 4) Proximity of animal repopulation zones (fishing, etc.);
- 5) Proximity of periurban zones (preventive measures);

¹ See point 2.1.5 "Appropriate scale" of the Recommendation of 23 July 2003 establishing guidelines for the development of national strategies and best practices to ensure the coexistence of Genetically Modified (GM) Agriculture with conventional and biological agriculture, JOEU n°189 of 29/07/2003

- 6) Proximity of seeds production zones;

Zones of seeds production for the organic and conventional agricultures of quality (PDO, PGI, TSG, etc.) being subject to a particular attention.

- 7) Proximity of pastures;

- 8) Proximity of hives sheltering bees;

- 9) Proximity of sources, torrents, rivers, rivers and lakes (including artificial);

Sources, rivers, torrents and lakes (including artificial) being likely to transport pollen and genetic material on long distances.

- 10) Proximity of forest and mountain zones;

- 11) Buffer zones, to define according to Local and/or Regional characteristics, around the zones enumerated above.

2. Localizing, monitoring and making safe "GMO" zones:

- 1) All available technologies (satellite observations, software of forecast, etc.) must be implemented to locate and supervise "GMO" zones in order to preserve from contamination the "non-GMO" farms, spaces, sites and zones enumerated in the previous point;
- 2) The distances of separation, also called distances of safety, between "GMO" zones and "non-GMO" zones, which must allow for every species, to avoid contamination, will be multiplied by a coefficient of precaution taking into account the Local and/or Regional contexts (studies and scientific observations relating to the climate, the fauna, the flora, etc). The reduction of those distances of separation based on an agreement with "non-GMO" farmers will be excluded. Buffer zones will have to be created between bordering National, Regional and/or Local Authorities on the basis of the maximum distances of separation determined, as described previously, for every species.

3. Duty of information of "GMO" farmers²:

- 1) The "GMO" farmers must inform their neighbours and their Local and/or Regional Authorities of GMO that they will want to exploit at least two months before the beginning of the their exploitation;

² Farmers that use GMO

- 2) The information provided and forwarded by "GMO" farmers will have to contain elements relating to the type and the localization of exploited GMO;
- 3) The "GMO" farmers will have to be able to prove that they have informed their neighbours and their Local and/or Regional Authorities by all the means at their disposal.

4. Particular climatic zones:

- 1) Particular attention must be paid to the zones which, because of the particular climatic conditions characterizing them, are prone to atmospheric phenomena of strong intensity;
- 2) Specific standards must be set in these zones where strong winds and/or constant winds blows which are likely to transport pollen and genetic material at longer distances than usually;
- 3) The Local and/or Regional Authorities will have to set up, in order to identify these particular climatic zones, suitable instruments (climatic maps, models of forecast, etc).

5. Local and/or Regional calendar of the seeds:

- 1) In order to minimize the risk of crossed contamination between "GMO" and "non-GMO" seeds, the Local and/or Regional Authorities can impose a "GMO" seeds' calendar.

6. Training of "GMO" farmers and of workers involved in "GMO" production chain:

- 1) The farmers and the workers involved in "GMO" production chain will have to follow specific trainings relating to the coexistence between GMO, and conventional and organic agricultures and to the separation of "GMO" and "non-GMO " production chains;
- 2) These trainings, given by their Local and/or Regional Authorities, will be sanctioned by diplomas delivered by their Local and/or Regional Authorities;
- 3) The "GMO" farmers will have to make sure that their workers involved in the "GMO" production chain are in possession of diplomas mentioned above.

7. Separation of "GMO" processing industry:

- 1) The separation measures for "GMO" processing industry must be able to avoid the progression, in the time and throughout the production chain, of the contamination of the "non-GMO" processing industry;

- 2) The transport of "GMO" seeds must be carried out, in order to avoid any contamination, by appropriate means of transport reserved exclusively to "GMO" processing industry;

The itineraries borrowed for the transport of "GMO" seeds must be communicated to the Local and/or Regional Authorities. The means of transport reserved exclusively to "GMO" processing industry must be recognizable and recorded near the Local and/or Regional Authorities.

- 3) The storage of "GMO" seeds must be carried out, in order to avoid contamination, in appropriate buildings affected exclusively to the "GMO" processing industry;

The buildings assigned exclusively to "GMO" processing industry must be recorded near Local and/or Regional Authorities.

- 4) The "GMO" exploitation must be carried out, in order to avoid contamination, by appropriate machines and equipments affected exclusively to "GMO" processing industry;

The machines and equipment assigned exclusively to "GMO" processing industry must be recorded near the Local and/or Regional Authorities.

- 5) The means of transport, the buildings, the machines and the equipments assigned to "GMO" processing industry can be reallocated only after inspection and agreement of the responsible Local and/or Regional Authorities;

- 6) In case of transfer, donation, loan, hire or any other transfer of means of transport, buildings, machines or equipments assigned to the "GMO" processing industry, the seller, the giver, the hirer out, the lender or any other author of the transfer of the means of transport, the buildings, the machines or equipments assigned to "GMO" processing industry chain will have to inform the buyer, the receiver, the hirer, the borrower or any other recipient of the transfer;

- 7) The separation measures for "GMO" processing industry will have to be, regarding the transport, the storage, and the machines and equipments used for the agricultural exploitation, extended to importation of "GMO" seeds and agriculture's products.

8. Recording of the structures of "GMO" processing industry:

- 1) The structures (enterprises, co-operatives, etc.) of the "GMO" processing industry (seeds, transport, agro-alimentary, etc.) acting for their account or the account of "GMO" farmers must be recorded near their Local and/or Regional Authorities;

- 2) The structures (enterprises, co-operatives, etc.) of the "GMO" processing industry will have to record and store, during at least five years, the informations relating to the operations carried out concerning the "GMO" seeds and/or "GMO" agriculture's products;
- 3) The structures (enterprises, co-operatives, etc.) of the "GMO" processing industry will have to communicate information, every months or on request, to the Local and/or Regional Authorities relating to the operations carried out concerning the "GMO" seeds and/or the "GMO" agriculture's products (type, species, quantity, number of batches, name and address of the recipients, etc.);
- 4) Every information communicated must be provided on forms authorized by responsible Regional and/or Local Authorities;
- 5) The structures (enterprises, co-operatives, etc.) of the "GMO" processing industry must provide all the assistance (sampling, obtaining information, reproduction of documents, etc.) necessary to the Local and/or Regional Authorities.

9. Compensation in case of contamination by GMO:

- 1) In case of contamination by GMO of "non-GMO" seeds and/or agriculture's products, the economic and image losses incurred and demonstrated by the "non-GMO" processing industry, will be charged by the "GMO" processing industry;
- 2) A compensation fund, which would be instituted at International, European, National, Regional or Local level, and would be abounded by a tax paid by the "GMO" processing industry, will compensate the economic and image losses incurred and demonstrated by the "non-GMO" processing industry.

10. Acquisition and transfer of "GMO" farms:

- 1) In case of transfer, donation, loan, hire or any other transfer of "GMO" farm or part of the "GMO" farm, the seller, the giver, the hirer out, the lender or any other author of the transfer of "GMO" farm or part of a "GMO" farm will have to inform of it the buyer, the receiver, the hirer, the borrower or any other recipient of the transfer;
- 2) The buyer, the receiver, the hirer, the borrower or any other recipient of the transfer of "GMO" farm or part of the "GMO" farm will have to respect all the obligations enumerated previously.

11. Respect of the coexistence rules between GMO, and conventional and organic agricultures:

- 1) The respect of the coexistence rules between GMO, and conventional and organic agricultures must be control by the Local and/or Regional Authorities and shouldn't be delegated;
- 2) The Local and/or Regional Authorities can put at the load of the structures involved in the "GMO" processing industry chain the incurred costs (inspections, controls, etc.)in order to ensure the respect of the coexistence rules between GMO and conventional and biological agricultures;
- 3) The Local and/or Regional Authorities have, within the framework of the control of the respect with the coexistence rules between OGM and conventional and organic agricultures, an access right unlimited to all useful documents of the "GMO" farms and of the structures of the "GMO" processing industry to check the informations concerning the "GMO" seeds and/or the "GMO" agriculture's products (type, species, quantity, number of batches, names and addresses of the providers and/or recipients, etc.).