

Working Group on non GM-Agriculture

Input Paper (ver.0)

26.01.2009

WG Composition:

Toscana (IT) & Aquitaine (FR) (Coordinators), Abruzzo (IT), Canarias (ES), Marche (IT), Piemonte (IT), Tedkna (GR)

Introduction

The topic addressed by the WG was defined during the 6th Conference of the Network in Bilbao in April 2008. Coordinators were identified during the Bilbao Conference. A first WG draft agenda was proposed during the Assembly in Turin on October 23rd 2008.

A first analysis of the main outcomes was done during the Steering Committee in Brussels on December 3rd 2008.

This document represents a further development in the work organization of the WG, following suggestions and instructions received during previous meetings.

Main targets

- development of common technical provisions to address the coexistence issue in each Region;
- development of references to create GM-free areas (including voluntary agreements);
- definition of common political positions on the subjects addressed by the WG;
- individuation and development of cooperation projects.

What has been done

Meetings	Internal documents	Outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kick off meeting in Turin (23 October 2008) ● Meeting with EU French presidency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Minute of the kick off meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Network position on EU Council draft conclusions (5 December 2008) - link

AGENDA

1. WG meeting in Brussels on February 5th 2009 (confirmed)
2. 7th Network Conference in Urbino (17-18 June 2009)
3. WG meeting in Brussels (July or September 2009)
4. Workshop in Florence (October/November 2009)



Proposal of activities for the next WG meeting (February 5th)

A) Recognition and analysis of existent coexistence legislations

This activity will allow the WG members to define the current legislative behaviors in EU Countries and non-EU Countries. The activity could also lead to the definition of a table/database with different categories of adopted/proposed coexistence measures.

We also propose to implement a table to collect for each Network partner some important information such as: population, farmers, cropped surface, main crops, average farm size, protected areas, Natura 2000 sites, etc...

Information that is very important to support our strategy to support non-GM agriculture.

B) Selection of best solutions for creating GM-free areas:

The WG should identify a set of rules and parameters to identify GM-free zones in our Regions. Voluntary agreements are part of this exercise. Portuguese coexistence law is an example, Italian Regions are setting up other solutions. Those examples and others will be analysed during the WG meeting on February 5th 2009.

The big challenge for this activity is the creation of a good model for the definition of Voluntary agreements which will be an useful tool to promote wide GM-free zones in a way that EC cannot oppose.

C) Individuation of 1-2 good subjects for the development of cooperation projects.

This activity is not a priority but could be a contribution to support our Institutions to:

- prevent contaminations from GMOs in our non-GM agriculture/production chains;
- promote the use of biodiversity in agriculture;
- define innovative tools for SME in agrifood sector to support a GM-free production.

Below some projects or ideas for projects:

- prosecution of REVERSE (Interreg IVC);
- prosecution of SAPIDLIFE project (Interreg IVC);
- GMO-free business development (Interreg IV C - *Regional Initiative Projects*):

Examples of possible projects that can be supported under Regional Initiatives Projects:

1. strengthening the economic profiles of regions sharing an interest in a specific economic sector and reinforcing the global competitiveness of the sector;
2. supporting regional business clusters (**organic districts**).