GRACE (GMO Risk Assessment and Communication of Evidence) is a research project under the 7th Framework program of the EC, starting in June 2012 with duration of 3.5 years.

It will

a) elaborate and implement systematic, transparent and inclusive reviews of existing evidence of potential health, environmental, and socio-economic impacts (risks and benefits) of GM plants (GMPs) or food and feed derived from GMPs, and

b) reconsider the design, execution and interpretation of results of animal feeding trials as well as in vitro studies for assessing the safety of GM food and feed.

The framework will adapt recently elaborated methodologies for (systematic) reviewing to ensure a high quality review processes in different fields of GMP impact assessment. The activity addresses the need for a well documented, transparent and sustainable representation of the review process itself and the derived results. An open access data base and "one-stop-shop" for data and information will enable risk assessors, managers, scientists and the general public to reiterate and update their evaluations and conclusions on GMPs.

Animal feeding trials and in vitro studies are analyzed with regard to the added value/necessity of 90–day feeding trials with whole foods. Feeding trials are compared with advanced state-of-the-art analytical, in vitro and in silico tools. The project will provide guidance for relevant, alternative in vitro cell-based approaches within the overall food and feed safety assessment.

The Consortium comprises 18 partners from Europe, South Africa and the USA.

Keywords: feeding studies, environmental impacts, socio economics, large research consortium