The International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI), through the work of the ILSI International Food Biotechnology Committee, the ILSI Health and Environmental Sciences Institute, the ILSI Research Foundation, and ILSI’s worldwide network of branch offices, has undertaken a comprehensive initiative to bring sound science to the safety assessment of GM crops and the products derived from them. ILSI’s activities are grounded in tripartite collaborations including academia, government scientists and regulators, and private industry, bringing respected scientific experts together to improve systematic approaches to the environmental risk assessment of GM plants. Through these collaborations, the best science is brought to bear on some of the most critical issues impacting the safe development and commercialization of GM crops and their products: the assessment of risks posed by the environmental release of GM crops, including the evaluation of impacts to organisms in agro-ecosystems, and the safety assessment of biotech-derived food and feed. ILSI’s efforts include publications in the peer-reviewed literature; scientific outreach via conferences and symposia; capacity building and continuing education through workshops and ILSI training materials; and the development of publicly accessible databases on crop composition, regulatory approvals of GM crops, and information pertaining to environmental safety. With fifteen years of effort focused on these issues, ILSI is an authoritative source of scientific information and technical support in the areas of environmental risk assessment and food safety of GM crops.

Keywords: environmental risk assessment, food safety assessment, confined field trials, commercialization