The role of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) is to evaluate the environmental risk assessment (ERA) of Genetically Modified Plants (GMPs) carried out by applicants prior to their commercialisation in the EU. EFSA also evaluates the scientific quality of the associated plans for Post-Market Environmental Monitoring (PMEM) of these GMPs submitted by applicants as part of their dossiers for placing on the market. In order to further assist applicants in the preparation and presentation of their PMEM plans, EFSA recently updated its guidance on PMEM previously developed in 2006. This updated guidance focuses on the scientific rationale for PMEM, highlighting how the conclusions of the ERA, including any associated risk management measures, determine the requirements for Case-Specific Monitoring (CSM). Detailed guidance is given on the methodology of both CSM and General Surveillance (GS) for unanticipated adverse effects. For GS, EFSA recommends the applicants to make the best use of the data available in the literature, data collected in farmer questionnaires on the management of the GM plants and data collected by monitoring networks active at broader scale. EFSA recognises many limitations of these monitoring networks and provides detailed guidance on how best to use and to improve them. It makes a number of recommendations for the management and conduct of GS involving applicants as well as member states. This includes considering GS of GMPs as an integrated part of the environmental monitoring of agricultural landscapes and systems. In the context of this holistic approach, EFSA recommends the establishment of a centralised and harmonised platform for recording and analysing PMEM data from diverse stakeholders. To date, EFSA has assessed the annual 2009 and 2010 PMEM reports for GM maize MON 810 and the 2010 PMEM report for GM potato Amflora submitted by the applicants.

For further details, see:


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