General Surveillance of Multiple Transgenic Events

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The monitoring plan for each approved GM plant includes a General Surveillance plan to observe unanticipated adverse effects and to then trigger action in response to these observations. In future it is likely that the same transgenic event will occur both singly in plants and in combination (stacks) with other events. Initially these stacks are likely to contain multiple insect resistance genes and/or combinations of insect resistance and herbicide tolerance (HT) genes. In addition farmers will be cultivating combinations or sequences of GM crops with single and stacked events. It is proposed that seed companies examine ways in which monitoring reports of events occurring both singly and in stacks can be integrated in order to allow analyses for

causes of adverse effects. In order to determine this, appropriate data would need to be supplied by companies of the deployment of GM hybrids and stacked events in particular regions and data collated and analysed across farms, regions and years in order to try to correlate impacts with specific combinations or sequences of events. Where HT genes are deployed the monitoring should include data on herbicide usage and observations on weed control as these will influence biodiversity within crops. These analyses should be integrated with the reports of multiple cropping with different GM crops on farms in a region as proposed by Sweet (2006). It is also proposed that Member States receiving monitoring reports establish Reporting Centres for collating fully integrated data sets that can identify the frequency, combinations or sequences of GM crops and GM events on farms and in regions.

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