

Animal and Plant Health Agency

APHA Genetic Modification Inspectorate

Growing season field inspection report: consent 21/R08/01 (2022-sown release)

A report on the Genetic Modification Inspectorate's field inspection visit to a genetically modified (GM) crop trial to assess compliance with Part VI of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Genetically Modified Organisms (Deliberate Release) Regulations 2002.

GMO consent details

Consent reference: 21/R08/01 (experimental release).

Consent holder: Rothamsted Research.

Crop type: Wheat (winter) (*Triticum aestivum*).

Site details: Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

OS Reference: TL 122 134

Details of the Genetically Modified Organisms

Wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) plants that have been gene edited using CRISPR-Cas9 to contain point mutations (including changes, inserts and or deletions of one or more DNA bases) in one or more of the following asparagine synthetase genes: *TaASN1* and *TaASN2*.

Purpose of the release

To investigate the effect of knocking out the *TaASN1* and *TaASN2* genes on free asparagine accumulation in wheat grain in the field.

Site inspection details

Inspection date: 31 March 2023

Site reference: RR-21/R08/01-SITE01-2023-INSP_01

Personnel seen: Consent holder and co-lead research scientist

Inspection details

The Genetic Modification Inspectorate carried out an inspection of this autumn 2022-sown research trial of Genetically Modified (GM) winter wheat at an early growth stage. Checks

were made of the location, size and layout of the trial, the measures in place to restrict human access to the trial site, and the widths of the non-GM pollen barrier and the isolation distance (the 20 m border).

All were in accordance with the requirements specified in the consent document. Checks were also made about the management and monitoring of the release during the growing season, both of which were also in accordance with the requirements specified in the consent document.

Conclusions and actions

Report conclusions

The Genetic Modification Inspectorate is content that the release is consistent with the conditions and limitations specified in letter of consent 21/R08/01 (dated 3 August 2021) and its accompanying schedule, and with variation to consent 21/R08/01 (dated 1 October 2022) which amends the description of the GMOs for release.

No risks to human health or the environment, posed by the genetically modified organisms, were identified.

Action required or taken: None

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3 April 2023