

Animal and Plant Health Agency

APHA Genetic Modification Inspectorate

Growing season field inspection report: consent 21/R08/01 (2023 autumn-sown release)

A report of a field inspection visit to an experimental 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.

Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) consent details

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

Consent holder: Rothamsted Research

Crop type: Winter Wheat (*Triticum aestivum*)

Site details: Harpenden, Hertfordshire

OS Reference: TL 123 133

Details of the GMO:

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: 4 July 2024

Site reference: RR-21/R08/01-SITE01-2024-INSP_01.

Personnel seen: Consent Holder, key Farm Staff personnel.

Inspection details

The Genetic Modification Inspectorate (GMI) carried out an inspection of this 2023 autumn-sown research trial of GM winter wheat at the grain filling (76) stage. Checks were made on the location, size and layout of the trial, the measures in place to restrict human access to the site, the dimensions of the non-GM pollen barrier and the isolation distance (20m border). The GMI also reviewed the methods that had been employed for planting the GMOs, the procedures in place for management and monitoring of the release during the growing season, and the Consent Holder's plans for harvest and disposal of plant material. All were in accordance with the requirements specified in the consent.

Conclusions and actions

Report conclusions

The GMI is content that the release is consistent with the conditions and limitations specified in the letter of consent 21/R08/01 (dated 03/08/2021) and its accompanying schedule, and with the variation to consent 21/R08/01 (dated 01/10/2022) which amends the description of the GMOs for release. No risks to human health or the environment, posed by the genetically modified organism, were identified.

Action required or taken: None

APHA GM Inspectorate

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8 July 2024