

Animal and Plant Health Agency

APHA Genetic Modification Inspectorate

## Growing season field inspection report: consent 22/R55/01 (2024 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:** 22/R55/01 (consent for experimental release).

**Consent holder:** Wild Bioscience Ltd.

**Crop type:** Spring Wheat (*Triticum aestivum*)

**Site details:** Harpenden, Hertfordshire

**OS Reference:** TL 123 133

### **Details of the GMO:**

Wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) plants, based on the cultivar Cadenza, that have been genetically modified to:

- Enhance leaf-level photosynthetic carbon assimilation
- Increase vegetative biomass
- Increase numbers and total mass of seeds per plant

This phenotype results from the overexpression of the wheat photoreceptor gene Phytochrome B that has been inserted into the genome under the control of an exogenous promoter, Phosphoenolpyruvate Carboxykinase, from *Zoysia japonica*. The lines planned for release are as detailed in the consent application from Wild Bioscience Ltd.

### **Purpose of the release:**

To investigate the effect of increased expression of a photosynthetic regulator on agronomic endpoints of wheat, with the results informing future efforts to develop high-yielding wheat seed products.

## Site inspection details

**Inspection date:** 4 July 2024

**Site reference:** WBL-22/R55/01-SITE01-2024-INSP\_01.

**Personnel seen:** key Rothamsted Research Farm Team personnel.

## Inspection details

The Genetic Modification Inspectorate (GMI) carried out an inspection of this 2024-sown research trial of GM spring wheat at the flowering growth stage (59-60). Checks were made on the:

- location, size and layout of the trial
- measures in place to restrict human access to the site
- dimensions of the non-GM pollen barrier
- status of the 20m border

The GMI also reviewed the:

- methods that had been employed for planting the GMOs
- procedures in place for management and monitoring of the release during the growing season
- 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 consent. No risks to human health or the environment, posed by the genetically modified organism, were identified.

**Action required or taken:** None

**APHA GM Inspectorate**

Sand Hutton

York

YO41 1LZ

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