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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1990, SECTIONS 111 AND 112:

VARIATION TO CONSENT TO RELEASE GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS REFERENCE 24/R57/01

1. On 9 January 2025, in accordance with Section 111 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs granted consent to The University of Oxford, to perform the release of genetically modified organisms described in its application (Reference 24/R57/01) commencing on 1 March 2025 and finishing 31 December 2025, and subject to the limitations and conditions set out in Schedule 1 to this consent.

2. I am writing to give notice, in accordance with Section 111(10) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, that the afore-mentioned consent is varied so that the release period is extended until 31 December 2028.

3. The Schedule of the original consent (attached) is amended as follows:
   The end date of the release period is amended, and release may only take place between 1 March 2025 and 31 December 2028.

4. Before granting this consent variation, I have:
   a. taken advice from the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment
   b. agreed the terms, limitations and conditions of this consent with the Food Standards Agency and, in so far as they relate to the protection of human health and safety, with the Health and Safety Executive.

Yours sincerely,

DAME ANGELA EAGLE DBE MP

Schedule to the letter of Consent to release Genetically Modified Organisms Application, Reference 24/R57/01

References in the letter of consent and in this Schedule to:

a. “GMO” means the genetically modified organism set out in **paragraph 2** of the original letter of consent (signed 9 January 2025)

b. “plot” means the area comprising the GMOs and any control lines

c. “volunteer” means plants growing from seed remaining in the soil after harvest

d. “holder of the consent” means the party named in **paragraph 1** of the original letter of consent (signed 9 January 2025) or such other or additional party who has been approved by the Secretary of State

e. “letter of consent” means the letter granting consent to release the GMO which is subject to these limitations and conditions and “consent” in this schedule shall be construed accordingly

f. “release” means planting the GMO within the boundaries of the trial site(s) during the release period

g. “release period” means the period specified in **paragraph 3(c)** of the original letter of consent (signed 9 January 2025)

h. “termination of the trial” means the completion of the trial period as more particularly described in **Condition 11**

i. “trial period” means the period from the first release of the GMO until the termination of the trial

j. “trial site” means the area of land to be used for the trial as more particularly described in **paragraph 3** of the original letter of consent (signed 9 January 2025) and **Condition 4** below and situated at the location set out in **paragraph 3(b)** of the original letter of consent (signed 9 January 2025)

k. “trial” means the release of the GMO and management of that release in accordance with the limitations and conditions of this consent

CONDITIONS OF CONSENT

Condition 1

The holder of the consent must, during the trial period:

1. restrict human access to the trial sites to named personnel who are familiar with the limitations and conditions of the consent, or those escorted by named personnel, and
2. allow the GM Inspectorate access to the trial sites on request

Condition 2

The holder of the consent must apply to the Secretary of State in writing for any variation to the consent, and obtain agreement for this variation prior to sowing of the GMOs in the year of the release.

Condition 3

Where the holder of the consent enters into any agreement with a person or persons who will perform the whole or any part of the trial on the holder's behalf, then:

1. such an agreement must be in writing and it must be in keeping with the limitations and conditions of this consent as may be varied by the Secretary of State from time to time in accordance with article 111(10) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and regulation 22 of the Genetically Modified Organisms (Deliberate Release) Regulations 2002; and
2. the release of the GMOs must not take place until that agreement or variation of that agreement has received the written approval of the Secretary of State

Size and description of the trial sites

Condition 4

The consent holder must ensure that:

1. in each year of the trial the plot or plots is/are as described in paragraph 3 of the letter of consent
2. in each year of the trial sow a wheat pollen barrier of at least 2 metres width surrounding the GMOs at a distance of no more than 2 metres, on the same day as the GMOs, at the same sowing density as the GMOs, with a variety of similar growing characteristics (with respect to height and flowering time) around the perimeter of each plot
3. during the release period, cereals (other than those cultivated either as part of this consent or under a separate consent to release a GMO) are not grown in an area of at least 20 metres width surrounding the perimeter of the plot on which the GMOs are planted and that if this area is cropped, it is cropped with a non-cereal crop

Condition 5

At least one week before the GMOs are sown the consent holder must provide to the Secretary of State (email gm-regulation@defra.gov.uk copied to gm-inspec@apha.gov.uk)

1. the four-figure grid reference(s) describing the 1 km by 1 km square (to the east and north of the grid reference point) that encompasses the whole, or majority, of each plot within each trial site
2. the six-figure grid reference(s) of the plot(s) within each trial site
3. a plan showing the location of each trial site
4. details of the GM wheat to be planted

Any deviation from the plan referred to in sub-paragraph (2) must be notified to the Secretary of State in writing as soon as practicable and in any event before planting of the GMOs takes place.

Management of the sites

Condition 6

The consent holder must:

1. ensure that suitable measures are in place to keep birds out of the plots during and after sowing and at the first signs of emergence of wheat ears
2. control *Elymus repens* (common couch grass) and *Elymus caninus* (Bearded couch) before flowering and for the duration of the trial, within the plot on which the GMOs are planted and surrounding area of at least 20 metres width referred to in condition 4(3) ("the 20 m border"). Control may be either by hand weeding, pulling or other mechanical means. The application of a glyphosate herbicide may be used where such mechanical methods are impracticable. The controlling of these wild species should be performed between 1st May and 30th September during the single year of the trial
3. as far as is practicable, harvest non-GM wheat grain after harvesting GM wheat grain on each plot; clean the combine on the plot from which the material is harvested after each plot is harvested but before the next plot is harvested
4. clean all machinery (including wheels and tyres) used at each trial site thoroughly on the trial site before leaving that trial site
5. ensure that all personnel entering the trial site(s) take appropriate steps to eliminate transfer of GMOs via clothing and vehicles from the trial site
6. any plant material (other than grain) dislodged during cleaning may be left onsite within the trial plot(s) or may be removed from the trial site(s) as soon as practicable (and certainly on the same day) ensuring that it is transferred for contained use or stored securely whilst awaiting disposal in accordance with **Condition 7**

7. when GM and non-GM grain is harvested on a plot, immediately remove this material from the trial site(s) or store securely on-farm; and in the autumn of the same year, lightly till that plot to a depth of approximately 5cm. The area should be left fallow over the following winter and lightly tilled to a depth of approximately 5cm in the spring.
8. when GM and non-GM grain is harvested on a plot, following the harvest, inspect that plot and the 20 metres border for volunteers at least once per calendar week until the end of November of the relevant year and then once per calendar month, (of intervals of not more than 5 weeks), from 1 March until 31 August in the following two years. Record the number of volunteers detected in each calendar month (approximately if necessary) before they are controlled in accordance with **condition 6(9)(b)** below.
9. during the two years following harvest of the GM and non-GM grain from a plot within the trial site(s):
    a. leave the plot fallow
    b. treat all volunteers on the plot and the 20 metres border, including volunteers from non-GMOs, by hand-pulling or when this is impracticable, with an application of glyphosate herbicide prior to inflorescence formation
10. refrain from cultivating cereal crops intended to enter the food and/or feed chain on the trial site(s) until monitoring of the plots for volunteers has ended

Material removed from the trial site

Condition 7. The consent holder must ensure that **all** harvested grain and any material collected during cleaning of machinery is removed from the trial site(s) under condition 6 is placed in sealed, labelled bags or containers for transfer to conditions under which the Genetically Modified (Contained Use) Regulations 2014 (SI 2014/1663), as amended, apply or to an authorised waste disposal facility for disposal by deep burial or incineration.

General monitoring requirements

Condition 8. The consent holder must:

1. inspect the entire trial site(s) and the 20-metre border during the period of cultivation of GMOs at least once a week and if it is observed that the that the limitations and conditions of this consent have not been met, inform the GM Inspectorate and/or the Secretary of State immediately
2. maintain raw data and reports of inspections and provide this information to the Secretary of State on request as soon as possible

Reports

Condition 9. The holder of the consent must, within two months of harvesting or terminating the GMOs on a plot within the trial site(s), submit a report to the Secretary of State via the Genetic Modification Inspectorate (gm-inspec@apha.gov.uk) in the format outlined in the Annex to Commission Decision 2003/701/EC (O.J. L254, 08/10/2003, p.21). Such report or reports must also include the following information:

1. an assessment of any risks or actual or potential adverse effects to human health or the environment from the GMO
2. whether the release on that particular plot progressed as planned and if it did not:

i. what occurred

ii. any additional measures that were taken

iii. any additional measures that will be taken; and

iv. why these measures were taken

Condition 10

Subject to **Condition 11**, each year the consent holder must submit a report in the format specified in the Annex to Decision 2003/701/EC to the Secretary of State via the Genetic Modification Inspectorate (gm-inspec@apha.gov.uk) within two calendar months of the post-trial monitoring being concluded. This report must include the following information:

1. an assessment of the effectiveness of measures to control volunteers, including details of the number of volunteers detected each month in each trial site and the 20 metre borders
2. the re-evaluation of monitoring requirements, including whether or not the consent holder proposes to continue monitoring and the reasons for this decision
3. any additional precautions considered necessary to minimise the dispersal of the GMO outside of the trial site(s)

Condition 11

The consent holder must continue to submit the reports referred to in **Condition 10** until the Secretary of State has agreed in writing that the trial site(s) and where appropriate, the 20 m borders have been controlled in accordance with **Conditions 6(9)(b)** and **6(10)**, and that the trial is therefore terminated.

Emergency action

Condition 12

In the event of an emergency, the consent holder must:

1. take immediate and appropriate preventative and remedial action
2. notify the Secretary of State of the emergency as soon as practicable and in any event within thirty-six hours of the matter constituting the emergency, detailing the nature of the emergency and any action that has been taken

3. submit a plan to the Secretary of State for their approval as soon as practicable and in any event within forty-eight hours of the matter constituting the emergency, detailing any continued or further action that they propose to take to restrict the dispersal of the GMO from the trial site(s)

Condition 13

For the purposes of **Condition 12**, an emergency includes vandalism, natural disaster(s) or any other unauthorised interference with the trial site(s).

Condition 14

None of the provisions of **Condition 12** shall prevent the Secretary of State from taking such action as they reasonably believe is necessary to prevent, reduce or remedy any risk of harm to human health or of damage to the environment.

Note: The Environmental Protection Act 1990 also requires the consent holder to comply with implied general conditions for consents to release GMOs as set out in section 112(5) and section 112(7) of that Act. These implied conditions have effect subject to the conditions imposed above.