

GM MAIZE 1507xNK603: POSITIVE VOTE IN STANDING COMMITTEE

The EU Standing Committee under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 is scheduled to vote shortly on the approval decision of GM maize 1507xNK603 for 'food and feed uses, and import and processing'. This dossier (**Ref: EFSA/GMO/UK/2004/05**) was submitted by Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. (a DuPont subsidiary) as represented by Pioneer Overseas Corporation, and by Mycogen Seeds, (a Dow AgroSciences subsidiary) and it has received an overall positive opinion from the EFSA. 1507xNK603 maize is a safe as conventional maize and offers benefits to producers, the environment and to consumers. 1507xNK603 maize has been developed from cross-breeding two parental maize lines (1507 maize and NK603 maize) using traditional plant breeding techniques and thus contains no new genetic modifications. Given the fact that the EU has already approved the separate maize products (1507 and NK603), that the 1507xNK603 stacked maize is already permitted in ten other countries around the world, and that the EFSA has done a comprehensive safety assessment and issued a positive opinion on the 1507xNK603 maize in March 2006, Member States are urged to vote positively on this dossier. In particular:

1. 1507 and NK603 maize are already approved in the European Union:

- EU approved food and feed use of 1507 maize in March 2006 and of NK603 maize in March 2005.
- Ten countries outside the EU already permit 1507xNK603 maize products for food and feed use, no
- 1507xNK603 was developed by cross breeding, using traditional plant breeding techniques, two parental maize lines (1507 and NK603) and thus contains no new genetic modifications.

2. 1507xNK603 maize meets all the latest EU safety evaluations:

- Positive opinion from GMO Scientific Panel of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).
- Safe history of 1507xNK603 maize and the separate maize products: 1507 and NK603.
- 1507xNK603 maize contains no antibiotic resistance marker gene.
- 1507xNK603 maize meets the latest EU regulatory requirements and approval should be given without further delay.

3. Consumer benefits – 1507xNK603 maize contributes to improved grain quality:

- Like other *Bt* maize, 1507xNK603 is less susceptible to the development of moulds and mycotoxins.

4. Approval will have positive trade implications for Europe:

- Imports of maize products contribute to the competitiveness of large sectors of the EU livestock industry which rely on maize gluten feed as a high quality, inexpensive feed input.
- Approval will avoid disruption of trade with countries already producing 1507xNK603 maize.

5. Demonstrates Member States' commitment to sustainable agriculture:

- 1507xNK603 maize provides environmental benefits to agriculture by increasing yield on the same amount of land with fewer inputs, including pesticides.
- Approval of 1507 maize will signal Member States' commitment to sustainable agriculture.

1507xNK603 MAIZE PRODUCTS WILL BE LABELLED IN FULL COMPLIANCE WITH PREVAILING EU RULES, ENSURING CONSUMERS' ACCESS TO TRANSPARENT INFORMATION AND CHOICE

The Applicants



From Pioneer's start as a hybrid maize breeding company in 1926, farmers around the world have continued to endorse the company's commitment to develop innovative plant genetics that meet the changing needs of agricultural producers. In adding modern biotechnology to its traditional capabilities, Pioneer and its parent company, DuPont, are guided by principles based on long experience in using science and innovation in a safe, responsible manner. For more information regarding our commitment to these principles, please visit:

<http://www.dupont.com/biotech/difference/principles.html>



Dow AgroSciences AgroSciences, a global leader in providing pest management and agricultural solutions, is committed to offering farmers a balanced array of crop protection solutions - conventional and biotech. Dow AgroSciences is committed to the principles of Responsible Care* and applies strict environmental, health and safety standards to its research and development process. For more information about Dow AgroSciences and its involvement in plant genetics and biotechnology, please visit <http://www.dowagro.com/pgb/>

FURTHER DETAILS:

1. 1507 and NK603 maize are already approved in the European Union:

In all other regulatory approval processes around the world, there are simplified processes for approving stacked GMO products of separate events previously approved, given the known characteristics and thus safety of the separate events. In six of the ten countries that permit 1507xNK603 maize, no separate approval process was required for the stacked 1507xNK603 as long as the single maize events (1507 and NK603) are already approved. In the remainder of the countries that permit 1507xNK603, the regulatory process for the approval the stacked 1507xNK603 was streamlined. The single events for 1507 maize and NK603 maize have also been reviewed as part of the EU's own strict regulatory approval process and have already been approved for food and feed uses and import and processing in the EU. Furthermore, the stacked maize product, 1507xNK603 has been developed from cross-breeding two parental maize lines (one incorporating the 1507 maize event, the other incorporating the NK603 maize event) using traditional plant breeding techniques and thus contains no new genetic modifications.

Given the fact that the EU has already approved the separate maize events, that the 1507xNK603 stacked maize is already approved in ten other countries around the world, and that the EFSA issued a positive safety assessment in March 2006, there should be no reason for any further delays in the EU approval for food and feed uses and import and processing of 1507xNK603 maize.

2. 1507xNK603 maize meets all the latest EU safety evaluations:

After careful evaluation of all the extensive safety studies of 1507xNK603 maize, the opinion of the GMO Scientific Panel of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) concluded in March 2006, that:

"maize 1507xNK603 is as safe as its conventional counterparts with respect to effects on human and animal health and the environment and therefore concludes that this maize is unlikely to have any adverse effect on human and animal health and the environment in the context of its intended uses."

Furthermore, the type of protein (*Bacillus thuringiensis* – commonly referred to as 'Bt') which protects 1507 maize against various insect pests has in fact been widely used by organic farmers for many years. Similarly, 1507xNK603 maize presents no concerns related to hybridisation with wild populations in Europe. Notably 1507xNK603 maize contains no antibiotic resistance marker gene. As a consequence, and because it meets the latest EU regulatory requirements, 1507xNK603 maize should have a fair and equitable opportunity to compete with other products that have already been approved in the EU. 1507xNK603 maize should thus be approved without further delay.

3. Consumer benefits – 1507xNK603 maize contributes to improved grain quality:

Insects cause many forms of damage when they feed on the maize plant and this can lead to growth of fungi and the production of mycotoxins such as fumonisins. Mycotoxins pose a potential threat to human and animal health if consumed. However, 1507xNK603, like other *Bt* maize, is resistant to insect pest damage and therefore the likelihood of development of moulds and mycotoxins in 1507xNK603 maize is greatly reduced. This is more important than ever now, given the lower maximum residue limits set by the EU for mycotoxins in food and feed for both domestic production as well as imports.

4. Positive trade implications for Europe:

In 2003, the EU-25's net imports of maize were 3.45 million tonnes of grain and 3.53 million tonnes of gluten feed (Eurostat). More than two-thirds of the EU's maize gluten feed demand is met through imports, primarily from the United States, where it is processed from mixtures of non-GM and GM maize. The importance of maize imports for the European livestock sector rests on the fact that maize gluten feed is a relatively inexpensive, protein-rich animal feed input that would cost more to be substituted by either non-GM maize or other protein alternatives including wheat gluten feed. As more farmers are growing 1507xNK603 maize, it is increasingly becoming an essential ingredient in animal feed around the world. EU approval without further delay will signify Europe's desire to continue this important trade flow.

5. Sustainable agriculture and the Environment:

Consumers are paying more attention to how their food is produced, especially regarding the impact on the environment. GM crops and 1507xNK603 maize in particular, represent an important tool that contributes to the production of food and fibre while increasing the sustainability of farming. Examples of sustainable advantages of 1507xNK603 maize include less use of pesticides and greater production using the same area of land. Furthermore, 1507xNK603 maize affects only those target insect pests that attack the maize plant, while broad application sprays may harm both target and non-target species. Approval of 1507xNK603 maize will demonstrate an informed understanding of the role that biotechnology can play in meeting consumers' concerns regarding sustainability and the environment. Furthermore, the timely approval of the 1507xNK603 maize 'food and feed and import and processing' dossier will be a positive step towards allowing similar benefits for the European environment when the pending 1507xNK603 maize 'cultivation' dossier is presented for approval by the Member States.

A detailed briefing book accompanying this information sheet has been provided to a member of your staff. If you would like additional copies, please contact Mike.Hall@Pioneer.com