Vitenskapskomiteen for mat og miljø
Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food and Environment

Comments from The Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food and Environment (VKM) on EPA+DHA Canola Event LBFLFK (Application EFSA-GMO-DE-2019-157)

Food and feed safety assessment

VKM welcomes information on herbicide residue levels and their relevant metabolites in applications for herbicide tolerant GM-plants. Data on imazamox residue levels, including relevant metabolites (hydroxymethyl metabolite CL 263284 and its glucose conjugate CL 189215), in plant material from the field studies would support the assessment of food, feed, and environmental safety.

Monitoring

Given the scope of the application, accidental spillage and loss of viable seeds of genetically modified EPA+DHA canola event LBFLFK during transport, storage, handling, and processing into derived products cannot be precluded.

Oilseed rape can establish feral populations outside cultivated areas (e.g. roadsides, railway ground, ports) and escaped populations of herbicide-tolerant oilseed rape have been reported along transportation routes, ports and close to processing plants in Japan, Canada and USA (Yoshimura et al.,2006; Knispel et al., 2008; Nishizawa et al., 2009, 2016; Schafer et al., 2011). Feral transgenic oilseed rape is also detected along railway lines in Switzerland (Hecht et al., 2014) and near oil mills in Germany (Franzaring et al., 2016).

Germination and establishment of volunteer LBFLFK plants may result in gene flow into cultivated and feral *Brassica napus* as well as into closely related wild relatives (Knispel et al., 2008; Schafer et al., 2011).

The magnitude of establishment, dissemination and gene flow depends among others on the level of LBFLFK canola in the imported oilseed rape commodities. Therefore, case-specific monitoring must focus on pathways where viable LBFLFK canola enters the environment.

The applicant is requested to provide an appropriate case-specific monitoring plan comprising: i) spillage or loss of LBFLFK canola during transport, storage, packaging, processing and use, ii) spread and persistence of LBFLFK canola, if spillage or loss of viable LBFLFK canola occurs, iii) out-crossing of LBFLFK canola to cultivated and feral/naturalized oilseed rape populations and wild relatives resulting from spillage or loss of viable LBFLFK canola.

References

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