

INVITATION TO CONFERENCE

EPIGENETICS, TRANSGENIC PLANTS & RISK ASSESSMENT

Epigenetics, Transgenic Plants & Risk Assessment

Numerous phenomena observed in transgenic plants pose a challenge. Generally summarized as unintended effects, many of them give evidence of epigenetic regulation in plants. How about transgenics in the age of epigenetics?

Why do transgenic plants often silence the foreign gene? How does it happen that in a transgenic potato, meant to become resistant to insect pests, the levels of the plant's natural insect deterrent is reduced? Why is a transgenic sunflower not only resistant to insects, but also produces – without this being intended – more seeds than a conventional sunflower?

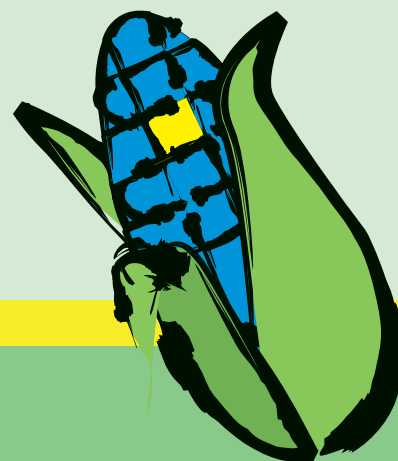
What implication does this have on the risk assessment of transgenic organisms? 30 years after the Asilomar conference when scientists discussed the safety of the recombinant DNA technology and the restrictions scientists placed on themselves, how are safety issues and new evidences in genetic engineering to be discussed nowadays?

We invite you to a conference on Epigenetics, Transgenic Plants & Risk Assessment in order to discuss recent

controversial scientific questions such as epigenetic effects, genome scrambling and unintended effects of the genetic engineering in plants intended for release and use in food and feed. Our speakers reflect a broad range of the latest scientific findings and arguments.

Our list of speakers and their topics at the Epigenetics, Transgenic Plants & Risk Assessment conference

- Marcello Buiatti, Chair of Genetics at the University of Florence and President of the National Association Environment and Labour: **"Epigenetic processes and the 'unintended effects' of genetic engineering"**
- Richard Finn, Department of Biology, University of York in the UK: **"New insights: Are the effects of gene transfer on secondary metabolism predictable?"**
- Cesare Gessler, Group Leader of Perennial Plants (Apple and Grape vine) at the Institute on Plant Pathology of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich: **"Uncertainties and gaps in knowledge regarding genetic engineering of apple trees"**
- Manuela Malatesta, Institute of Histology and Laboratory Analyses of the University of Urbino in Italy: **"A diet based on genetically modified soy-bean affects cell functions in mice"**
- Gilles-Eric Seralini, Professor on Molecular Biology at the University of Caen in France, and President of the Scientific Council of Crie-Gen (Committee on Research and Independent Information on Genetic Engineering): **"Genome fluidity and health risks for GMO's"**
- Beatrix Tappeser, Head of the Division in GMO Regulation and Biosafety of the Federal Agency of Nature Conservation in Germany: **"A continuous challenge: Integration of state of the art knowledge into current risk assessment"**



WHERE?

Frankfurt am Main
Germany

Literaturhaus Frankfurt e.V.
Schöne Aussicht 2
60311 Frankfurt

WHEN?

1 December 2005

Registration from 8.30 a.m.
Opening speech at 9.30 a.m.
Conference ends at 5.30 p.m.
Address for registering: k.moch@oeko.de
Conference fee: 25 euro to be paid at registration (free for journalists)