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EU scientific study gauges current approaches to addressing potential health effects from genetically modified food and animal feed

The European Commission's Joint Research Centre has released a new study entitled "*Scientific and technical contribution to the development of an overall health strategy in the area of GMOs*". The study assesses the current state of knowledge in this field and defines areas for possible improvement. It was carried out on the request of the European Parliament with Directorate-General SANCO (Health & Consumer Protection) as the lead European Commission Service. The *European Food Safety Authority* (EFSA) and a panel of twenty international experts also inputted.

Addressing the potential health impacts of food is an important element of a coherent consumer protection policy. Dealing with the possible (positive and/or negative) impact of GM food on human and animal health is the subject of intensive research and is closely surveyed by the scientific community and regulatory bodies.

The study contains an expert opinion in the format of a report stemming from an international workshop, held in Italy in late 2007, on assessment and monitoring of health effects of GMOs.

The preparation of the study involved research leading to the development by JRC of a new, ready-to-use analytical system for the simultaneous detection of all EU approved and non-approved GMOs known to the Joint Research Centre.

The mission of the Joint Research Centre is to provide customer-driven scientific and technical support for the conception, development, implementation and monitoring of EU policies. Hosting six *Community Reference Laboratories* (CRLs), the JRC plays a leading role in ensuring a harmonised approach to GM food and feed analysis inside the EU. Reports produced by the JRC do not necessarily represent the agreed views of the collaborating experts nor do they represent the official position of the European Commission.

Further information

- A copy of the study is available at: www.jrc.ec.europa.eu
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