

2023 Post-Market Environmental Monitoring (PMEM) Report for FG72 Soybean

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MONITORING REPORT FOR GMO USES OTHER THAN CULTIVATION

Format for presenting the monitoring results for GMO uses other than cultivation in accordance with: Articles 19(3), 20(1) and Annex VII to Directive 2001/18/EC and Articles 9(1) and 21(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003.

1. General information

- 1.1 Crop/trait(s):** Soybean / herbicide tolerance
- 1.2 Decision authorisation number under Directive 2001/18/EC and number and date of consent under Directive 2001/18/EC:** not applicable
- 1.3 Decision authorisation number and date of authorisation under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003:** Commission Decision 2016/1215/EU of 22 July 2016; Amended by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/1195 of 10 July 2019; Amended by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/1999 of 15 November 2021
- Authorisation in GB:** All Commission decisions adopted prior to 31 December 2020 have been transposed into UK legislation and can be found at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/>. Amendment of the authorization for FG72 soybean: Statutory Instruments: 2023 No. 235 (England), 2023 No. 379 (W. 59) (Wales) and 2023 No. 59 (Scotland)
- 1.4 Unique identifier:** MST-FGØ72-2
- 1.5 Reporting period:** July 2022 – June 2023
- 1.6 Other monitoring reports have been submitted in respect of:**
- cultivation:** Yes ☐ No ☒

2. Executive summary

Taking into account the reports from the European trade associations (operators involved in the import, handling and processing of viable FG72 soybean), who are selected as the most appropriate participants in the general surveillance network, and the lack of adverse findings from independent research, available through the public literature, there is, to the best of our knowledge, no relevant information suggesting the occurrence of any adverse effects from FG72 soybean.

3. Uses of GMOs other than cultivation

Please note that this section relates to the monitoring of the environmental effects of GMO uses other than cultivation. Such uses include the use of Food and Feed containing or consisting of GMOs (living organisms).

3.1 Commodity imports into the Community

3.1.1 Commodity crop (GM + non-GM) imports into the EU and UK by country of origin

Country of origin ¹	Quantity of total soybean imported (tons) July 2022 – June 2023		Estimated data of GMO share in imports (where not possible approximate share of cultivation in the country of origin) ²
	EU ³	UK ⁴	FG72
<u>Brazil</u>	5,577,766.343	636,549.19	
<u>United States</u>	5,273,406.119	189,049.3	
<u>Ukraine</u>	1,318,630.973	0	
<u>Canada</u>	837,207.06	35,258.11	
<u>Bosnia and Herzegovina</u>	358,367.8	0	
<u>Uruguay</u>	117,048.098	0	
<u>Togo</u>	99,081.147	0	
<u>Argentina</u>	32,222.141	0	
<u>China</u>	20,249.437	2,772.56	
<u>Kazakhstan</u>	8,991.45	0	
<u>India</u>	589.805	41.26	
<u>Switzerland</u>	38.709	24.6	
<u>Japan</u>	19.925	6.69	
<u>Sri Lanka</u>	13.041	4.43	
<u>Nigeria</u>	5.434	38.3	
<u>Hong Kong</u>	0	18.7	
All other countries	25,854.387	1.58	
Total	13,668,824.96	863,764.72	

¹ Data are provided for (a) the top 10 (*i.e.* main) exporting countries for imports into the EU or UK (making up > 99.8% of total soybean imports into the EU or UK); these countries are underlined, (b) countries where the GM crop is being cultivated, but that do not fall within the category of main exporting countries, and (c) all other remaining countries combined that export soybean.

² Syngenta is not an operator directly involved in the import of soybean into the EU or UK. Therefore, Syngenta is not in a position to report directly on globally traded volumes of GM soybean. However, in order to provide an idea of the amount of GM soybean that could possibly be imported into the EU or UK, the approximate share of cultivation of GM soybean in the country of origin is provided (rounded up figure) expressed as “NA” (not applicable, GM soybean covered by these authorisations was not cultivated in the country), “0-0.9%”, “0.9-5%”, “5-10%”, “10-20%”, “20-40%”, “40-60%”, “60-80%”, or “80-100%”. It must be kept in mind that these figures are estimates only, and that the amount of GM soybean that will be exported to the EU or UK will only represent a portion of the cultivated amounts.

³ Source: Eurostat (2023) data covers 27 EU Member States (July 2022 to June 2023). Data extracted October 2023, collected by CropLife Europe (see Annex 1).

⁴ Source: HMRC/AHDB (2023) data for the UK covers Great Britain and Northern Ireland (July 2022 to June 2023) as it is not possible to extract the data for Great Britain separately. Data extracted October 2023, collected by CropLife Europe (see Annex 1).

3.1.2 Commodity Crop (GM + non-GM) imports into the EU and UK by country of destination

Country by destination⁵	Quantity of soybean exported by all exporting countries (tons) July 2022 to June 2023⁶
Netherlands	3,640,130.261
Spain	3,214,214.966
Germany	2,114,292.405
Italy	1,963,322.360
Portugal	948,356.566
Slovenia	403,925.780
France	368,351.634
Belgium	224,807.357
Romania	217,909.767
Greece	211,960.234
All other EU countries	361,553.625
EU total	13,668,824.955
United Kingdom	863,764.72

⁵ Data are provided for the top 10 EU importing countries (making up approximately 97.4% of total soybean imports in the EU) and for the UK.

⁶ Sources: Eurostat (2023) data covers 27 EU Member States (July 2022 to June 2023). HMRC/AHDB (2023) data for the UK covers Great Britain and Northern Ireland (July 2022 to June 2023). See Annex 1.

3.1.3 Analysis of data provided in tables 3.1.1 and 3.1.2

The soybean (GM and non-GM) import data from suppliers to the EU and UK from outside the EU (extra-EU) and UK (extra-UK) are presented in **Tables 3.1.1** and **3.1.2**, and are based on the Eurostat and HMRC/AHDB data, respectively, collected by CropLife Europe for the reporting period July 2022 to June 2023.

Soybean imports vary from year to year depending on EU and UK soybean harvest and the demand of the feed industry. Bulk shipments of soybean entering the EU and UK are usually processed into compound animal feed, whereby the processed animal feed is unlikely to contain whole soybean grains. The handling of the shipments is the same across the EU and UK; upon arrival, the shipments are unloaded into silos at the port of the importing Member State or UK and transferred from there to the feed processing plant present at the port.

The top 10 largest suppliers of extra-EU soybean to the EU in the reporting period July 2022 to June 2023 are Brazil, United States, Ukraine, Canada, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Uruguay, Togo, Argentina, China, and Kazakhstan. Together, they accounted for approximately 99.8% of total extra-EU soybean imports in the period July 2022 to June 2023. Of these countries, as can be seen in **Table 3.1.1**, FG72 soybean was [REDACTED]. Annex 1 provides the EU soybean imports by Member State and by exporting country in tons for the reporting period July 2022 to June 2023.

The top 10 largest suppliers of extra-UK soybean to the UK in the reporting period July 2022 to June 2023 are Brazil, United States, Canada, China, India, Nigeria, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Japan and Sri Lanka. Together, they accounted for over 99.99% of total extra-UK soybean imports in the period July 2022 to June 2023. Of these countries, as can be seen in **Table 3.1.1**, FG72 soybean was [REDACTED]. Annex 1 provides the UK soybean imports by exporting country in tons for the reporting period July 2022 to June 2023.

Taking into account the estimated share of cultivation of FG72 soybean in the exporting countries and the relative weight of these countries among the import origins, it could be estimated that [REDACTED] of total imported soybean into the EU and UK might contain the FG72 soybean event.

The top 10 largest EU importing countries of extra-EU soybean in the reporting period July 2022 to June 2023 are Netherlands, Spain, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Slovenia, France, Belgium, Romania, and Greece as provided in **Table 3.1.2**. Together, they accounted for approximately 97.4% of total soybean imports into the EU in the reporting period July 2022 to June 2023.

The total soybean import into the UK is also provided in **Table 3.1.2**.

3.2 General surveillance

3.2.1 Description of general surveillance

The current approach used for general surveillance represents the consensus between all consent/authorisation holders within CropLife Europe and has been endorsed by the operators involved in the trade of viable soybean commodity (listed in Section 3.2.2).

Syngenta is not involved in commodity trade with FG72 soybean. The monitoring methodology hence needs to be predominantly based on collaboration with third parties, such as operators involved in the import, handling and processing of viable FG72 soybean. They are exposed to the imported viable FG72 soybean and therefore are the best placed to observe and report any unanticipated adverse effects in the framework of their routine surveillance of the commodities they handle and use. The routine surveillance is based on the HACCP principles.

Since traders may commingle FG72 soybean with other commercial soybean, including authorised GM soybean, Syngenta is working together with other members of the plant biotechnology industry within CropLife Europe and trade associations representing the relevant operators in order to implement a harmonised monitoring methodology.

The different parties agreed to collaborate on the following basis:

⇒ The consent holder represented by CropLife Europe shall:

- Agree with the operators before adding or amending activities that fall under their responsibility in accordance with the proposed PMEM plan.
- Inform operators concerning the authorisation, safety and general characteristics of FG72 soybean and of the conditions as to general surveillance.
- Set up and maintain a website dedicated to operators that provides an overview and detailed information on approved GM plant products subject to general surveillance. The website, hosted on the CropLife Europe website under

<https://croplifeeurope.eu/product-information/>, contains the following information:

- An introduction to the purpose of the website
- A table giving an overview of all currently approved GM plant products subject to general surveillance
- A profile for every approved GM plant product providing documentation on characteristics and safety, positive EFSA opinion(s) and Commission Decisions(s) authorising the GM plant product in the EU
- A contact point at CropLife Europe for information exchange on any of the GM plant products

The website will be regularly updated in order to further facilitate and ensure a transparent process for general surveillance and easy access to relevant information for operators.

- Contact the selected networks of operators annually, providing them with an update on the approved GM plant products subject to general surveillance and reminding them of their agreement to report on any unanticipated adverse effects (or absence thereof).

⇒ The selected networks of operators (European trade associations) shall:

- Inform and remind their member organisations and companies on an annual basis
 - to monitor for potential unanticipated adverse effects
 - that, in the framework of their management or safety standards (ISO, HACCP, etc.), procedures must be in place and implemented to limit losses and spillage of viable soybean and to routinely eradicate adventitious populations on their premises – any such adventitious populations, resisting routine eradication procedures, shall be treated as potential adverse effects
 - to inform and remind their own member companies of this requirement
 - to report back any adverse effect reported to them to the European trade associations
- Report to the consent holders directly or via CropLife Europe
 - at least annually, regardless of whether an adverse effect was observed or not
 - immediately any adverse effects reported to them

Consequently, the European trade associations shall notify CropLife Europe of the results of the general surveillance on an annual basis. The report shall cover all approved GM plant products subject to general surveillance. CropLife Europe shall forward this report to the respective consent/authorisation holders for inclusion in their annual report to the European Commission and UK's Food Standards Agency.

The general surveillance information reported to and collected by Syngenta from the European trade associations or other sources shall be analysed for its relevance. Where information indicates the possibility of an unanticipated adverse effect, Syngenta will immediately investigate to determine and confirm whether a significant correlation between the effect and FG72 soybean can be established. If the investigation establishes that FG72 soybean was present when the adverse effect was identified, and confirms that FG72 soybean is the cause of the adverse effect, Syngenta shall immediately inform the European Commission and UK's Food Standards Agency. Syngenta, in collaboration with the European Commission and UK's Food Standards Agency, and based on a scientific evaluation of the potential consequences of the observed adverse effect, shall define and implement management measures to protect human and animal health or the environment, as necessary. It is important that the remedial action is proportionate to the significance of the confirmed effect.

As described in the bullet points above, Syngenta shall submit an annual monitoring report including results of the general surveillance in accordance with the conditions of the

authorisation. The report shall contain information on any unanticipated adverse effects that have arisen from handling and use of viable FG72 soybean.

The report will include a scientific evaluation of the confirmed adverse effect, a conclusion of the safety of FG72 soybean and, as appropriate, the measures that were taken to ensure the safety of human and animal health or the environment.

3.2.2 Details of industry, environmental, food and/or feed related surveillance networks used during general surveillance

Syngenta, together with other members of the plant biotechnology industry and CropLife Europe, will implement general surveillance of viable GM soybean, including FG72 soybean, with the help of the selected networks described below, according to the methodology outlined in the authorisation holder's general surveillance plan and as detailed in Section 3.2.1. The following networks are currently involved:

⇒ Importers / Traders

COCERAL is the European association of trade in cereals, rice, feedstuffs, oilseeds, olive oil, oils and fats and agro supply. It represents the interests of the European collectors, traders, importers, exporters and port silo storekeepers of the above-mentioned agricultural products. The main importers of cereals and feedstuffs into the EU and UK are members of COCERAL.

Also see: <http://www.coceral.com/>.

⇒ Silo Operators

UNISTOCK is the European association representing professional storekeepers for agribulk commodities. UNISTOCK full and extraordinary members are present in twelve countries and UNISTOCK is itself a full member of COCERAL. Commodity imports enter the EU and UK by sea and transit through sea-port silos. The main storekeepers managing these silos are members of UNISTOCK.

Also see: <http://www.unistock.be/>.

⇒ Processors

FEDIOL, the federation of the European Vegetable Oil and Proteinmeal Industry, represents the interests of the European crushers of oilseeds, meal producers and vegetable oil producers/processors. Its members represent around 85% of the European industry.

Also see: <http://www.fediol.eu/>.

These associations represent the majority of European operators importing, handling and processing viable soybean commodity. They work closely together with a continuous and efficient flow of communication between them, particularly, through the documentation that needs to accompany any shipment containing GMOs in accordance with the labelling

and traceability requirements of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003, and are therefore best placed to observe and report any unanticipated adverse effects.

Other networks consisting of operators further down the food and feed chain have not been selected for the general surveillance of viable FG72 soybean, because they focus on processed, non-viable material.

3.2.3 Details of information and/or training provided to importers, traders, handlers, processors, etc.

According to the general surveillance plan agreed with the operators, CropLife Europe acts as the focal point for exchanging information on FG72 soybean.

CropLife Europe maintain a website dedicated to operators that provides an overview and detailed information on approved GM plant products subject to general surveillance. The website, hosted on the CropLife Europe website under <https://croplifeeurope.eu/product-information/>, contains the following information:

- An introduction to the purpose of the website
- A table giving an overview of all currently approved GM plant products subject to general surveillance
- A profile for every approved GM plant product providing documentation on characteristics and safety, positive EFSA opinion(s) and Commission Decisions(s) authorising the GM plant product in the EU
- A contact point at CropLife Europe for information exchange on any of the GM plant products

FG72 soybean information was introduced immediately after the publication of the Commission Decision.

The information on FG72 soybean contains:

- Trade Name, Company Development Code and Unique Identifier.
- A Factsheet with information on FG72.
- The Opinion of the Scientific Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms on the application.
- The authorisations granted in the EU:
 - Community Register for GM Food and Feed Entry for FG72 soybean

In addition, following the publication of the Commission Decision, Syngenta informed directly to relevant stakeholders (including international soybean traders, processing companies, North American soybean growers and the general public) of the regulatory progress made in the EU and UK.

Syngenta keeps direct communication with operators through their industry associations in the exporting countries and in the EU and UK.

3.2.4 Result of general surveillance

The reporting by the trade associations takes place at the end of their business year, i.e. end of June. Therefore, CropLife Europe reminded the trade associations to provide their annual report on any occurrence of unanticipated adverse effects arising from the approved GM products, including FG72 soybean, placed on the market during the period from July 2022 to June 2023.

The trade associations implemented the monitoring in the framework of their routine surveillance of the commodities (GM and non-GM) they handle and use. As required in the monitoring plan, they reminded their members *“to monitor for potential unanticipated adverse effects; that, in the framework of their management or safety standards (ISO, HACCP, etc.), procedures must be in place and implemented to limit losses and spillage of viable GMOs and to routinely eradicate adventitious populations on their premises – any such adventitious populations, resisting routine eradication procedures, shall be treated as potential adverse effects; to inform and remind their own member companies of this requirement; and, to report back any adverse effect reported to them to the European trade associations”*.

COCERAL, UNISTOCK and FEDIOL members have in place Good Hygiene Practices and Good Manufacturing Practices in their daily operations, at the level of imports, storage, handling, and internal transport of grains and oilseeds commodities, as well as at the level of oilseed crushing and vegetable oil refining, irrespective of the botanical species of the commodity. Such practices form the pre-requisite programmes which are the foundation upon which their HACCP systems are built. Measures implemented in this context to limit losses and spillage of viable grains and oilseeds, as well as clean-up and eradication measures (in case of accidental spillage), allow trade associations to report any adverse effect that would be considered as “unusual” or “unanticipated” and potentially attributable to GMOs.

The trade associations informed CropLife Europe in a format that reiterates the terms of the agreement of the general surveillance system and reports on the outcome of the monitoring. The format allows the authorisation holder(s) to comply with the requirement to give evidence to the Commission and the Competent Authorities that the system is in place; that the trade associations are aware of the requirement to monitor; and, that they are providing information on any observed unanticipated adverse effects, if any.

The reports received from COCERAL, UNISTOCK and FEDIOL indicate that no adverse effects were reported from their members, thus implying that no adverse effects were linked to the presence of FG72 soybean in the time period from July 2022 to June 2023 (see Annexes 2 and 3). Furthermore, no incidents in relation to the placing on the market of FG72 soybean have been reported to CropLife Europe or the authorisation holder since July 2022 to date.

3.2.5 Additional information

No adverse effects associated with the import or use of Syngenta's FG72 soybean in any part of the world have been reported.

3.2.6 Review of peer-reviewed publications – Appendix

Syngenta has performed a review of all publications which have emerged during the reporting period including peer-reviewed publications and any additional studies or other sources of information relevant to the importation and processing and to food and/or feed use of the FG72 soybean. The literature search report is provided in Annex 4.

No indication of adverse effect of FG72 soybean in the context of the authorisation has been found.

3.3 Case-specific monitoring

3.3.1 Description and results of case-specific monitoring (if applicable)

Not applicable.

3.3.2 Processing (if applicable)

Not applicable.

EU Member State	Point of entry / site of cultivation	Point of processing	Distance from point of entry / site of cultivation	Transport used

3.3.3 Monitoring and reporting of adverse effects resulting from accidental spillage (if applicable)

Syngenta has informed operators about appropriate management measures to be taken in the event of accidental grain spillage. No further case-specific monitoring measures are required.

3.4 Concluding remarks

There have been no reports on adverse health or environmental effects associated with the use of FG72 soybean in any of the places where it was planted and/or consumed.

4. Summary of results and conclusions

The top 10 largest suppliers of extra-EU soybean to the EU in the reporting period July 2022 to June 2023 are Brazil, United States, Ukraine, Canada, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Uruguay, Togo, Argentina, China, and Kazakhstan. Together, they accounted for approximately 99.8% of total extra-EU soybean imports in the period July 2022 to June 2023. Of these countries, as can be seen in **Table 3.1.1**, FG72 soybean was [REDACTED]

The top 10 largest suppliers of extra-UK soybean to the UK in the reporting period July 2022 to June 2023 are Brazil, United States, Canada, China, India, Nigeria, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Japan and Sri Lanka. Together, they accounted for over 99.99% of total extra-UK soybean imports in the period July 2022 to June 2023. Of these countries, as can be seen in **Table 3.1.1**, FG72 soybean was [REDACTED].

Taking into account the estimated share of cultivation of FG72 soybean in the exporting countries and the relative weight of these countries among the import origins, it could be estimated that [REDACTED] of the total imported soybean into the EU and UK might contain the FG72 soybean event.

The reports received from COCERAL, UNISTOCK and FEDIOL show that no adverse effects linked to the presence of FG72 soybean were recorded in the time period from July 2022 to June 2023.

Syngenta has not received any adverse report or indication from operators handling FG72 soybean in the EU or UK.

There have been no reports on adverse health or environmental effects associated with the use of FG72 soybean in the countries where it is being commercialized.

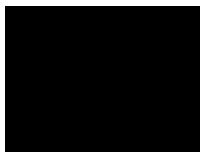
No indication of adverse effects of FG72 soybean in the context of the authorisation has been found in the literature search.

In summary, there is, to the best of our knowledge, no information available that questions the conclusion that FG72 soybean does pose any greater risk to health or the environment than conventional soybean.

5. Adaptation of the monitoring plan and associated methodology for future years

In view of the results given in this report, no revisions to the general surveillance plan are considered necessary for FG72 soybean.

Signed:

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Date: December 01, 2023