

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NOVEL FOODS AND PROCESSES**

**PAPER FOR INFORMATION**

**ASSESSMENT OF ALLERGENICITY OF GM CROPS**

Members may be interested to see the attached commentary, recently published in *Nature Immunology*, which presents an overview of the assessment of allergenicity of GM crops and derived foods (**Annex 1**). The paper discusses a range of issues and uncertainties associated with this aspect of risk assessment of GM crops. The author concludes that an approach based on multiple techniques provides the most effective safety assessment of the allergenic potential of GM crops.

The points covered in this commentary have been discussed in EFSA's recent guidance document of GM plants, which was published in March 2005. The relevant section is attached for ease of reference (**Annex 2**). The *Nature Immunology* paper advocates an ordered approach to allergenicity assessment that incorporates multiple techniques, which is consistent with the EFSA guidelines.

**Secretariat  
September 2005**

**Annexes attached:**

**Annex 1:** "Genetically modified crops and allergenicity". DM Metcalf, *Nature Immunology* 6(9), 857-860 (September 2005).

**Annex 2:** Section 7.9 "Allergenicity" from the Guidance document of the Scientific Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms for the risk assessment of genetically modified plants and derived food and feed. EFSA (March 2005)

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NOVEL FOODS AND PROCESSES**

"Genetically modified crops and allergenicity". DM Metcalf, Nature Immunology 6(9), 857-860 (September 2005).

This document is available at: <http://www.nature.com/ni>

**Secretariat  
September 2005**

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NOVEL FOODS AND PROCESSES**

Section 7.9 "Allergenicity" from the Guidance document of the Scientific Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms for the risk assessment of genetically modified plants and derived food and feed. EFSA (March 2005).

This document has been published on the EFSA website at:

[http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/gmo/gmo\\_guidance/660/guidance\\_docfinal1.pdf](http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/gmo/gmo_guidance/660/guidance_docfinal1.pdf)

**Secretariat  
September 2005**