

Ms R Dadswell
ACNFP Secretariat
Food Standards Agency
Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London WC2B 6NH

28 September 2001

Dear Ms Dadswell

UPDATE ON MOLECULAR CHARACTERIZATION OF MAIZE TRANSFORMATION EVENT T25

Following my letter of 27 July 2001 I wish to address several points raised in your letter of July 24, 2001, regarding the January 22, 2001 BLAST sequence similarity search on Elite Event T25 insert flanking sequences. I regret that we did not include a more complete assessment of the sequence homology within the study originally submitted and trust that the following will fulfill this omission.

As mentioned in your letter, it is quite correct that the homology occurred 40 Kb downstream from the *Adh* gene and not within it. We now also know that the homology occurred within a *Huck2* retrotransposon block that flanks the *bronze*, *Adh1* and 22 kDa zein regions of the nuclear DNA of *Zea mays*. The *bronze* and 22kDa zein regions were identified when the BLAST sequence similarity search was redone on August 2, 2001. In preparing a reply to your letter, the search was redone to take into account DNA sequence database updates made since the original search was conducted in January.

The results of the August 2 search are within the enclosed study, which provides a more detailed discussion of the sequence homologies than were provided in our January study. With the passage of time, we can now identify three significant sequence homologies within each flanking region, the *Zea mays* bz (*bronze*) locus, the *Zea mays* 22 kDa alpha zein gene cluster and the previously identified *Zea mays Adh1* allele. The study also includes and expands upon the information previously provided regarding the *Adh1* allele homology and can thus replace the previous study.

As also mentioned in your letter, the 3' query sequence is rearranged as compared to published sequences. Within the Discussion (Part 5) of the enclosed study we identify the inverted relationship between one block of base pairs in the 3' flanking sequence and a portion of the *Adh1* allele, the 22 kDa alpha zein gene

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cluster and the bz (bronze) locus. We have not determined whether the inversion is present within the wild type *Zea mays*.

We believe the enclosed, updated study provides a clearer, more comprehensive and forthright presentation of information about the DNA sequences that flank the insert of Maize Transformation Event T25, than our earlier study did. We also believe it provides a clearer indication that the insertion occurred within a retrotransposon block. If there are additional questions or you would like to further discuss the BLAST sequence homology search findings, please do not hesitate to contact us.

I have enclosed one copy of the study, which includes two pages with colour annotations. If you require further copies please let me know.

I am also copying this letter to DEFRA

Yours sincerely

BioScience Regulatory Affairs

Cc Adrian Butt, DEFRA

Aventis CropScience UK Limited . Fyfield Road . Ongar . Essex . CM5 0HW . www.aventis.co.uk
Telephone +44 (0) 1277 301301. Fax +44 (0) 1277 362610

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