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Hungary

Post: Budapest

Scientific Community Promotes Plain Facts On GMOs

Report Categories:

Biotechnology

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Report Highlights:

Hungary has followed a dual and somewhat divergent approach towards agricultural biotechnology. On the one hand, Hungary has a strong agricultural tradition and proudly hosts production and research-development units for well known international seed companies. On the other hand, the Ministry of Rural Development is openly opposed to planting of biotech plant varieties within the European Union. In this context, a new white paper titled “Plain Facts about GMOs” is a unique endeavor by Hungarian scientists to provide peer-reviewed facts on biotechnology to politicians and non-professional public audiences.

General Information:

White Paper was unveiled at a press conference in Budapest on March 22, 2011. It was conceived and written by leading Hungarian biotechnology scholars. The introduction of the White Paper was timed to coincide with the March 25-26 meeting of the EU Environmental Ministers Council and it received wide publicity in print and electronic media. Downloadable versions of the book, including in English, are available at www.pannonbiotech.hu and www.zoldbiotech.uw.hu.

The White Paper analyses the history of genetic modification, including plant biotechnology, microbial, and animal applications. Specific articles are devoted to the economic impacts of biotech crops, environmental safety, media and public opinion, and ethical questions. The goal of authors was to write a book examining the arguments for and against biotechnology from scientific point of view. However, they have sought to use language and formats that are accessible to the laymen. The authors plan to send a copy of the book to each member of the Hungarian Parliament.

The initial print run was 700 copies in Hungarian and in English, which was paid for by the Pannonian Plant Biotechnology Association and the Zoltan Barabas Agricultural Biotechnology Association.

The White Paper is 136 pages and is broken into 20 sections:

- 1. Recommendation** *Ingo Potrykus*
- 2. Editor's introduction** *Ervin Balázs, Dénes Dudits, László Sági .*
- 3. Statement on Genetically Modified Organisms from the Section of Agricultural Sciences of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences .**
- 4. Position of gene technology amongst genetic modification tools** *Pál Venetianer .*
- 5. Procedures for the generation of genetically modified organisms** *László Sági, Elen Góczai, Kornél Kovács .*
- 6. Integration of gene technology research into plant breeding** *Zoltán Bedő, Csaba L. Marton*
- 7. Present and future role of different generations of GM crops in the Hungarian agriculture** *Dénes Dudits .*
- 8. The results and future prospects of genetically modified livestock animals** *Zsuzsanna Bősze, László Hiripi .*
- 9. GM plants for feeding livestock** *János Gundel*
- 10. The possible role of GM technology in the breeding, propagation and processing of the future biomass crops** *László Márton, Miklós G. Fári .*
- 11. Biopesticides and biofertilizers** *László Hornok, Katalin Posta.*
- 12. The role of GM microbes in the fermentation technology** *Kornél Kovács*
- 13. Genetically modified plants as the basis of food quality**

improvement and pharmaceutical production

László Tamás, Mária Oszvald .

14. An overview of the economic impacts of GM crops

József Popp, Norbert Potori .

15. GMOs and environmental safety

Ervin Balázs, László Sági .

16. The process of gene technology regulation *Ervin Balázs*

17. GM plants – the media – the public *Júlia Gimes*

18. Genetically modified crops: A beginning or the end?

Béla Somfai

**19. Reference list of Hungarian research papers
describing GMOs.**

20. List of authors and their contact details