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Mexico Approves 4 Additional GE Corn Pilot Tests

Report Categories:

Biotechnology and Other New Production

Technologies

Biotechnology - GE Plants and Animals

Planting Seeds

Grain and Feed

Agriculture in the News

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Report Highlights:

The Government of Mexico (GOM) continues granting environmental and pilot testing permits to developers of genetically engineered (GE) corn and other crops on a limited basis. On March 23, 2012, the GOM published information indicating that four additional pilot tests of GE corn, the second stage in the biotech approval process, were approved.

General Information:

On March 23, 2012, the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA) through the National Service of Health, Food Safety, and Food Quality (SENASICA) published [updated information](#) on the status of 2011 and 2012 year-to-date requests for experimental as well as pilot testing of genetically modified corn.

The relevance of this updated information is that the GOM approved four additional pilot tests of GE corn by a number of developers. The four additional tests are all approved in the area of Tamaulipas and cover an area of 7.55 hectares. The publication also indicates that 11 experimental tests requested in 2011 are still pending a final determination as to whether the tests will be approved or denied.

In 2011, the GOM received 76 (59 experimental and 17 pilot) requests for experimental or pilot testing of GE corn. Of these, 46 have been approved (40 experimental and 6 pilot), 8 (all pilot) have been denied, 19 (16 experimental and 3 pilot) are pending a determination (concurrence between different regulatory agencies), and 3 (all experimental) are undergoing risk assessments. The GOM information indicates that since the beginning of 2012, nine additional requests (6 environmental and 3 pilot) for GE corn planting have been requested. The environmental requests are all in the state of Nayarit whereas the pilot tests are in the irrigated production areas around the states of Chihuahua, Coahuila, and Durango and cover an area of 1,175 hectares. It should be noted, however, that the GOM continues permitting only a fraction of the requested area for planting and conducting experimental and pilot tests.

The most recent approved GE corn events for pilot testing are:

Event	Release Locations	Area Allowed (Ha)
DAS-Ø15Ø7-1	Tamaulipas: Matamoros and Rio Bravo	2.00
MON-ØØ6Ø3-6	Tamaulipas: Predios Diaz Ordaz, Rio Bravo and Valle Hermoso	0.15
DAS-Ø15Ø7-1	Tamaulipas: Predios Diaz Ordaz, Rio Bravo and Valle Hermoso	2.70
DAS-Ø15Ø7-1 x MON-ØØ6Ø3-6	Tamaulipas: Predios Diaz Ordaz, Rio Bravo and Valle Hermoso	2.70

In addition to the above four pilot tests, Mexico approved the following GE corn events for testing on December 31, 2011.

Event	Release Locations	Area Allowed (Ha)
MON-ØØ6Ø3-6	Sinaloa municipalities: Guasave, El Fuerte, Salvador, Alvarado, Ahome, Culiacan, and Elota	20.28
MON-89Ø34-3 x MON-88Ø17-3	Sinaloa municipalities: Guasave, Angostura, El Fuerte, Salvador Alvarado, Ahome, Culiacan, Elota, Navolato and Badiraguato	43.20

Information from SAGARPA SENASICA on 2010 and 2009 requests and approvals for environmental and pilot testing of biotech corn is available from the SENASICA [website](#).

Author Defined:**For More Information**

FAS/Mexico Web Site: We are available at www.mexico-usda.com or visit the FAS headquarters'

home page at www.fas.usda.gov for a complete selection of FAS worldwide agricultural reporting.

Other Relevant Reports Submitted by FAS/Mexico:

Report Number	Subject	Date Submitted
MX2001	GE Corn Pilot Tests Approved	1/6/2012
MX1100	Mapping Mexican Corn and Implications for Biotech Development	12/21/2011
MX1086	<i>Biotech Corn Permits Being Reviewed-November Update</i>	11/18/2011
MX1070	2011 Biotech Corn Permits Being Reviewed	9/20/2011
MX1056	2011 Biotech Annual: Mexico Authorizes First Commercial Biotech Cultivation	7/15/2011
MX1054	June Cotton Update	6/30/2011
MX1102	2010 Biotech Corn Permits Issued	1/26/2011
MX0044	2010 Biotech Annual: Mexican Government Continues to Support Biotech Crops	7/14/2010

Useful Mexican Web Sites: Mexico's equivalent to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (SAGARPA) can be found at www.sagarpa.gob.mx , equivalent to the U.S. Department of Commerce (SE) can be found at www.economia.gob.mx and equivalent to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (SALUD) can be found at www.salud.gob.mx. These web sites are mentioned for the readers' convenience but USDA does NOT in any way endorse, guarantee the accuracy of, or necessarily concur with, the information contained on the mentioned sites.