

## **FARM SCALE EVALUATIONS**

### **Spring GM Oilseed rape Crop Trials 2002 - Individual Site Assessments**

#### *Objective*

Aventis Crop Science Ltd has a licence (Deliberate Release consent) to carry out the release of the particular line of genetically modified oilseed rape in the farmscale evaluation programme throughout Great Britain. Supplied in the original consent application was a generic risk which was placed on the Public Register. The application was considered by a number of statutory authorities - including the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (ACRE), a body of independent expert scientists - before permission was granted for this programme of work to proceed. ACRE's advice to Ministers was also placed on the Public Register.

Aventis's application and risk assessment are such that the GM oilseed rape in the farmscale evaluations would be planted in areas where conventional oilseed rape would normally be grown. Aventis notified the Joint Regulatory Authority (DEFRA) of proposed locations for these releases indicating that the original risk assessment was applicable to these sites.

Officials from the Scottish Agricultural Science Agency have carried out a site assessment of each of the proposed release locations in Scotland to verify and check that there are no local factors which alter the risk assessment.

Factors such as location and size of the site, the description of the site ecosystem and in particular whether the trial is situated in an oilseed rape growing area, were considered together with the proximity of each site to sites of special scientific interest (SSSI's). These assessments can be found in the pages that follow and are arranged alphabetically.

#### *Site assessments*

Most of these assessments were done within SEERAD using databases and detailed environmental mapping systems. A Geographical Information System (GIS) database was used to confirm the grid reference against each site. The proposed acreage of planting was checked to ensure it corresponded to that permitted under the terms of the consent.

Proximity of SSSIs in relation to each release site was checked by Scottish Natural Heritage (the statutory conservation body in Scotland). Scottish Natural Heritage has indicated that they are satisfied that these release sites do not pose a risk to the SSSIs in question.

Each assessment is accompanied by a description of the site ecosystem. This was determined by calculating the percentage of the total area that was covered by each different land cover type within 5km of each release site using the 1 km square version of the 1988 Land Cover Map for Scotland.

As SASA officials were familiar with two of the proposed sites, a field visit was made to the third site (Newport on Tay). This enabled a detailed check to be made to establish that the selected field was in an arable ecosystem and that there was a history of oilseed rape cultivation in the area (and was compliant with the risk assessment).

During the site visit, a handheld Global Positioning System (GPS) was used to verify the location of the field in relation to the field grid reference supplied by Aventis.

***Conclusion***

All sites were found to be compliant with the information submitted by Aventis Crop Science Ltd and the overall risk assessment as detailed in consent 98/R19/18.

The site assessments are as follows:

<b>Site Assessment</b>	<b>Grid Reference</b>
<a href="#">Aberdeen, Daviot (1)</a>	NJ 746 301
<a href="#">Aberdeenshire, Daviot (2)</a>	NJ 772 280
<a href="#">Fife, Newport on Tay</a>	NO 432 250

(Click on relevant site to view)