

**GM SCIENCE REVIEW**  
**DRAFTING GROUP ON**  
**GENE FLOW, DETECTION AND IMPACT**

**NOTE OF FIRST MEETING**

**Tuesday 8 April 2003**

**The Department of Trade & Industry, 151 Buckingham Palace Road, London**

**Present**

**Members**

Professor Philip Dale (am only)  
Professor Mike Gale  
Professor John Gray  
Dr Brian Johnson  
Ms Julie Hill  
Professor Bernard Silverman

**Secretariat**

Dr Louise Ball OST (Secretary to drafting group)  
Dr Adrian Butt OST/DEFRA (am only)

**1. Secretariat welcome**

1. Apologies for absence had been received from: Professor Michael Wilson, Professor Alan Gray, Professor Peter Young and Professor Carlo Leifert.

**2. Working arrangements**

2. It was agreed that there would not be a formal chairperson for these meetings, but the secretary of the drafting group would act as facilitator. A note of the meeting would be published on the Science Review website.
3. Review papers will be produced jointly by the secretariat and by members: members will contribute their specific expertise and the secretariat will provide background and supporting material and consistency of style and format.
4. The drafting group is aiming to prepare first drafts for some of the review papers to be discussed at the main Panel meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> April.
5. The secretariat will draft a short introduction to the gene flow, detection and impact section of the Review. This will set out the issues in a broader context including how

they are addressed by the regulatory and safety assessment framework as well as outlining aims and approaches that are specific to this review topic.

### **3. Papers for the report**

6. It was proposed that for the first meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup> the structure of the papers should be laid out and bullet points used to give an indication of content.
7. It was agreed that the papers should be targeted at an interested lay audience.
8. The Group considered the Corr Willbourn report – there are five questions that are pertinent to gene flow, detection and impact:

- D4:** Could harm be caused by cross contamination?
- E7:** What will the effect be on natural (non-GM) crops / wildlife?
- F3:** What are the real experience of US farmers and consumers?
- F5:** What controls and regulations/ legislation are in place?
- J2:** What legacy are we leaving future generations?

9. Five main issues on gene flow, detection and impact were then identified:
  - i. Horizontal gene flow to soil microbes
  - ii. Gene flow to agricultural weeds.
  - iii. Gene flow to semi-natural populations.
  - iv. Gene flow to other crops (GM and non-GM)
  - v. Horizontal gene flow of inserted DNA to infecting plant viruses.

Members were proposed to lead on issues, or particular aspects of these issues. The secretariat will ask members who were not able to attend the meeting for their agreement.

10. The Group considered that the papers reviewing the five main issues identified should address:
  - (i) Whether and to what extent gene flow occurs and whether it can be detected.
  - (ii) What the significance / impact of gene flow would be if it did happen?Where appropriate, the papers should also consider: the stability and persistence of transferred genes in recipients and whether gene flow can be contained.
11. The titles of these sections were not decided. However, it was felt that the titles of the main issues should be precise, neutral in tone but not too detailed.

### **4. Any other business**

12. The secretary agreed to brief those absent from the meeting as a matter of urgency.
13. It was agreed that the next meeting should be after the main Panel meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

**GM Science Review Secretariat**  
**April 2003**