

## GM MAIZE EVENT 1507 FOR EU CULTIVATION: POSITIVE VOTE IN REGULATORY COMMITTEE (DIRECTIVE 2001/18/EC)

The 1507 maize cultivation application (**Ref: C/ES/01/01**) was submitted for EU approval by Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. (a DuPont subsidiary) as represented by Pioneer Overseas Corporation, and by Mycogen Seeds, (a Dow AgroSciences subsidiary) in July 2001. The European Commission should have presented a draft decision for approval of GM maize event 1507 for 'cultivation' after the first positive safety opinion from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) delivered in January 2005. Instead the application was delayed and returned for a second EFSA Opinion, delivered in November 2006 and supporting the first Opinion. Following subsequent delays from the European Commission, a third positive opinion by the EFSA was issued in October 2008. 1507 maize already has EU approval (March 2006) for Food, Feed, Processing and Import purposes. Member States must be allowed to vote for the dossier for cultivation approval according to EU legislation and this application must no longer be unnecessarily delayed. 1507 maize, genetically modified with the *Bt* trait, provides a new maize event with built-in resistance to certain insect pests. 1507 maize will be an important additional choice for European farmers who want to use this sustainable and environmentally advantageous technology. Furthermore, 1507 maize contains no antibiotic resistance marker gene. 1507 Maize will bring real benefits to the environment, to European farmers and to the entire agricultural chain.

### 1. 1507 maize dossier meets all the latest EU regulatory requirements:

- Positive assessment from Member State Rapporteur - Spanish Competent Authority.
- Three positive opinions from GMO Scientific Panel, the EFSA.
- Safe history of 1507 and other *Bt* maize events.
- 1507 maize contains no antibiotic resistance marker gene.
- Cultivation of 1507 maize will be accompanied with a comprehensive monitoring plan.

**1507 maize meets the latest EU regulatory requirements and should be approved without further delay.**

### 2. Approval will give European farmers additional choice in *Bt* maize technologies:

- *Bt* maize (with a trait from only one company) is already grown by thousands of European farmers and competition in seed traits market will improve choice for European farmers.
- Benefits for European farmers by growing 1507 maize in areas of insect pressure could range from €20 to €250 per hectare in addition to savings from no longer needing to use insecticides.
- *Bt* maize was grown on 28.1 million hectares worldwide in 2007 and European farmers should have the choice to use this valuable technology as well.

### 3. Demonstrates Member States' commitment to sustainable agriculture:

- 1507 maize provides environmental benefits to agriculture by increasing yield on the same amount of land with fewer inputs, including pesticides.
- Approval of 1507 maize will signal Member States' commitment to sustainable agriculture.

### 4. Consumer benefits – 1507 maize contributes to improved grain quality:

- Like other *Bt* maize, 1507 is less susceptible to the development of moulds and mycotoxins.

### 5. Demonstrates Member States' commitment to the Lisbon Agenda:

- Increasing Europe's competitiveness through innovation and new technologies such as biotechnology is an important element of the Lisbon Agenda.
- Meets European competitiveness goals set by Member States.
- Supports strict GMO regulatory framework established by Member States' which promotes consumer choice and innovation, while ensuring safety.

**1507 MAIZE PRODUCTS WILL BE LABELLED IN FULL COMPLIANCE WITH PREVAILING EU RULES,  
ENSURING CONSUMERS' ACCESS TO TRANSPARENT INFORMATION AND CHOICE**

### The Applicants



From Pioneer's start as a hybrid maize breeding company in 1926, farmers around the world have continued to endorse the company's commitment to develop innovative plant genetics that meet the changing needs of agricultural producers. In adding modern biotechnology to its traditional capabilities, Pioneer and its parent company, DuPont, are guided by principles based on long experience in using science and innovation in a safe, responsible manner. For more information regarding our commitment to these principles, please visit:

<http://www.dupont.com/biotech/difference/principles.html>



**Dow AgroSciences**

Dow AgroSciences, a global leader in providing pest management and agricultural solutions, is committed to offering farmers a balanced array of crop protection solutions - conventional and biotech. Dow AgroSciences is committed to the principles of Responsible Care\* and applies strict environmental, health and safety standards to its research and development process. For more information about Dow AgroSciences and its involvement in plant genetics and biotechnology, please visit <http://www.dowagro.com/pgb/>

## FURTHER DETAILS:

### 1. 1507 maize meets all the latest EU Regulatory requirements:

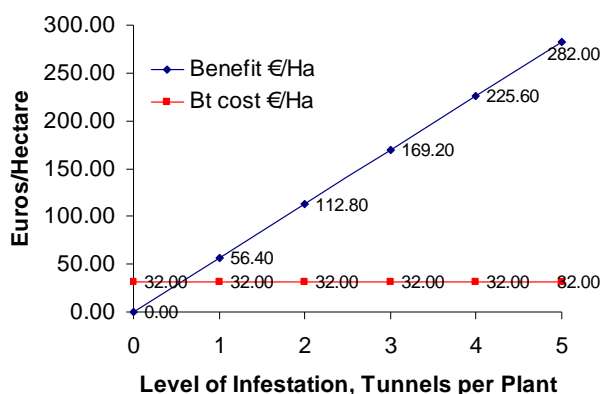
1507 maize has already been approved for food in fifteen countries in addition to the European Union, and for cultivation in seven countries. After careful evaluation of all the extensive safety studies, the GMO Scientific Panel of the EFSA gave the 1507 maize cultivation dossier a positive safety opinion in January 2005:

*"The Panel considers that 1507 maize will have similar impacts as other comparable non-GM maize cultivars on the environment."*

The second (November 2006) and third (October 2008) EFSA positive opinions, analysed additional data and delivered the same conclusion. 1507 maize presents no concerns related to hybridisation with wild populations in Europe. Furthermore, the type of protein (*Bacillus thuringiensis* – referred to as 'Bt') which protects 1507 maize against various insect pests has in fact been widely used by organic farmers for many years. Notably 1507 maize contains no antibiotic resistance marker gene. A comprehensive environmental monitoring plan comprising of case-specific monitoring and general surveillance will be implemented in Member States where 1507 maize will be commercially cultivated. 1507 maize is grown and consumed safely around the world and there is no reason why this dossier has remained with the Commission awaiting to be forwarded to the Member States for a decision when the EU regulations require this to have been done within 120 days after the positive safety opinion from the EFSA. Cultivation of 1507 maize should thus be approved without further delay.

### 2. More choice for European farmers:

The figure shows the expected benefit in euros per hectare of 1507 maize at the various levels of European Corn Borer (ECB) pressure. Projections are based on a planting rate of 80,000 seeds per hectare, maize grain price of €100/metric tonne, a yield level of 9.4 tonnes/hectare and a premium cost for 1507 maize seed versus conventional seed of €32 per hectare. This analysis does not consider additional costs of applying insecticide sprays to the conventional maize and therefore, the incremental benefits of growing 1507 maize versus untreated conventional maize are already considerable with one tunnel per plant.



### 3. Sustainable agriculture and the Environment:

Consumers are paying more attention to how their food is produced, especially regarding the impact on the environment. GM crops, and 1507 maize in particular, represent an important tool that contributes to the production of food and fibre while increasing the sustainability of farming. Examples of sustainable advantages of 1507 maize include less use of pesticides and greater production using the same area of land. Furthermore, 1507 maize affects only those target insect pests that attack the maize plant, while broad application sprays may harm both target and non-target species. Approval of the 1507 maize cultivation dossier will provide European farmers with more choice of agricultural biotech products which are not only safe for the environment, but which positively contribute to sustainable food supply in Europe.

### 4. Consumer benefits – 1507 maize contributes to improved grain quality:

Insects cause many forms of damage when they feed on the maize plant and this can lead to growth of fungi and the production of mycotoxins such as fumonisins. Mycotoxins pose a potential threat to human and animal health if consumed. However, 1507, like other *Bt* maize, is resistant to insect pest damage and therefore the likelihood of development of moulds and mycotoxins in 1507 maize is greatly reduced.

### 5. Demonstrates Member States' commitment to the Lisbon Agenda:

The Lisbon Agenda sets out goals to secure the sustainable economic well-being of EU citizens through the first part of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Innovation and new technology such as biotechnology are critical to meeting these goals, a fact to which Member States have already subscribed. As part of the Lisbon Strategy, the March 2003 progress report 'Life Sciences&Biotechnology-a strategy for Europe' endorsed by the Council of the EU stated:

*"The Commission considers that it has met its commitments to create the conditions for making the GMO authorisation procedure operational and it is ready to play its role in managing the new procedure. Member States should equally assume their responsibilities in order to ensure that progress is made on authorisations."*

The EU regulatory framework for GMOs has been substantially revised, making it the most stringent and comprehensive in the world. The 1507 maize dossier meets these requirements. Therefore a positive vote on the 1507 maize dossier will demonstrate Member States' recognition of the vital role biotechnology can play in furthering European competitiveness while ensuring consumer choice and the safety of human and animal health and the environment.