

## Synpunkter

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### Synpunkter angående ansökan om marknadsgodkännande av den gen-modifierade majshybriden MON88017 x MON810 (EFSA/GMO/CZ/2006/33)

The current maize is a hybrid between Mon88017 that is modified to confer tolerance to glyphosate and resistance towards corn rootworm (*Diabrotica* spp.), and Mon810, modified to confer resistance towards certain lepidopteran insects (European corn borer and *Sesamia* spp.).

The Western corn rootworm is the most important pest of maize in Midwestern USA ("the corn belt") which affects 27 million hectares of maize (out of 30 million in totals for the USA). Following its detection in Europe in 1992, it has also become the most important pest of this crop in several countries of Central and Eastern Europe. In The United States, crop rotation has been used as a mean to control the pest. However, in some states (Illinois, Michigan, Indiana and Ohio) a portion of the adult population has exhibited a dramatic change in behaviour by flying to, and laying high numbers of eggs in crops in rotation with maize. This behavioural change has virtually eliminated the benefit of crop rotation, and has caused a high percentage of farmers to return to insecticides or to adopt the type of bt-maize of interest in the current application. In Nebraska populations of the western corn rootworm has become resistance to pesticides used in this area, i.e. methyl parathion and carbaryl insecticides.

In cultures of Mon810, none or limited amounts of insecticides are used. Furthermore, bt-resistance towards corn borers has proved to reduce the amount of mycotoxins produced by *Fusarium*.

In comparison, culture of the current maize hybrid demands none or limited amounts of insecticides to secure the harvest, while for culture of non-transgenic maize many farmers in the United States rely on the use of insecticides. Residues of the insecticides might constitute a problem from a food security point of view.

From a technical-scientific point of view, we have no reason to question the applicants' conclusions in the technical dossier concerning the safe use of the current maize as food and feed.

För Gentekniknämnden



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