



Annual Report on HSNO Act Approval
GMF000041 (application GMF06001)
Bt Brassica *Field Test (Facility No 5356)*.

July 2010

A report prepared for
The Environmental Risk Management
Authority New Zealand Ltd and Te Rūnanga o
Ngāi Tahu, Te Taumutu Rūnanga and
Ngā Kaihautu Tikanga Taiao.

SPTS No. 4385

CONFIDENTIALITY

This report contains commercially valuable scientific information which is CONFIDENTIAL to The New Zealand Institute for Plant & Food Research Limited ("Plant & Food Research"). This report is made available to the Environmental Risk Management Authority New Zealand ("ERMA"), Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, Te Taumutu Rūnanga and Nga Kaihautu Tikanga Taiao for the sole purpose of submitting an institute annual report on monitoring actions taken and compliance with HSNO Approval GMF000041. This report must not be made available to, or be allowed to be used by, any third party for any other purpose without prior written consent from Plant & Food Research.

ACCEPTANCE

Retaining possession of this report shall constitute acceptance of the foregoing conditions. If these conditions are not acceptable, please read no further and return this report to Plant & Food Research without copying.

COPYRIGHT (2010)

The New Zealand Institute for Plant & Food Research Limited
Mount Albert Research Centre
120 Mount Albert Road
Auckland

Telephone:(09) 925 7000

Facsimile:(09) 925 7001

All Rights Reserved.

ERMA, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, Te Taumutu Rūnanga and Nga Kaihautu Tikanga Taiao shall be entitled to make such copies of this report only as are necessary for the specific purpose for which it has been provided by Plant & Food Research, but no part of this report may otherwise be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, by any electronic or mechanical means, by photocopying or recording, or otherwise, without the written permission of Plant & Food Research.

Contents

1. Executive summary	1
2. Purpose	1
3. Project Management Team	2
4. Field site activities for July 2009 – June 2010	3
5. Any unanticipated events or issues with controls	4
6. Educational and public awareness activities	4
7. Maori relationship development	4
8. Proposed activities for July 2010 – June 2011	5
9. Scientific publications	5

1. Executive summary

Plant & Food Research is a New Zealand-based science company formed in December 2008 from the merger of Crop & Food Research and HortResearch. The company provides research and development that adds value to fruit, vegetable, crop and food products and has over 900 staff based at sites across New Zealand as well as in Europe, the USA and Australia.

On 25 May 2007, Crop & Food Research received an Environmental Risk Management Authority approval with controls to carry out a field test in containment of genetically modified organisms under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act 1996 (HSNO approval GMF00041).

Field test activities for the year/season were completed on September 2008. MAFBNZ was notified of completion of the test and post harvest monitoring began.

On 23 December 2008, a breach of controls was identified and one cut GM brassica plant (Kale) from the field test had developed a flower stem and that at least one flower on that stem had opened in the field. Flowering is not permitted under the HSNO approval controls. Immediately on discovery internal and external investigations were undertaken, risk mitigation measures were implemented and MAFBNZ issued a Critical Situation Report (CSR) and Compliance Order for future management of the field test sites. Plant & Food Research formally ceased all work under HSNO approval GMF00041.

A Plant & Food Research Project Management Team was established to oversee monitoring of the field test. All positions were also reassigned in accordance with changes to Plant & Food Research's internal policy which is designed to enhance oversight of field test operations. Following application of herbicide the test site now lies fallow and is being monitored monthly by members of the project team in accordance with the MAF Compliance Order and Plant & Food Research Containment Manual.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to fulfil the requirements of HSNO approval GMF00041 control 7.7 for the GM Brassica field test. The report describes activities associated with the field test over the twelve month period to 30 June 2010.

3. Project Management Team

The Project Management Team for the post harvest monitoring of the GMF000041 Field Trial (Facility No 5356) consists of the seven key PFR personnel.

The Project Management Team met on four times during the previous year on the following dates; 17 July 2009, 15 October 2009, 17 December 2009 and 23 June 2010. Additional planning meetings were also held on 31 May 2010 and 5 July 2010. The Project Management Team oversee and guide the work of the Surveillance Team who undertake monthly checks of the field trial site.

Key monthly compliance milestones have been logged into the internal Plant & Food Research reporting system through the internal financial and reporting system, SAP. Completion of all milestones is reported to the Board of Directors at monthly intervals. All milestone reporting deadlines for the GM field test have been met.

The field test site has been visited by the Plant & Food Research Board and members of Senior Management Team during the year to review procedures in operation at the field test site.

On 10 September 2009 the General Manager New Organisms ERMA, also visited the GM *Brassica* field test site to review monitoring progress.

4. Field test site activities for July 2009 – June 2010

All experimental work on this test ceased in 2008 and all plant material has been destroyed by means approved under the HSNO approval GMF000041, control 1.12. No research activity is being undertaken at the field test site.

Monthly post harvesting monitoring is conducted by members of the surveillance team in accordance with the MAF Compliance Order and their activities are regularly reviewed by the project management team. Monthly records are maintained for all activities and a herbicide application register and visitor log is kept for the field test site. The site and record systems are subject to internal and external audits by Plant & Food Research senior managers and MAFBNZ inspection and internal monthly milestones are reported to the Board of Directors.

Herbicides have been applied to the controlled site at regular intervals to ensure that weed cover would not mask the presence of *Brassica* plants and to prevent emergence of any *Brassica* plants. No *Brassica* plants were found in the controlled site over this period.

The MAF Biosecurity New Zealand and ERMA *'Containment Facilities for Plants 2007'* requires the Operator to ensure that internal audits are conducted six monthly. In accordance with this requirement the first internal audit report was conducted on 5 February 2009 followed by audits on the 21 August 2009 and 17 March 2010.

The field test site was also externally audited by MAFBNZ on 16 November 2009. No corrective actions were issued as a result of this audit. Two minor recommendations were made regarding the form of records to be kept. These recommendations were implemented.



Figure 1: Field Test Site

5. Any unanticipated events or issues with controls

There were no unanticipated events at the site, or issues with controls during the 2009 – 2010 monitoring period. Regular surveillance of the field test site is undertaken and the integrity of the boundary fence is checked monthly.

6. Educational and public awareness activities

There have been no educational or public awareness activities undertaken in the past year relating to HSNO approval GMF00041. No research activity is being undertaken on this approval. The HSNO Committee of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, members of ERMA, MAFBNZ, and Board and senior managers from Plant & Food Research have visited the site for informational and educational purposes.

7. Maori relationship development

On Wednesday, 27th January 2010, The CEO and Chief Operating Officer of Plant & Food Research hosted a meeting with the HSNO Committee of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, ERMA and MAFBNZ at Lincoln.

At the meeting the position of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu in relation to GM research and HSNO approvals was discussed. The tribal body has prepared the *Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Policy Statement 2008* as a guiding document.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, ERMA and MAF visitors were taken on site visits to view remedial work that had been undertaken by Plant & Food Research. Both the GM containment facility and field test sites at Lincoln were visited.

The next meeting between the CEO and Chief Operating Officer of Plant & Food Research and the HSNO Committee of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu was due on 26 August 2010.

8. Proposed activities for July 2010 – June 2011

No further GM research work is to be undertaken on the field test site.

The test site continues to be monitored monthly by the surveillance team under the guidance of the Project Management Team in accordance with Plant & Food Research Containment Manual developed for the field test, controls in the HSNO approval and the MAF Compliance Order issued on 5 March 2009.

9. Scientific publications

No scientific publications have been produced over this reporting period.