

PRESENTATION OF THE RESULTS OF
DELIBERATE RELEASE INTO THE ENVIRONMENT OF
GENETICALLY MODIFIED HIGHER PLANTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH
ARTICLE 10 OF DIRECTIVE 2001/18/EC



1 General information

- 1.1 European notification number: **B/NL/05/03**
- 1.2 Member State of notification: **Netherlands**
- 1.3 Date of consent and consent number: **06.03.2006, revoked 2007, DMG/SAS IM 05/003**

2. Report status

- 2.1 Please indicate whether, according to Article 3 of the present Decision, the current report is:
- final report
 - a post-release monitoring report
 - final
 - intermediary

3. Characteristics of the release

- 3.1 Scientific name of the recipient organism: ***Solanum tuberosum***

Transformation event(s) (acronym(s)) or vectors¹ used (if transformation event identity not available): **264 different events were released that comprised either construct VCPMA16 or VCPMA19. Three different parental potato varieties (p698, p835, p880) served as starting material for transformation.**

¹ In the case of small-scale field trials where several lines may be tested, the vectors used should be mentioned, which gives insight into the introduced traits and/or genetic elements. In the case of large(r)-scale field trials, the number of events notified is limited to only one or a few events

3.4 Please provide the following information as well as the field(s) layout:

Geographical location(s) (administrative region and, where appropriate, grid reference)	Size of release site(s) ² (m ²)	Identity ³ and approximate number of GM higher plants per event actually released (number of seeds/plants per m ²)	Duration of the release(s) (from (d/m/y) until (d/m/y))
Lingewaard	1063	VCPMA16 p698: 1880 tubers p835: 2400 tubers p880: 440 tubers 4,5 tubers per m ²	04.05. 2006 – 19.10.2006
	126	VCPMA19 p698: 380 tubers p835: 180 tubers 4,5 tubers per m ²	

4. Any kind of product that the notifier intends to notify at a later stage

4.1 Does the notifier intend to notify the released transformation event(s) as product(s) for placing on the market under Community legislation(s) at a later stage?

Yes No unknown to date

If yes, indicate the country(ies) of notification:

If yes, specify for which use(s):

- Import
- Cultivation (e.g. seed/planting material production)
- Food
- Feed
- Pharmaceutical use (or processing for pharmaceutical use)
- Processing for
- Food use
- Feed use
- Industrial use
- others (please specify):

5. Type(s) of deliberate release(s)

Please select the main type(s) (in boxes) as well as the subtype(s). In the case of multi-sites, multi events and/or multi-annual release(s) please provide a general overview of the type(s) of deliberate releases(s) which have been carried out for the full duration of the consent.

5.1 Deliberate release(s) for research purposes

5.2 Deliberate release(s) for development purposes

Event screening

Proof of concept⁴: **Confirm improved resistance towards *Phytophthora infestans***

Agronomic performances (specify):

² Specify the size of the GM area and, where appropriate, the size of the non-GM area (e.g. non-GM border).

³ Vectors used

⁴ For example, testing the new trait under environmental conditions.

The purpose of the release was, within the frame of safety studies for the released events, to compile data on agronomical performance and environmental effects, as well as to collect plant material for further analyses.

Altered agronomic properties (specific):

One major aim of this trial is to compile data on susceptibility towards infection by *Phytophthora infestans* under field conditions.

Altered quantitative properties (specify):

Stability of expression

Multiplication of lines

Hybrid vigour study

Molecular farming⁵

Phyto-remediation

others (describe):

5.3 Official testing

Variety registration on a national variety catalogue

DUS (= Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability)

VCU (= Value of Cultivation and Use)

others (specify):

5.4 Herbicide authorisation

5.5 Deliberate release(s) for demonstration purposes

5.6 Seeds multiplication

5.7 Deliberate release(s) for biosafety/risk assessment research

Vertical gene transfer studies

Horizontal gene transfer studies (gene transfer to micro-organisms)

Management of volunteers

Potential changes in persistence or disposal

Potential invasiveness

Potential effects on target organisms

Potential effects on non-target organisms

Observation of resistant relatives

Observations of resistant insects

others: (describe)

5.8 Other(s) types(s) of deliberate release(s)

6. Method(s), result(s) of the release, management and monitoring measure(s) in respect of any risk to human health or the environment

6.1 Risk management measure(s)

Please report the risk-management measures, which have been used to avoid or minimise the spread of the GMO(s) outside the site(s) of release, and in particular those measures

- which were not originally notified in the application
- which were applied in addition to the conditions in the consent
- which the consent required only under certain conditions (e.g. dry periods, flooding)
- for which the consent allowed the notifier a choice among different measures

⁵ „Molecular farming“ means the production of substances (for instance, proteins, pharmaceuticals) by plants, which have been genetically modified for a particular trait. „Molecular farming“ could be defined as well as the production of plant-synthesized pharmaceuticals, plant-made pharmaceuticals, plant-based proteins production, etc.

6.1.1 Before sowing/planting:

- Clear labelling of the GM planting material lots (describe):

On the day of planting, the planting material was transported to the trial site in boxes which contained the seed potatoes doubly packed in bags. Each box was clearly labelled with a sign that read „genetically modified potatoes - unfit for consumption“, and all bags were tagged with a printed plastic label identifying the specific lines.

- Segregation during the processing and transport of the seed/planting material (describe the method involved; provide example(s) of containment to prevent spillage during the processing and transport):

All tuber lots were double bagged prior to transport and then placed into an outer solid crate for transportation. Potato tubers were transported separate from other commercial potatoes directly to the trial location prior to planting. All shipments were inspected on arrival to check shipping containers were intact. The amount of tubers was confirmed prior to planting according to the transport documentation.

- Destruction of superfluous seeds/planting material (describe method involved):

All tubers were planted on the test plot.

- Temporal isolation (specify):

- Rotation (specify the previous crop(s)):

Crop rotation according to standard agronomic practices was applied.

- others (specify):

6.1.2 During the sowing/planting

- Method of sowing/planting:

Tubers were planted by hand to the prepared and marked rows.

- Emptying and cleaning of the planting machinery on the field of release:

No planting machinery was employed

- Segregation during planting (provide example(s) of containment to prevent spillage during planting):

All tuber lots were double bagged prior to transport and then placed into an outer solid crate for transportation. Tubers were unpacked on the release site.

- others (specify):

6.1.3 During the period of release

- Isolation distance(s):

- from sexually compatible commercial plant species:

20 m from commercially grown potatoes

- from sexually compatible wild relatives:

Not applicable; there are no sexually compatible wild relatives of potato in Europe.

- Border row(s) (with the same crop or a different one, with a non-transgenic crop, x metres etc):

- Cage/net/fence/signpost (specify):

The trial site was signposted. The sign read “No unauthorized entry” and specified a telephone number for further information about the trial activities.

- Pollen trap (specify):

- Removal of GM inflorescences before flowering (indicate the frequency of the removal)
- Removal of bolters/relatives/hybrid partners (indicate the frequency of the removal, x metres around the GM field etc)
- other(s), describe:

Trials were observed during the vegetation period. General plant characteristics relating to the agronomic performance of the potato lines were observed and recorded.

6.1.4 At the end of the release

- Harvest/destruction methods (of crop or parts of it)/other means (e.g. sampling and analysis of sugar beet pulp)(describe):

Desiccated plant tops were chopped with a conventional mechanical topper to help ease the lifting process. The tubers were hand harvested or lifted onto the surface using a potato digger.

- Harvest/destruction before the ripeness of the seeds

- Effective removal of plant parts:

About 14 days prior to harvest the green plant parts were desiccated by herbicide application.

- Segregation storage and transport of crop/waste (provide example(s) of containment to prevent spillage of collected seeds/crop/wastes):

All tubers were harvested directly into net bags. These were then placed into a further container (ensuring double bagging) for shipment back to Germany for further analyses or destruction.

- Clean up of machinery on the release site:

All machinery involved in the harvest process was cleaned before and after harvest.

- Destination of the waste, treatment of waste/surplus yield/plant residues (describe):

All harvested material was returned to Germany for analysis or destruction. Dead above-ground plant material was left on the release site for composting.

- Post-harvest treatment and cultivation measures on the release site (describe the method(s) for preparing and managing the release site at the end of the release, including cultivation methods):

The release site was grubbed after harvest.

- other(s): describe:

6.1.5 Post-harvest measures

Please indicate which measures were taken on the release site after harvest:

Frequency of visits (average):

Post-harvest monitoring was done regularly during the vegetation period.

- Subsequent crops (specify):

- Crop rotation (specify):

Three years following the release no conventional potatoes were planted on the same field.

- Fallow/no crop (specify):

The trial area and the buffer zone remained fallow for 1 year following the harvest.

- Superficial soil work/no deep ploughing:

The plot was grubbed after harvest. No deep ploughing was conducted.

- False-sowing beds
 Control of volunteers (specify intervals and duration):

Regularly during the vegetation period until one year after the last year in which volunteers were observed.

- Appropriate chemical treatment(s) (specify):

Application of systemic, broad-spectrum herbicide.

- Appropriate soil treatment(s) (specify):
 others, (specify):

6.1.6 Other(s)measure(s), describe:

6.1.7 Emergency plan(s)

Indicate:

- if the release proceeded as planned:
 - Yes:
 - No (describe for which reason, e.g. vandalism, climatic conditions, etc):
- if measures according to the emergency plan(s) (Article 6(2)(a)(vi) and Annex iii.B of Directive 2001/18/EC) had to be taken:
 - No:
 - Yes (specify):

6.2 Post-release monitoring measures

Due to the fact that the current format can be used for the final and post-release monitoring report(s), the notifier is asked to clearly make the difference between both types of report through this section 2 of chapter 6. Please indicate whether:

- the post-release monitoring plan will start
 the post-release monitoring plan is ongoing
 the post-release monitoring plan has been completed
 no post-release monitoring plan has to be fulfilled.

The results of this monitoring are meant to confirm or invalidate earlier assumptions in the risk assessment.

According to the aforementioned cases, please indicate which monitoring measure(s) will be/are/were taken and where (on the release site/near the site (e.g. on field edges)). Please be aware that all post-release monitoring measures taken during the whole post-release period shall be indicated here.

Specify:

- Monitoring measures within the site
- Duration: For one year following the last year in which volunteers have been observed.**
- Frequency of visits (average): regularly during the vegetation period by trained personnel**
- Observation of resistant relatives
 Observation of resistant insects
 Control of volunteers (specify intervals and duration)
Any volunteer plants were killed before they could flower.
- Monitoring of gene flow (specify)
 Appropriate chemical treatment(s) and/or soil treatment(s)
Application of systemic, broad-spectrum herbicide.

others (specify):

Monitoring measures of adjacent areas:

Duration:

Frequency of visits (average):

Area monitored:

Observation of resistant relatives

Observation of resistant insects

Control of volunteers and/or monitoring of feral populations (specify intervals and duration)

Monitoring of gene flow (specify)

Appropriate chemical treatment(s) and/or soil treatment(s)

others (specify):

6.3 Plan for observation(s)/method(s) involved

Specify the observation plan and the methods used to collect the effects, which have to be reported in section 6.4. Any amendments or modifications to the plan as proposed in the application and the SNIF⁶ part B need to be specified in detail.

NB. During the time between the notification and the final report submission, new scientific insights or methods may be developed which cause a change in the methods used. In particular these modifications need to be specified under this section.

The GM potato lines were cultivated under conventional agricultural practice. The trial site was monitored regularly during the vegetation period. General plant characteristics relating to the agronomic performance of the potato lines were observed and recorded regularly. Plants will be infected with *Phytophthora infestans* and monitored for increased resistance.

6.4 Observed effect(s)

6.4.1 Explanatory note

All results of the deliberate release(s) in respect of any risk for human health or the environment shall be stated, without prejudice to whether the results indicate that any risk is increased, reduced or remains unchanged.

The main objectives of the information given in this section are:

- to confirm or invalidate any assumption regarding the occurrence and impact of potential effect(s) of the GMO(s) which was/were identified in the environmental risk assessment,
- to identify effect(s) of the GMO(s) which was/were anticipated in the environmental risk assessment.

The observed effect(s)/interaction(s) of the GMO(s) shall be reported:

- with respect to any risk to human health,
- with respect to any risk to the environment shall be reported under this section.

Particular attention shall be drawn to unexpected and unintended effect(s).

Indications as regards the effects that the notifier may have to report are provided hereunder. The effects have obviously to be considered in the light of the crop, the new trait, the receiving environment as well as the conclusions of the environmental risk assessment, which is carried out on a case-by-case basis.

In order to structure the information and to facilitate an efficient search within the given information, the notifier shall use, as far as possible, specific keywords to fill in the text fields under Chapter 6, especially sections 6.4.2, 6.4.3 and 6.4.4. A most updated list of those specific keywords is available on the Internet at <http://gmoinfo.jrc.it>.

6.4.2 Expected effect(s)

This sections "Expected effects", that is to say, potential effects which were already identified in the environmental risk assessments of the notification and could therefore be anticipated.

Notifiers should supply data from the deliberate release(s) which validate the assumptions made in the environmental risk assessment.

An intended effect of the introduced *Rpi-blb1* and *Rpi-blb2* genes from *Solanum bulbocastanum* is an increased ability of the potato to withstand infection by *Phytophthora infestans*.

⁶ Summary notification information format (=SNIF)

The expected increase in *Phytophthora* resistance could be confirmed.

No other effects than the increased resistance towards *Phytophthora infestans* were expected and could be observed.

6.4.3 Unexpected effect(s)⁷

“Unexpected effects” refer to effects on human health or the environment, which were not foreseen or identified in the environmental risk assessment of the notification. This part of the report should contain any information with regard to unexpected effects or observations relevant for the initial environmental risk assessment. In case of any observed unexpected effects or observations, this section should be as detailed as possible to allow a proper interpretation of the data.

No adverse or unexpected effects on human or animal health or the environment were recorded during the release.

6.4.4 Other information

Notifiers are encouraged to supply information, which is outside the scope of the notification but which might be relevant to the field trials in question. This might also include observations of beneficial effects.

7. Conclusion

In this chapter, the notifier should specify the conclusions drawn and the measures taken or to be taken on the basis of the results of the release with regard to further release(s) and, where appropriate, make reference to any kind of product the notifier intends to notify at a later stage.

The genetically modified potato events show an increased resistance towards *Phytophthora infestans*.

No unexpected cases of survival or persistence in untreated environments were observed. Neither the molecular nor the phenotypic analysis points to potential occurrence of any unintended effects on human or animal health.

No unforeseen or adverse effects on human or animal health or the environment were observed during the release. Therefore, no additional measures are deemed necessary for future releases.

The information provided in this report is not considered confidential in accordance to Article 25 of Directive 2201/18/EC.

This does not prevent the competent authority from requiring additional information from the notifier, both confidential and non-confidential.

In case of confidential data, it should be provided in an Annex to the report format, with a non-confidential summary or general description of these data, which will be made available to the public.

DATE: 11.12.2008

⁷ Without prejudice to Article 8 of Directive 2001/18/EC as regards handling of modifications or new information