



**ASSESSING THE EVIDENCE OF HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL,
AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF GMOS**
**Stakeholder Workshop on Good Review Practice
in GMO Impact Assessment**

22-23 APRIL 2013

**Julius Kühn Institut
Königin-Luise-Str. 1914195 Berlin, Germany**

DRAFT AGENDA

Context

In the course of the European Commission funded research project GRACE (GMO Risk Assessment and Communication of Evidence) the available evidence of health, environmental and socio-economic impacts of GM crops – considering both risks and benefits – will be reviewed. GRACE reviews will go beyond what has been done so far and will be conducted in a highly systematic, transparent and inclusive way, based on concepts of systematic reviews and evidence maps. Both types of review procedures have been proposed or used as a valuable tool to support evidence based policy making in many areas including medicine, environmental studies, social studies, and more recently also food safety. As a main difference to normal narrative reviews explicit review questions and review protocols describing all steps and methods of the review process are being developed before the review starts. The literature search is typically more extensive and the conduct of the review is documented in detail to allow for later verification as well as for updating. For systematic reviews two sets of criteria need to be developed – one for study inclusion and another one for assessing the quality of the evidence. In case of quantitative data a meta-analysis can be conducted.

Based on these concepts GRACE will develop and test a general framework for Good Review Practice in assessing health, environmental and socio-economic impacts of GM crops. All key steps of these reviews will be subjected to stakeholder scrutiny and feed-back. The results of the reviews will be made available via an open access database which will be designed to serve professional users of and interested parties in GMO impact assessment. GRACE reviews will yield two deliverables: the results and conclusions of the reviews and a proposal for a framework of Good Review Practice. Both deliverables are expected to support evidence-based policy making in GMO impact assessment.

Objective

The aim of this workshop is twofold (i) to familiarise participants with the concept of evidence synthesis and to discuss the GRACE approach to Good Review Practice including the planned features of the open-access database; (ii) to discuss the conceptual models and the thereof derived draft review questions for each thematic area: health, environmental and socio-

economic impacts. Both the conceptual models and the draft review questions will determine the type and scope of the reviews conducted in the context of GRACE and are therefore of key importance. The reviews conducted in GRACE should be relevant and timely for both science and society.

Scope

The workshop will focus on discussing, refining and complementing both the conceptual models and the draft review questions. Documents describing these issues as well as the draft general framework for Good Review Practice and database issues will be circulated to workshop participants before the workshop. The comments received in this workshop will be considered for refining the general framework, the conceptual models and the derived review questions. Subsequent steps of the stakeholder consultation for the planning stage of GRACE reviews will focus on the prioritisation of the refined review questions and on the draft review protocols. The prioritisation will inform the choice of the reviews conducted in GRACE and the feed-back to the draft review protocols will help to improve the review process.

Anticipated Output

The feed-back received in the course of the stakeholder consultation will be summarised in a report drafted by the GRACE team and circulated to all participants to ensure that it accurately and fairly reflects their views and comments. A final report will then be prepared based on comments received and published on the GRACE website.

Attendance

This consultation is open to all stakeholders interested in the safety and impacts of GMOs. This includes but is not limited to GMO risk assessors, risk managers, representatives of all relevant sectors of industry, farmer organisations, civil society organisations and academia. Participation is free of charge but registration is required. **In order to facilitate the preparations for the workshop all individuals who have been pre-registered are kindly requested to confirm their participation via e-mail to GRACE-consultation@aau.at by 12 April 2013 the latest.** Travel information is provided in a separate document.

Contact GRACE



Dr. Armin Spök
(Coordinator of Stakeholder and User Involvement)
IFZ - Inter-University Research Centre for Technology,
Work and Culture
Schloegelgasse 2, A-8010 Graz, Austria
e-mail: GRACE-consultation@aau.at



Prof. Joachim Schiemann (Overall Project Coordinator)
Julius Kühn-Institut (JKI), Federal Research Centre
for Cultivated Plants
Erwin-Baur-Strasse 27
06484 Quedlinburg, Germany
e-mail: joachim.schiemann@jki.bund.de



This workshop is funded by the European Commission 7th Framework Programme in the context of the large collaborative project GRACE (Grant Agreement No 311957).

DAY ONE 22 APRIL 2013

9:30 **Registration**

10:00: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

10:00 **Introduction to GRACE**
Joachim Schiemann, Julius Kühn Institut, Quedlinburg,
Germany

**Stakeholder and User Involvement in GRACE
Introduction to the Workshop**
Armin Spök, IFZ-Inter-University Research Centre for
Technology, Work and Culture, Graz, Austria

10:30 THE GRACE APPROACH TO REVIEWS OF IMPACTS OF GMOS CHAIR: ARMIN SPÖK

10:30 **General Framework for Good Review Practice**
Christian Kohl, Julius Kühn Institut, Quedlinburg,
Germany

11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:20 **GRACE Open Access Database**
Wendy Craig, International Centre for Genetic Engineering
and Biotechnology, Trieste, Italy

11:40 **Access to Data**
Ralf Wilhelm, Julius Kühn Institut, Quedlinburg,
Germany

11:55 **Qs & As**

12:20 REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF GM CROPS CHAIR: PATRICK RÜDELSHEIM, PERSEUS, ZWIJNAARDE, BELGIUM

12:20 **Introduction**
Jeremy Sweet, SweetEnvironmental Consultants,
Cambridge, UK

12:40 **Lunch Break**

13:40 **Parallel Sessions**

Room A – Environmental Impacts of GM Crops

13:40 **Herbicide Tolerant Crops**

15:10 **Insect Resistant Crops**

DAY ONE 22 APRIL 2013 CONTINUED

Room B – Review Procedures and Database Issues

- 13:40 Approaches to Evidence Synthesis
- 15:10 GRACE Database - Options for a Central Access Point

16:40 **Coffee Break**

17:00 **Plenary Discussion**

ca.18:30 **Closing Day One**

DAY TWO 23 APRIL 2013

8:30 REVIEW OF HEALTH AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF GM CROPS

CHAIR: ARMIN SPÖK

8:30 **Introduction**

Gijs Kleter, RIKILT-Institute of Food Safety, Wageningen University,
The Netherlands

Jaqueline Garcia-Yi, Center of Life and Food Sciences
Weihenstephan, Technische Universität München, Germany

9:30 **Parallel Sessions**

Room A – Human and Animal Health Impacts of GM Crops

9:30 General Considerations, Compositional Analysis,
and Nutritional Aspects

11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:20 Toxicity, Allergenicity and Exposure

Room B – Socio-Economic Impacts of GM Crops

9:30 Micro-Level Impacts

11:00 **Coffee Break**

11.20 Macro-Level Impacts

12:50 **Lunch Break**

13:50 **Plenary Discussion**

14:50 CONCLUDING REMARKS

Ca. 15:10 **End of Workshop**
