

Kjellsson, G., Strandberg, M.: **Monitoring and Surveillance of Genetically Modified Higher Plants. Guidelines for Procedures and Analysis of Environmental Effects.** – Birkhäuser Verlag, Basel – Boston – Berlin 2001. ISBN 3-7643-6227-8. 119 pp., SFr 68.00, DM 90.00, øS 657.

Considerable part of research activities of present genetics and agriculture research is directed to the study of possible environmental and health impacts of transgenic plants. It is applied research, which is imperative of present time. Enormous and interesting possibilities of plant improvement by plant transgenesis can be utilized only provided that the public will be convinced on the safety of the use of transgenic plants for human and animal health, environment, and biodiversity. The risk assessment before introducing genetically modified higher plants (GMHP) into the environment should be followed by monitoring and surveillance after the release.

The booklet is the result of three-year Danish project to produce a book with guidelines for monitoring and surveillance of genetically modified higher plants. The book has seven main chapters and their titles give good description of the contents. They are: (1) Environmental concerns and concepts. (2) Monitoring and surveillance of GMHP dispersal and effects. (3) Perspectives of habitat selection. (4) Agricultural use and the effects of

GMHP. (5) dispersal of GMHP and transgenes. (6) Effect identification and deviation. (7) Data analysis and evaluations.

The book is an extension of *Methods for Risk Assessment of Transgenic Plants*, Vol. I-III, published by the same edition house in 1994, 1997, and 1999. The main conclusions of this book are: Detection of any small effects caused by the use of GM crops is expected to require minimum 5-10 years with at least 2-3 times of cultivation during crop rotation. The distribution pattern and scale of cultivation with GM crops in the farmland will strongly influence the probability of early detection of environmental changes.

The book is a valuable source of references concerning studies of environmental impact of transgenic plants up to the present time. It is of considerable interest especially to plant genetists, administrators, and biologists who are involved in the planning and evaluation of field monitoring.

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