



**Nutzen und Risiken der Freisetzung gentechnisch veränderter Pflanzen**  
Nationales Forschungsprogramm NFP 59  
**Benefits and Risks of the Deliberate Release of Genetically Modified Plants**  
National Research Programme NRP 59

Public Lectures and Roundtables, Autumn Term 2009

# Genetically Modified Plants: How to assess and manage their risk?

Public Lectures and Roundtables at the Institute for Environmental Decisions in collaboration with the Swiss National Research Programme NRP 59 "Benefits and risks of the deliberate release of genetically modified plants"

The four lectures and roundtables deal with four fundamental questions pertaining to genetically modified plants:

- (1) How should the risks of GM plants be assessed, and how much risk, and of what type is acceptable?
- (2) How do consumers evaluate and respond to GM products? Under what conditions are they willing to purchase and consume GM products?
- (3) To what extent and under what conditions are GM applications beneficial from the farmer's perspective?
- (4) Is it possible, and if so how, to organize GM and non-GM farming in Switzerland in an efficient and effective manner?

Thursday,  
October 1<sup>st</sup>  
17:15–18:45  
ETH Zurich,  
Universitäts-  
strasse 16  
CHN F46

## ***Different ways to assess the potential risks of GMO***

Risk assessment methods applied today base on a certain number of defined parameters and indicators. Though the data output of these methods is too small to draw conclusions for the whole ecosystem, say some critics. They call for a broader risk assessment.

Lectures held in English

Dr. **Alan Raybould**, Product Safety, Syngenta

*"Problem formulation and hypothesis testing for environmental risk assessments of genetically modified crops"*

Dr. **Angelika Hilbeck**, Institute of Integrative Biology, ETH Zurich

*"Science-based risk assessment of non-target effects of transgenic crops"*

Dr. **Georg Karlaganis**, Federal Office for the Environment

*"Evaluation: To what extent do existing risk assessment approaches satisfy the administration's needs with regard to decision-making?"*

**Discussion** chaired by **Beat Glogger**, National Research Programme NRP 59

Thursday,  
October 22<sup>nd</sup>  
17:15–18:30  
ETH Zurich,  
Universitäts-  
strasse 16  
CHN F46

## ***Public perception and acceptance of gene technology in Europe***

This lecture focuses on the factors that influence public acceptance of GM plants.

Lecture held in German

Prof. Dr. **Joachim Scholderer**, Aarhus School of Business, Aarhus University, Denmark  
*“Attitudes towards gene technology and their dynamics”*

**Discussion** chaired by Prof. **Michael Siegrist**, Institute for Environmental Decisions, ETH Zurich

Thursday,  
November 5<sup>th</sup>  
17:15–18:30  
ETH Zurich,  
Universitäts-  
strasse 16  
CHN F46

## ***To what extent can farmers benefit from GM plants?***

This lecture and roundtable will, from an international and a Swiss perspective, explore the extent to and the conditions under which GM plants, and what types of GM plants, are or could be beneficial farmers.

Lecture held in German

Prof. Dr. **Volker Beckmann**, Faculty of Agriculture and Horticulture, Humbolt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany  
*“Economic implications of genetically modified crops in agriculture: The case of Germany”*

Prof. Dr. **Bernard Lehmann**, Institute for Environmental Decisions, ETH Zurich  
*“Farm-Level Benefits and Costs of GM Plants in Switzerland”*

**Discussion** chaired by Prof. **Thomas Bernauer**, Institute for Environmental Decisions, ETH Zurich and delegate of the National Research Programme NRP 59

Thursday,  
November 26<sup>th</sup>  
17:15–18:45  
ETH Zurich,  
Universitäts-  
strasse 16  
CHN F46

## ***Is co-existence of GM, conventional and organic crops in Swiss agriculture possible?***

This roundtable will discuss from an agronomic, economic, and legal perspective whether co-existence in Switzerland is possible at acceptable cost, and if so how it could be organized.

Lectures held in German

Dr. **Anja Vaasen**, Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety, Germany  
*“Co-existence from an agronomic perspective”*

Prof. Dr. **Bernard Lehmann**, Institute for Environmental Decisions, ETH Zurich  
*“Co-existence from an economic perspective”*

Prof. Dr. **Rainer Schweizer**, Institute of Public Law, University of St. Gallen  
*“Co-existence from a legal perspective”*

**Discussion** chaired by Prof. **Thomas Bernauer**, Institute for Environmental Decisions, ETH Zurich and delegate of the National Research Programme NRP 59