

ANNEX III A

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN NOTIFICATIONS CONCERNING RELEASES OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS OTHER THAN HIGHER PLANTS IV. INFORMATION RELATING TO THE INTERACTIONS BETWEEN THE GMOs AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- A. Characteristics affecting survival, multiplication and dissemination
 - 1. biological features which affect survival, multiplication and dispersal,
 - 2. known or predicted environmental conditions which may affect survival, multiplication and dissemination (wind, water, soil, temperature, pH, etc.),
 - 3. sensitivity to specific agents.
- B. Interactions with the environment
 - 1. predicted habitat of the GMOs,
 - 2. studies of the behaviour and characteristics of the GMOs and their ecological impact carried out in simulated natural environments, such as microcosms, growth rooms, greenhouses,
 - 3. genetic transfer capability
 - (a) postrelease transfer of genetic material from GMOs into organisms in affected ecosystems;
 - (b) postrelease transfer of genetic material from indigenous organisms to the GMOs,
 - 4. likelihood of postrelease selection leading to the expression of unexpected and/or undesirable traits in the modified organism,
 - 5. measures employed to ensure and to verify genetic stability. Description of genetic traits which may prevent or minimise dispersal of genetic material. Methods to verify genetic stability,
 - 6. routes of biological dispersal, known or potential modes of interaction with the disseminating agent, including inhalation, ingestion, surface contact, burrowing, etc.,
 - 7. description of ecosystems to which the GMOs could be disseminated,
 - 8. potential for excessive population increase in the environment,
 - 9. competitive advantage of the GMOs in relation to the unmodified recipient or parental organism(s),
 - 10. identification and description of the target organisms if applicable,
 - 11. anticipated mechanism and result of interaction between the released GMOs and the target organism(s) if applicable,
 - 12. identification and description of non-target organisms which may be adversely affected by the release of the GMO, and the anticipated mechanisms of any identified adverse interaction,
 - 13. likelihood of postrelease shifts in biological interactions or in host range,

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14. known or predicted interactions with non-target organisms in the environment, including competitors, preys, hosts, symbionts, predators, parasites and pathogens,
15. known or predicted involvement in biogeochemical processes,
16. other potential interactions with the environment.