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Taiwan

Biotechnology

Taiwan Grants Approval on Four Corn Stacked Events

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Report Highlights:

Taiwan began implementation of its stacked-event registration for biotech products in May 2008. This week it granted its first approvals – for four two-way stacked corn events out of the fourteen submissions that have been under review over the past six months by the Department of Health (DOH) and its advisory committee. Approval of three-way stacked events is reportedly on the way in the near future.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
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Summary

Taiwan began implementation of its stacked event registration in May 2008 and this week granted its first approvals -- for four two-way stacked corn events out of the fourteen submissions that have been under review over the past six months by the Genetically Modified Food Advisory Committee (GMFAC) operating under the authority of the Department of Health's (DOH) Food Safety Bureau (FSB). Approval of three-way stacked events is reportedly on the way in the near future.

The four approved two-way stacked corn events are:

- MON-89034-3 x MON-88017-3
- MON-00810-6 x MON-00603-6
- MON-88017-3 x MON-00810-6
- MON-89034-3 x MON-00603-6

The other ten stacked events submitted to DOH/FSB for review include the following, with the earliest submission being made on August 11, 2008:

- MON-00863-5 x MON-00810-6 x MON-00603-6
- MON-00863-5xMON-00810-6
- MON-00863-5xMON-00603-6
- DAS-59122-7x DAS-01507-1x MON-00603-6
- DAS-01507-1x DAS-59122-7
- DAS-01507-1x MON-00603-6
- SYN-BT011-1x SYN-IR604-5 x MON00021-9
- SYN-BT011-1x SYN-IR604-5
- SYN-IR604-5 x MON00021-9
- SYN-BT011-1x MON00021-9

Although Taiwan didn't set a deadline for stacked biotech event registration, all commercial stacked corn and soybean events are required to be registered with DOH for food safety assessments and approvals. The aforementioned fourteen stacked corn events that were to DOH for review are currently in commercial chains. According to trade sources, one life science company is planning to sell commercial seeds of a four-way stacked corn event this year for 2010 crop planting and is now working with the DOH's GMFAC in an effort to streamline the registration approval process. Currently, Taiwan requires a step-by-step approach. For instance, it requires the approval registration process to go through all the single events, followed by the two-way stacked events, and then the highest three-way stacked event. The Life Science Companies (LSCs) active in Taiwan are very concerned about the laborious nature of this process for their future launching of super stacked events. Under the current stepwise registration approval system, they will be required to submit numerous dossier packages for only one super stacked event which they consider redundant in terms of the food safety assessment procedure. LSCs point to the approach used by Japan in approving the four-way stacked corn event, SmartStax in December 2008 as a good precedent for Taiwan's registration approval system.