

## **EU response to Notification SCBD/SPS/DC/MPM/KG/PD/PS/86495 (2017-039)**

### **Submission of information on socio-economic considerations**

#### **(a) existing guidance documents on socio-economic considerations**

As a follow up to the European Commission's report on the socio-economic implications of GMO cultivation published in 2011,<sup>1</sup> the Commission set up the "European GMO Socio-Economics Bureau" (ESEB) to develop Reference Documents to enable an assessment of these impacts. The ESEB has published two technical reference documents (both publicly available at <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/eseb>):

- *"Framework for the socio-economic analysis of the cultivation of genetically modified crops"*, which sets a general framework for the socio-economic analysis of GMO cultivation.
- *"Framework for assessing the socio-economic impacts of Bt maize cultivation"*, which compiles topics, indicators, methodological guidelines and potential data sources to carry out analyses of socio-economic effects of insect resistant Bt maize cultivation

#### **(b) experience with taking socio-economic considerations into account in decision-making on living modified organisms**

Directive (EU) 2015/412 gives the possibility to Member States to restrict or prohibit the cultivation of EU approved GMOs in their territory (opt-out). Under this new Directive, Member States may adopt opt-out decisions on GMO cultivation based on compelling grounds distinct from the formal environmental risk assessment undertaken in the context of the authorisation procedure at EU level, such as, compelling grounds related to environmental policy objectives, town and country planning, land use, socio-economic impacts, coexistence and agricultural policy objectives. In this context, the methodologies and indicators for measuring socio-economic impacts drawn in the abovementioned ESEB's Reference Documents may be useful for adopting opt-out decisions on GMO cultivation related to socio-economic considerations. It should be noted, however, that EU legislation does not establish a requirement to take socio-economic considerations into account.

<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/gmo/socio-economic\\_considerations\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/gmo/socio-economic_considerations_en)