Cost Efficient DNA-based GM Detection



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A record 17.3 million farmers, in 28 countries, planted 170.3 million hectares (420 million acres) 2012, a sustained increase of 6% or 10.3 million hectares (25 million acres) over 2011.

Source: Clive James, 2012.

Status of GM crops in India

Commercialized

(Area under *Bt* cotton: 10.8 mha)

- → Under development by public (including ICAR)& private sector
- → Imported for research purposes
- Under different stages
 of field trials











National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources New Delhi



Nodal institute for import permit, quarantine processing and issue of phytosanitary certificate for germplasm/transgenic planting material



Facilities for GM detection





CL-4 Containment Facility





GM Detection Lab

Expertise available for GM detection at NBPGR, New Delhi

- PCR-based GM diagnostics for more than 10 GM crops
- Real-time PCR based quantitative assays (Transgene/construct/event-specific) for more than 20 GM events
- Visual and real-time LAMP assays for screening of GM crops
- GMO matrix for screening of authorized and unauthorized GM events in India
- Ready-to-use real-time multi-target plate for screening and detection of GM crops/events
- Quality Assurance by regular participation in International Proficiency Testings as per ISO/IEC 17043:2010 Accreditation







Molecular testing of imported transgenic planting material

So far, **172 imports of 14 crops comprising 5,112 accessions** have been tested.





Initial screening through simplex/multiplex PCR targeting marker and reporter genes: To test the GM status of a sample irrespective of crop & GM trait







Figure 2. Multiplex PCR assay for testing of primer interference using equivalent DNA mix of six different GM events, i.e., MON 531 of ootton, MON 15995 of ootton, Widestrike ootton, Bt rice, GM rice with the femilin gene and B1176 of maize.

Simultaneous amplification of six commonly used marker genes *nptII, aadA, bar, pat, hpt* and *uidA*

Randhawa G.J. *et.al* (2009) Multiplex PCR-based simultaneous amplification of selectable marker and reporter genes for screening of genetically modified crops. *J. Agri. Food Chem.* 57 (12): 5167-5172.

Combo Octaplex PCR for screening of GM cotton



Lane M: 50 bp ladder; Lane 1 & 2: mixture of MON531, MON15985, GFM cry1A and Widestrike events of GM cotton (covering all the seven regulatory elements used for study), Lane 3: Non-GM cotton, Lane 4: NTC

Simultaneous amplification of seven targets

Control elements: *P-3*5S, T-*nos*, P-*nos* Marker genes: *nptII*, *aadA*, *pat* and *uidA* Endogenous gene: *Sad1*

Gene-specific PCR



GJ Randhawa, M Singh, R Chhabra and R Sharma (2010) Qualitative and quantitative molecular testing methodologies and traceability systems for *Bt* crops commercialised or under field trials in India. *Food Analytical Methods* 3 (4), 295-303

Multiplex PCR assays for detection of Bt crops with cry1Ab gene

Bt Brinjal



Bt Potato



Randhawa G.J., M Singh, R Chhabra and R Sharma (2010) Qualitative and Quantitative Molecular Testing Methodologies and Traceability Systems for Bt Crops Commercialised or Under Field Trials in India. Food Analytical Methods 3 (4), 295-303

Construct-specific PCR

Targeting the junction region of two elements of construct



Linear Transgene Construct of MON 531



Construct-specific PCR for detection of a part of inserted gene construct in GM Tomato (*avp1* gene)

Lane1-2: GM tomato, Lane 3: Non-GM tomato, Lane 4: Water control, M: 1kb Ladder



Construct-specific PCR for detection of a part of inserted gene construct in GM cotton events viz. BGI, BGII, Event1 and GFM- cry1A

Lane 1: BGI, Lane 2: BGII, Lane 3: Event1, Lane 4: GFM-cry1A Lane 5: Non-GM cotton, Lane 6: Water control, M: 100 bp ladder



Construct-specific PCR for detection of a part of inserted gene construct in GM rice (*cry1Ac* gene)

Lane 1: Water control, Lane 2: Non-GM rice, Lane 3-6: GM rice, M: 1kb ladder

Decaplex PCR Assay for detection of two major *Bt* cotton events MON531 and MON15985



Transgene- and construct-specific multiplex PCR for discrimination of two *Bt* cotton events, using primer pairs for *cry1Ac* and *cry2Ab* transgenes, *nptII*, *aadA*, and *uidA* marker genes, *CaMV* 35S promoter, *nos* terminator, endogenous *Sad1* gene, and specific gene constructs

Randhawa G.J., R Chhabra and M Singh (2010) Decaplex and Real-Time PCR Based Detection of MON531 and MON15985 *Bt* cotton events. *J. Agri. Food Chem.* (2010) 58 (18), 9875–9881



Event-specific detection of Bt brinjal event EE-1



Pentaplex PCR detection of *Bt* brinjal event EE-1, M: 50 bp ladder; Lanes 1, 2: Samples of *Bt* brinjal; Lane 3: Sample of non-*Bt* brinjal; Lane 4: Water control



Amplification curve 17,496 15.996 14,496 12.996 11 496 9.996 Bt-Brinial 8.496 6.996 5.496 3.996 2.496 0.996 Other tested Bt-crops -0.504 and non-Bt DNA

Real-time event-specific PCR for *Bt* Brinjal Event EE-1 using specific probes

LOD is upto 0.01%

Lane M: 50bp ladder; Lane M: 1kb ladder, Lanes 1-6: Serial dilutions of *Bt* brinjal with 100, 10, 1.0, 0.1, 0.05, 0.01% of GM content, Lane 7: Non-*Bt* brinjal

GJ Randhawa, R Sharma & M Singh (2012) Qualitative and event-specific real-time PCR detection methods for *Bt* brinjal event EE-1. *J. AOAC Int.* 95 (6): 1733-1739



Amplification curves for *EPSPS* gene in Roundup ready cotton (MON 1445)



Identification of specific transgene by simplex PCR /multiplex PCR : Development of qualitative and quantitative PCR assays

Event	Multiplex PCR	Transgenes + reference gene involved
Bt cotton MON 531	Heptaplex	fs-ACP + cry1Ac + 35S promoter + nos term. + nptII + aadA + cry1Ac construct
<i>Bt</i> cotton MON 15985	Decaplex	fs-ACP + cry1Ac + cry2Ab + 35S promoter + nos term. + nptII + aadA + uidA + cry1Ac construct + cry2Ab construct
Bt Rice	Pentaplex	cry1Ac, nptII, 35S promoter, nos terminator + α -tubulin
<i>Bt</i> Brinjal	Quadraplex	cry1Ac, caMV 35S promoter, aadA + β- fructosidase
<i>Bt</i> Brinjal	Triplex	cry1Ab, 35S promoter + β- fructosidase
<i>Bt</i> cauliflower	Triplex	cry1Ac, 35S promoter + SRK
<i>Bt</i> Okra	Quadraplex	cry1Ac, nptII, 35s promoter + chloroplast t-RNA
GM tomato	Quadraplex	Avp1, nptII, 35S promoter + LAT52
GM tomato	Triplex	Osmotin + 35S promoter + LAT52
GM potato	Triplex/ Quadraplex	RB gene, CaMV 35S promoter, npt II marker + UGPase
GM potato	Triplex/ Quadraplex	Ama1 gene, CaMV 35S promoter, nos terminator, nptII + UGPase
GM potato	Triplex/ Quadraplex	cry1Ab gene, CaMV 35S promoter, nos , nptII + UGPase

DNA-based diagnostics for GM wheat MON71800



🗋 www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/jun/22/agriculture-oregon-monsanto-gm-wheat

M 1 2 3 200 bp → 100 bp →





PCR based diagnostics for GM wheat targeting (a) *CP4EPSPS* transgene; (b) *CaMV*35S promoter; (c) *nos* terminator; M: 100 bp ladder; 1: Sample of Non-GM wheat; 2: Sample of GM wheat; 3: Non-template Control



Amplification profile for real-time PCR analysis for *CP4EPSPS* transgene in GM wheat



GMO Matrix: A Cost-effective Screening Approach

Most efficient and cost-effective strategy for detection of authorized and unauthorized GMOs

(Holst-Jensen et al., 2012; Kralj Novak et al., 2009; Van den Bulcke et al., 2010; Waiblinger et al., 2010)



Setting and implementation of matrix is a stepwise process

GMO screening matrix, with the information on 106 genetic element targets for detection of 141 GM events of 21 crops, has been developed;

• The matrix includes commercially cultivated *Bt* cotton events and other GM events, under field trials during the past six years;

•Ten most frequently present targets, viz., P-35S, T-nos, Os-Msca1, cry1Ab, cry1Ac, cry1C, cry2Ab, GA20 oxidase1, nptII, bar were identified to screen these events using a GMOseek algorithm.

Genetic elements Crops Status All plants [P-35S] [T-nos] [Os-Msca1] [cry1Ab] All status [cry1Ac] [Cry1C] [cry2Ab] [GA20 oxidase1] Commercialized [P-35S] Field trials [P-35S] [T-nos] [Os-Msca1] [cry1Ad] [GA20 oxidase1] [nptII] Imported [P-35S] [T-nos] [m-epsps] [cry1Ab] [cry1Ac] [cry1C] [cry2Ab] [bar] [gat] [T-nos] [Os-Msca1] [cry1Ac] [cry2Ab] Indigenously developed [mtID] [GA20 oxidase1] [nptII] [bar] Cotton All status [P-355] [m-EPSPS] [cry1Ac] [cry1F] Commercialized [P-35S] [P-355] [m-EPSPS] [cry1Ac] [cry1F] Field trials Imported [P-355] [m-EPSPS] [cry1Ac] Indigenously [T-nos] [cry1Ac] developed Rice All status [P-35S] [T-nos] [cry1Ab] [cry1Ac] [cry1C] [cry2Ab] [gat] Commercialized Field trials [T-nos] [cry1Ab] [cry2Ab] [cry2Ad] Imported [P-35S] [cry1Ab] [cry1Ac] [cry1C] [cry2Ab] [gat] Indigenously [cry1Ac] [cry2Ab] developed Corn All status [P-35S] Commercialized Field trials [P-35S] Imported [P-35S] Indigenously developed

Genetic elements frequently appearing in combinations resulting from the GMOseek simulations for all plants and the main crop species.

Randhawa GJ, Morisset D, Singh M,and Žel J (2013) GMO matrix: A cost-effective approach for screening unauthorized GM events in India. Food Control, 38: 124-129

Loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP)

- 'LAMP' is characterised by the use of six different primers specifically designed to recognise eight distinct regions on the target gene.
- The amplification proceeds at a constant temperature using strand displacement reaction. Amplification and detection of a gene can be completed in a single step, by incubating the mixture of samples, primers, DNA polymerase with strand displacement activity and substrates at a constant temperature.



Schematic representation of primer design for LAMP assay showing the position of the six primers spanning the target

End-point LAMP assays for the screening elements:

Promoters

P-35S P-FMV P-nos

Marker genes

aadA nptII uidA



Detection of *nptII* marker gene

Detection of CaMV35S promoter

Green colour: Positive test samples Orange colour: Negative test samples



MON531 Non GM cotton

and a

MON531 Non GM cotton

LAMP assays can be used for rapid, cost-effective and on-spot detection of GM crops at port of entry and farmers' fields

Loop-mediated Isothermal Amplification (LAMP): Screening Tool for GMOs (Targets: *P-35S, P-FMV, aadA, nptII, uidA*)

System	Chemistry	Detection Method	LOD	Completion Time
Heating Block	Bst DNA Pol.	TTTTTT	40 copies	75 min
Thermal cycler	Bst DNA Pol.	End Point	40 copies	75 min
Light Cycler [®] 480 Real-time System	OptiGene Isothermal Master Mix	Real-time	10 copies	45 min
Isothermal Real-time System (Genie II)	OptiGene Isothermal Master Mix	4000- 50	4 copies	35 min

Randhawa GJ, Singh M, Morisset D, Sood P and Žel J (2013) Loop-mediated isothermal amplification: Rapid, visual and real-time methods for detection of GM crops. J Agric. Food Chem. , DOI: dx.doi.org/10.1021/jf4030085

Real-time LAMP for *nptII* **marker gene**



Amplification profile and melting curves for real-time LAMP products on Light Cycler 480 system





Amplification and annealing curves for LAMP assays on isothermal real-time system (Genie $\ensuremath{\mathbb{R}}$ II)

Randhawa GJ, Singh M, Morisset D, Sood P and Žel J (2013) Loop-mediated isothermal amplification: Rapid, visual and real-time methods for detection of GM crops. J Agric. Food Chem. , DOI: dx.doi.org/10.1021/jf4030085

Advantages of real-time LAMP assays:

- Real Time LAMP a newer generation of diagnostics
- ideal for end of point diagnostic
- rapidity
- quantitative measurement
- lower volume of sample required
- lower contamination rate
- higher sensitivity
- higher specificity
- easy standardisation
- applicable to crude sampling
- portability

On-site GM detection using RT-LAMP







Ready-to-use real-time multi-target plate for GMO screening

Targets for Multi-target Plate for Screening and Detection of GM Food Crops/Events

Endogenous genes (6): Maize, Cotton, Rice, Brinjal, Soy, Potato **Events (21): Maize (12), Cotton (6), Rice (1), Brinjal (1), Soy (1)** Construct-specific (5) Transgenes (8) Control elements (4) Marker genes (3)

Adh1	GA21	3272	LL Rice	cry1Ac	P-35S	Adh1	GA21	3272	LL Rice	cry1Ac	P-35S
Sad1	NK603	59122	EE1	cry1Ab	P-nos	Sad1	NK603	59122	EE1	cry1Ab	P-nos
sps	MIR162	MON531	GTS 40-3-2	cry1Ab/Ac	T-nos	sps	MIR162	MON531	GTS 40-3-2	cry1Ab/Ac	T-nos
β- fructosidase	MIR604	MON15985	P35S - cry1Ac construct	cry2Ab	T-35S	β- fructosidase	MIR604	MON15985	P35S - cry1Ac construct	cry2Ab	T-35S
Lectin	MON810	MON1445	cry1C-P35S construct	cry3A	nptll	Lectin	MON810	MON1445	cry1C-P35S construct	cry3A	nptll
UGPase	MON863	MON88913	P35S-uidA construct	cry1C	pat	UGPase	MON863	MON88913	P35S-uidA construct	cry1C	pat
Bt11	MON89034	Event281	ctp2- cry2Ab construct	epsps	bar	Bt11	MON89034	Event281	ctp2- cry2Ab construct	epsps	bar
Bt176	TC1507	Event3006	ctp2-epsps	AmA1	control	Bt176	TC1507	Event3006	ctp2-epsps	AmA1	control

Ct value: 24.35±0.87 (UGPase) to 38.12±0.40 (bar)

47 Targets for ready-to-use real-time multi-target screening plate

Maize	Cotton	Rice	Brinjal	Soy	
Bt11 Bt176 GA21 NK603 MIR162 MIR604 MON810 MON863 MON89034 TC1507 3272 59122	MON531 MON15985 MON1445 MON88931 Event281 Event3006	LL Rice	EE1	GTS 40-3-2 0.1 0.09 0.08 0.07 0.05 0.05 0.04 0.03 0.02 0.01	Adh sadi lectin UGPase Bri 1 Bri 1 B
Endogenou	ıs Gene	Crop			ຼີ ຼັ ຣັ ຣັ≤ຣິຟີ ຫຼັນຍະຍະນະ ແ Target
Adh1 Sad1 Sps β-fructosidase Lectin		Maize Cotton Rice Brinjal Soy	L	imit of Det for c	ection : Upto 0.1-0.01% lifferent targets
UGPase		Potato			
Constructs	s Transge	enes	Promoters	Terminator	s Marker genes
P-35-cry1Ac cry1C-P-35 P-35-uidA ctp2-cry2Ab ctp2-epsps	cry1Ac cry1Ab cry1Ab/Ad cry2Ab cry1C epsps	c	P-35S P-nos	T-nos T-35S	nptII pat bar

AmA1

Publications on GM Detection work

- Randhawa GJ, Singh M, Morisset D, Sood P and Žel J (2013) Loop-mediated Isothermal Amplification: Rapid Visual and Real-Time Methods for Detection of Genetically Modified Crops. *J. Agric. Food Chem.*, DOI: 10.1021/jf4030085
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Publications on GM Detection work

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