

## **Advice 01-2019 of the Scientific Committee established by the FASFC on the analysis program regarding GMOs and their derivative products in food and feed**

### **Background & Terms of reference**

In the context of evaluating the analysis program of the Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC), the Scientific Committee is asked to comment on the relevance of choices made on parameter/matrix combinations, the application of the statistical approach and the selected sampling sites related to the Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) in food and feed.

### **Methodology**

This advice is based on expert opinion and on scientific references.

### **Conclusions**

The Scientific Committee agrees with the choices of the statistical approach, sampling sites and parameter/matrix combinations. A targeted action is proposed regarding the presence of GMOs in dietary supplements sold on the internet. In addition, a special temporary action is proposed for transgenic tomatoes in transformed products.

### **Recommendations**

The Scientific Committee has formulated recommendations for the optimization of the analysis program. The Scientific Committee recommends to verify if, based on Real-time PCR results (initial screening), it is possible to determine the order of magnitude of the GMO content and/or the amount of ingredients, so that the number of follow-up analyzes could be limited. In addition, the Scientific Committee considers that it is necessary to develop new methods in the context of research on non-authorized GMOs. The Scientific Committee recommends exploring routes, such as next-generation sequencing, in addition to standard approaches for GMO detection. Finally, it is recommended that the results of the ongoing research project 'Specenzym' (Research on the purity of food enzymes) are followed-up.

The full text is available on this website in dutch and in french.