



Apimondia

International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations

Apimondia Working Group number	AWG 10
Name	GMOs and impact on beekeeping sector
Subject	<p>The cultivation of genetically modified crops may impact the beekeeping sector in multiple areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • health of honey bees as non-target species • foraging opportunities in GMO-enabled farming systems • regulatory issues around food safety and labelling of contaminated bee products • impact of non-food GM-crops (industrial, energy, pharma) • role of managed honey bees in coexistence schemes <p>Genetically modified bees.</p>
Date of creation	27.05.11
Place of creation	Seeshaupt, Germany
Scientific Commission(s) involved	Flora & Pollination – Bee Health – Technology - Economy
Regional Commission(s) involved	Five Commissions
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Document(s) to provide	<p>Apimondia position paper on cultivation of genetically modified crops.</p> <p>Risk assessment guidelines of evaluating health impact of individual GM events on honey bees.</p> <p>Position paper on including insect resistant GM-crops in pesticide regulations.</p> <p>Guidelines for assessing regulatory impact of individual GM events on beekeeping sector within different regulatory frameworks around the world.</p> <p>Guidelines for assessing impact of GM-crop enabled farming systems on beekeeping sector.</p> <p>Position paper on coexistence with non-GM and organic beekeeping.</p>

	Position paper on genetically modified honey bees.
Action(s) to do	Global survey of novel food regulations and labelling requirements as they apply to bee products.
Digital Kit to provide	Section of Apimondia web site with facts and positions
Dead line	
Target(s)	Framers and beekeepers Government regulators NGOs concerned with environmental and food safety issues Scientists engaged in genetic engineering GMO industry
Recommendation(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use prior work on GMOs and their impact on beekeeping sector as starting point. • Look at claimed and observed mode of action against pests when investigating risks to honey bees. • Take into account synergistic effects with other factors like common bee diseases or pesticides that are part of the GMO-enabled farming system.
Observation	The biotech community is mostly unaware of the unique situation of the bee-keeping sector. Well researched position papers and guidelines will make it easier for vendors and regulators to understand the impacts of their products and regulations on honey bees and beekeepers.