



## E.U. RESOLUTION ON GMOs: The impact on honey exporting countries.

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## **ARGENTINA IN WORLD HONEY MARKET**

- ✓ **Argentina is the third world honey producer after China and USA.**
- ✓ **We contribute with 20% of commercialized honey between countries.**
- ✓ **Argentina has wisely implemented GMO technology for the production of grains.**



## ARGENTINA IN WORLD HONEY MARKET

- ✓ World population continuously grows and the living standard of many countries has risen.
- ✓ We work to provide sufficient food for the planet.
- ✓ Beekeeping cannot scape to this reality.



## THE E.U. AND GMOs in HONEY

### The EU Court of Justice verdict means:

- All honey exported to the EU must be analyzed for GMOs.
- If honey is free of pollen from GMO plants, it can be marketed in the EU.



## THE E.U. AND GMOs in HONEY

**The EU Court of Justice verdict means:**

- ✓ **If honey contains pollen from GMO non-authorized plants, it is not allowed to be marketed in the EU.**
- ✓ **Zero tolerance will be applied. Zero tolerance in practice means less than 0,1%, i.e. the detection limit.**



## THE E.U. AND GMOs in HONEY

### The EU Court of Justice verdict means:

- ✓ If honey contains pollen from authorized GMO plants  $< 0.9\%$  of the total pollen content it can be marketed without labeling.
- ✓ If honey contains pollen from authorized GMO plants  $> 0.9\%$  of the total pollen content it has to be labeled.



## THE E.U. AND GMOs in HONEY

- ✓ Argentina only authorizes food GMO plants also authorized in the EU.
- ✓ In Argentina, as well as other honey exporting countries, we suspect to find many positive honeys for GMOs.
- ✓ We still ignore the percentage of honey free of GMOs.
- ✓ We also ignore the portion of honeys under and over 0,9% of pollen from authorized plants.



## THE E.U. AND GMOs in HONEY

**EU still needs to define:**

- a) An appropriate sampling method.**
- b) An harmonized quantitative GMO test for honey.**





## OUR RECENT BUSINESS EXPERIENCE

- Argentine beekeeping has undergone several crisis causes by the demands of complaints of the purchasing countries:
- Dumping and Subsidies case for argentine honey exported to USA in 2001.
- The crisis of Nitrofurans in 2003.
- The problems with Pirrolizidine Alkaloids for honey exported to Germany in 2009.
- All of them have been overcome with great effort throughout the beekeeping chain.



## TAKING ACTIONS...

- **We are now hardly working to be able to give an appropriate answer to this new challenge.**
- **The private-public agreement between NEXCO SA and INTA is developing all its potential against a problem with a magnitude seldom seen before in the honey chain.**



## TAKING ACTIONS...

- **As in the recent past, we are sure that in a few months we shall be able to offer the EU with honey with the desired specifications.**
- **We, as providers, must adapt to our clients demands. This is an old market principle.**



## WHAT ABOUT THE IMAGE OF HONEY?

- We are really worried about the degree of affection the image of honey can suffer after the GMOs crisis.
- Hasn't all this gone too far....?.



Thank you very much.

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