



Effective GMO

Risk Management

Food producers have every reason to be concerned about GMOs in their products. If undeclared GMOs are detected in a shipment, the shipment can be rejected. Fortunately, there are cost-effective ways to manage GMO risk. By **Dr John Fagan**

GENETICALLY modified (GM) food has become a major issue for food producers worldwide. Unsuspected presence of GMOs in a food product can create major problems for a food producer and their customers. This risk can be managed cost-effectively by implementing a non-GMO Identity Preservation (IP) programme.

Regulations governing the types and amounts of GMOs allowed in food are being enforced in over thirty countries, and a number of other countries have similar laws under consideration. The new EU regulations on GMO labeling and traceability serve as an interesting case study of what food producers may expect to see emerging in various countries around the world in 2004 and beyond.

Food producers have every reason to be concerned about GMOs in their products. If undeclared GMOs above a certain threshold are detected in a shipment, the shipment can be held or rejected at considerable expense to the producer. A rejected shipment can lead to loss of buyer confidence in the product, along with damage to the producer's name and brands.

There's also the possibility of regulatory action against the producer. All in all, there are good reasons for food producers to protect themselves from the risk of unintended GMOs in their products.

Fortunately, there are cost-effective ways to manage GMO risk. A number of food producers have already designed