

From: [REDACTED] (SANTE)
Sent: mercredi 10 juillet 2019 14:18
To: [REDACTED] (SANTE); [REDACTED] (SANTE)
Cc: SANTE CONSULT-E4; SANTE DL E4
Subject: BTO meeting E.4.-F.3.-GNIS

Subject: Meeting SANTE E.4 - GNIS

Place and date: 25 June 2019, 12:15-13:15. DG SANTE Brussels

Participants:

DG SANTE, F3: [REDACTED]

DG SANTE, E4: [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

GNIS: [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

Summary:

- GNIS represents the inter-professional sector of seeds/plants in France and cover the whole chain, from new variety creators to the users.
- The seeds/plants sector is active in cereals , potatoes, maize, forestry, vines, fruits and vegetables.
- GNIS was interested to hear SANTE's views on the possible contribution of new varieties to the ambitious objectives set by several Member States, especially France, to reduce pesticides use.
- SANTE commented the FR Ecophyto Action Plan which sets ambitious goal of reducing pesticide use by 25 % by 2020 and by 50% by 2025, which in such a short term seems difficult to achieve and use reduction could not necessarily lead to risk reduction at the end. However we are all working towards this objective of lowering the risks and diversify the toolbox with low(er)-risk plant protection products and techniques.
- GNIS is developing various selection/breeding techniques (including gene editing) to improve fitness of seeds to respond to new societal challenges.
- SANTE mentioned that varietal selection is part of the toolbox foreseen under IPM scheme and could indeed contribute to increase resistance to pests and hence reduce the use of fungicides and insecticides
- GNIS informed that some of their members use new breeding techniques (CRISPR-Cas, etc..) to produce new varieties that are tolerant to pesticides, while others work rather towards increased pest resistance.
- SANTE advised that only the second approach could lead to a positive perception in public opinion as they could indeed bring a direct benefit to the environment which was (and is) less obvious for herbicide-tolerant plants.
- GNIS questioned about the intention to develop a new regulation to distinguish new breeding technologies from GM technology. SANTE advised that for any discussion about new breeding techniques the responsible Unit should be contacted directly (i.e. SANTE.E.3).

- SANTE mentioned the recent audit conducted in France on the Sustainable Use Directive and shared the information about the harmonised risk indicators recently adopted.
- GNIS also shared the information regarding the 'PPP-saving certificate' (see attached) put in place in France to favour a clear separation between retailers and advisers/extension services, and encourage alternative to pesticides with a system equivalent to energy-saving certificate for electric equipment.
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Please note that this e-mail contains the personal opinion of the author and does not necessarily reflect the official opinion or constitute a formal commitment of the European Commission.