

Questions & Answers on licence DIR 189 – field trial of genetically modified (GM) sorghum

What does this licence allow?

The licence allows The University of Queensland to grow a field trial of GM sorghum genetically modified for an asexual seed formation trait. The GM sorghum may be grown at one site with a maximum area of one hectare per season.

Where and when will this GM sorghum be grown?

The trial site is located at the University of Queensland's Gatton Campus in the Lockyer Valley LGA in Queensland. The GM sorghum may be grown between September 2022 and June 2025.

How has the GM sorghum been modified?

The GM sorghum contains an introduced gene for an asexual seed formation trait. The gene originates from a grass species. The gene is expected to allow the reproductive sorghum egg cell to undergo fertilisation in the absence of pollen and is one of several steps required for asexual seed production.

What is the purpose of the trial?

The trial is to assess the performance of the GM sorghum under field conditions. The GM sorghum grown in this field trial will not be used in human food or animal feed.

What controls are imposed for this release?

The Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan (RARMP) for this application concludes that the field trial poses negligible risks to people or the environment. However, as this is a field trial, The University of Queensland must comply with a range of licence conditions that limit the GM sorghum from spreading outside the trial. For example, there are conditions to isolate trial sites from other sorghum, to securely transport and store the GM sorghum, and to inspect the sites at the end of the trial to check that the GM sorghum is destroyed. Full details of these control measures are in the licence.

Want more information?

A number of documents relating to this decision are available on the [DIR 189](#) page of the OGTR website or via Freecall 1800 181 030. These documents include the finalised Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan (RARMP), a summary of the RARMP and the licence.

The Office of the Gene Technology Regulator
Tel: 1800 181 030 E-mail: ogtr@health.gov.au
[OGTR Website](#)