

Questions & Answers on licence application DIR 190 – commercial release of genetically modified (GM) Indian mustard

What is this application for?

BASF Australia Ltd (BASF) is seeking approval for commercial cultivation of Indian mustard genetically modified (GM) for herbicide tolerance.

The GM Indian mustard is proposed to be grown in all agricultural cropping areas in Australia, and its products would enter general commerce, including use in human food and animal feed.

How has the GM Indian mustard been modified?

The GM Indian mustard in this application has been conventionally bred by crossing a previously approved GM canola line with a non-GM Indian mustard line. The GM parental canola line has been authorised for commercial release under licence DIR 021/2002.

The GM Indian mustard proposed for release contains an introduced gene that confers tolerance to herbicides containing glufosinate and a gene for male fertility restoration.

The introduced genes are all derived from common soil bacteria.

Can GM Indian mustard be grown in all Australian crop growing regions?

Commercial Indian mustard production occurs on a small scale, mainly in central New South Wales and western Victoria. Although the Regulator is assessing the risks to people and the environment from the GM Indian mustard for the whole of Australia, Tasmania and parts of South Australia (Kangaroo Island) currently have restrictions for marketing reasons in place, and growing GM Indian mustard is not permitted in those regions.

Has the GM Indian mustard received any other approvals in Australia?

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) is responsible for food safety. FSANZ has approved the use of food derived from the parental GM canola line. This approval also covers the GM Indian mustard proposed for release under DIR 190, as it is derived from conventional breeding of the approved GM RF3 canola with non-GM Indian mustard.

What controls are proposed for this release?

The licence application proposes an ongoing commercial release, with no restrictions on how the GM Indian mustard are grown or used. The Gene Technology Regulator has prepared a consultation Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan (RARMP), which finds that the proposed commercial release of the GM Indian mustard poses negligible risk to the health and safety of people or the environment. However, licence conditions drafted in the consultation RARMP ensure that there is ongoing oversight of the release.

How can I comment on this application?

The full consultation RARMP and a summary of the RARMP for application DIR 190 are available on the [OGTR website](#) or via the contacts listed below. You are invited to submit your written comments (including email) on the consultation version of the RARMP, related to any risks to the health and safety of people or to the environment from the proposed release. Comments must be received by the close of the consultation period on **3 August 2022**.

What are the next steps in the evaluation process?

The RARMP will be finalised, taking into account submissions related to the protection of people or the environment. A de-identified summary of all comments received and consideration of those

comments is included in the Appendices to the final RARMP. The finalised RARMP will inform the Regulator's decision on whether or not to issue a licence.

The Office of the Gene Technology Regulator

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