

## Exhibition

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The **1<sup>st</sup> GMO Global Conference** in Villa Erba Exhibition area offers a unique undercover exhibition space where exhibitors and participants can catch up during the event.

*Join the mix, feel the energy and experience unstoppable momentum where vision, knowledge and networking merge into opportunity.*

The exhibition will be open from Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2008 until Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2008 at 3:00 pm.

An exhibition space of 1000 m<sup>2</sup>, where you can show latest technologies, innovative ideas and concrete solutions, is available in the liveliest part of the centre, between conference space and restaurant.

The exhibition area, located in the Cernobbio Wing, is divided in Shell Scheme and Space Only.

Points of Presence (PoP) are organised within the posters area, in the superb Lario Wing, which is comfortably equipped for poster presentation and discussions.

Exhibition space is available for a limited number of exhibitors. First comes, first served!

Your request to be present in the exhibition stand or at the Point of Presence has to be submitted to us by email ([exhibitors-gmo-global-conference@jrc.it](mailto:exhibitors-gmo-global-conference@jrc.it)) together with an explanation of the type of product(s) or service(s) you wish to promote.

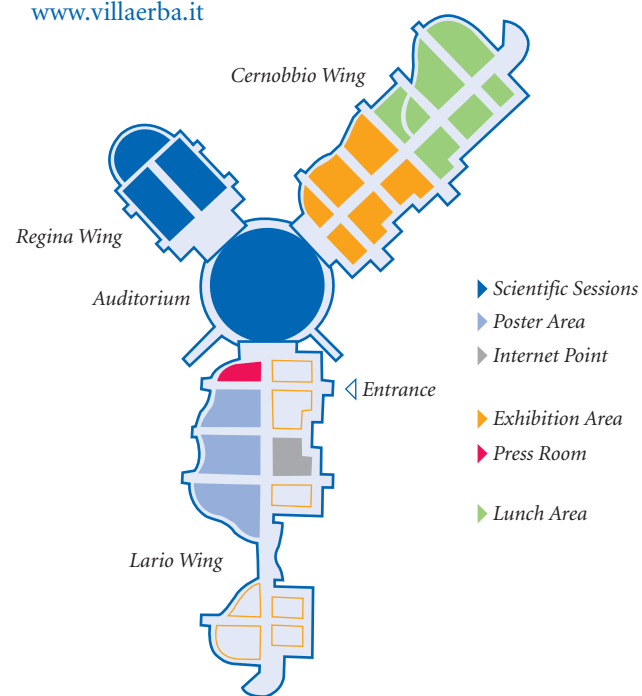
The **1<sup>st</sup> GMO Global Conference** is an initiative of the European Commission-DG Joint Research Centre (<http://www.jrc.ec.europa.eu>) and of the European Network of GMO Laboratories (ENGL).

## Contact

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## Planimetry Congress Centre

[www.villaerba.it](http://www.villaerba.it)



Further information on the official website of the Global Conference: <http://gmoglobalconference.jrc.it>, regularly updated with latest news.



# 1<sup>st</sup> Global Conference on GMO Analysis

Villa Erba, Como, Italy

24-27 June 2008

<http://gmoglobalconference.jrc.it/>

Growing global deployment of GM crops in agricultural production and trade has led to increasing complexity in identity preservation operations of diverse agricultural commodity production supply chains within progressively more complex and evolving market demands.

Although much progress has been achieved in the development of identity preservation strategies, implementation aspects still pose considerable scientific and technical challenges to enable successful global market functioning.

Within this context, this conference aims to address the science and technology underpinning GMO control and analysis by bringing together international experts willing to share knowledge and participate in promoting international scientific dialogue across diverse yet inter-dependent areas.

## Organising Committee

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European Commission • Joint Research Centre

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Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária (Embrapa) • Brazil

**Dabing ZHANG**

Shanghai Jiaotong University • P.R. China

## Overall Themes

### Theme 1 (T1)

#### Requirements for the implementation of GMO analysis along the production chain

The first theme concerns strategies and method requirements within different frameworks. It is subdivided into three sessions, as follows:

##### T1S1 Sampling for GMO analysis along the seed, food and feed production and supply chain (“from farm to fork” and *vice versa*)

This session will deal with the challenges faced when sampling for GMO analysis from seeds and bulk agricultural commodities to final food products. Different approaches and viewpoints from stakeholders and scientists will be presented and discussed. Attention will be spent to the sampling and testing – particularly in view of accidental presence – of materials larger than grains (e.g. fruits, rhizomes, potatoes).

Invited keynote speaker:

**Kim Esbensen / Aalborg University Esbjerg (Denmark)**

##### T1S2 Analytical procedures along the seed, food and feed production and supply chain

Different approaches in GMO analysis will be discussed during this session. Sessions will include factors that influence the choice of the most appropriate method for a particular purpose (e.g. seed analyses or testing of final products, including processed products). Also the use of different methods in different contexts will be addressed. Sessions one and two will also deal with costs and economic impacts.

Invited keynote speaker:

**Maria Mercedes Roca / Pan American College of Agriculture (Honduras)**

##### T1S3 Results, interpretation and reporting

Different methods or testing regimes can lead to different expression of test results. This may lead to important disagreements between test results carried out on the same samples. Another inequality of test results may arise from the different use of units of measurements, e.g. mass % (w/w) and DNA copy numbers. Gene stacking in which multiple inserts are combined in single cells represents another technical aspect that may influence obtaining valid quantitative results. Discussions in this session will focus on the interpretation of analytical results and the possible conversion of different analytical results into other units of measurement. Discussions here will evolve around borderline results and their implications. This session will also address the inclusion of measurement uncertainty and its consequences on results for control purposes.

Invited keynote speaker:

**Arne Holst-Jensen / National Veterinary Institute (Norway)**

### Theme 2 (T2)

#### Method development and technical aspects

Theme 2 is concerned with the methodology of sample preparation and handling ranging from grinding and extraction of the laboratory sample (session 1) to the analysis of biomarkers indicating the presence of transgenic organisms or components (session 2).

##### T2S1 Sample preparation and extraction

Here, issues of sample homogeneity, particle size, test portion and comparison of extraction methods, contaminants and inhibitors, including the inclusion of internal positive controls will be discussed amongst other sessions.

Invited keynote speaker:

**Randy Giroux / American Association of Cereal Chemists (USA)**



##### T2S2 Methods of analysis

PCR-based methods, including their development and the choice of species-specific target sequences in conjunction with quantification will be discussed as well as protein-based and other alternative methods. This session is particularly broad-ranged and will cover all aspects of analytical method approaches and platforms. Issues to be addressed include event-specific methods in comparison with construct-specific methods, development of commercial kits for different platforms, PCR efficiency, LFD versus ELISA, arrays and loop-mediated amplification. It will also be debated if new methodologies should be developed in order to deal with new classes of GMOs (e.g. in the case foreign DNA is first introduced to generate gene silencing and subsequently removed).

Invited keynote speaker:

**Akihiro Hino / Secretariat for Food Safety Commission (Japan)**

### Theme 3 (T3)

#### Harmonisation, standardisation and accreditation - the way to quality assurance

Theme 3 is concerned with the assurance of accurate and reproducible test results of GM testing laboratories which is the key deliverable towards clients and deserves special attention due to the complexity of GM testing and sampling.

##### T3S1 Development, production and availability of reference material

Prior to implementation, any method needs to be validated in-house followed by an inter-laboratory validation study. The availability of reference material in the laboratory is an indispensable precondition for any successful validation. To date laboratories are facing often challenges in receiving appropriate reference material. Apart from challenges regarding the distribution of reference material, the difficulties in the production of certified reference material for a large variety of GMOs is a limiting factor. Challenges, progress and solutions for solving these problems, including the development, use and production of alternative reference materials (e.g. plasmids) will be discussed under this session.

Invited keynote speaker:

**Richard Cantrill / American Oil Chemists' Society (USA)**

##### T3S2 Harmonisation needs at international and regional level

Only the availability, coordination and evaluation of information from all involved stakeholders will allow a quick and efficient progress related to the complex task of GMO testing. Today quite a number of institutions and organisations are involved in GMO testing in the area of seed, grain, food and feed. How can a system be built that allows for coordination of the mass of generated information, avoid duplication of work and streamline efforts to result in an enhanced efficiency and standardisation? How can we assure that the same test results are obtained by different operators in the particular case of GMOs that are present at very low levels? When is a sample considered as “negative” regarding the presence of GM material? Session 2 will be structured around such technical questions.

Invited keynote speakers:

**Roger Wood, Andrew Damant / Food Standards Agency (UK)**

##### T3S3 Traceability and already existing accreditation programmes

In this session, traceability systems and accreditation programmes will be presented. The results, conclusions and recommendations from these systems will be evaluated and discussed. The establishment and design of proficiency tests as well as the benefits and needs of quality assurance programmes will be reviewed and explored. Latest research in increasing the efficiency in these areas will be presented.

Invited keynote speaker:

**Sofia Ben Tahar / Limagrain (FR)**