

INFORMATION NOTICE

Positive GM test result on Oilseed Rape Seed

On 31st August 2017, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) informed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of a positive genetic modification (GM) test result in oilseed rape (OSR) seed variety 'Aquila', grown and certified in France and imported into Ireland for production of a commercial oilseed rape crop.

In advance of planting the OSR seed, an official sample of the seed was taken for GMO analysis. The sample tested positive at trace level i.e. <0.1% for the presence of the GM element 'CP4 EPSPS'. The OSR seed was subjected to further analysis and the presence of the GM element 'CP4 EPSPS' was confirmed on 1st September 2017. This GM element is not authorised for cultivation in the EU and, as there is no tolerance threshold, the seed cannot be cultivated. None of the OSR seed from this consignment was planted in Ireland.

The seed company responsible for importing this OSR seed consignment into Ireland has been instructed by the DAFM, to return the seed consignment (109 Kg) immediately to its supplier. The DAFM has also notified the French competent authority, who certified this seed, of this finding, while the EPA has notified the European Commission and Member State competent authorities under Directive 2001/18/EC (on the deliberate release into the environment of GMOs) of this positive GM test result.

For further information in relation to this matter please contact Ms. Bernie Murray, EPA Inspector at b.murray@epa.ie