

Proposed Workshop Outline

- 1 day workshop (09.30 – 16:00) to be held Tuesday 6 August 2013 in Canberra at the Hotel Kurrajong
- Workshop will be split into two parts:

1. Morning session (09.30 – 12.30): Discussion of RNAi

Objective – to improve our knowledge and understanding of RNAi and its use in GM plants and animals so that we are in a better position to determine the adequacy of our current data requirements and under what circumstances additional information, if any, may be necessary for a safety assessment.

- One of the experts (Peter Waterhouse) to give an overview of RNAi, focusing on the technical and mechanistic aspects, relevant differences between organisms (eg plants and animals), and the application of RNAi-based techniques to gene silencing in plants (and animals, if relevant). (40 minutes)
- FSANZ to provide a brief overview of the safety assessment approach, with particular emphasis on data requirements that are relevant to RNAi. (30 minutes).
- Tea break (10.40 – 11:00)
- Panel discussion of key questions (60 minutes)
 - o Questions under development but would focus on specific aspects that are likely to be relevant to the safety assessment, and our considerations around data requirements.
- Wrap up (30 minutes) – formulation of key conclusions.

2. Lunch Break (12:30 – 13:15)

3. Afternoon session (13.15 – 15.30): Part II of NPBTs

Objective – as for the first workshop, i.e. improve our knowledge and understanding of each of the techniques, and seek the scientific opinion of experts as to whether food products derived using these techniques should be regarded as GM. This session will pick up additional techniques not covered by the first workshop, namely agro-infiltration; accelerated breeding following early flowering; and some of the other nuclease techniques for targeted mutagenesis not covered in the first workshop.

- Brief overview and introduction by FSANZ to bring everybody up to speed (15 mins)
- Followed by consideration of each technique (10 minute presentation by one of the invited experts giving an overview of each technique followed by 20 minute panel discussion)
- Wrap up (15 minutes) – conclusions

4. Afternoon Tea (15.30 – 16:00) End