

## Principles of co-existence

The Czech Republic follows the European Commission Recommendation of July 23, 2003 on guidelines for the development of national strategies and best practices to ensure the coexistence of genetically modified crops with conventional and organic farming (notified under the document C2003/556/EC) and the Commission Recommendation of July 13, 2010, on guidelines for the development of national co-existence measures to avoid the unintended presence of GMOs in conventional and organic crops (notified under the document 2010/C 200/01).

**Principles of coexistence in the Czech Republic are defined by Act 252/1997 on Agriculture, as amended. Furthermore, cultivation of GM crops is regulated by Decree no. 89/2006, as amended by Decree no. 58/2010 on conditions pertaining to the growing of genetically modified crops.** The co-existence guidelines in the Czech Republic have been specified for cultivation of GM maize, GM potatoes and GM soybean.

Growers of GM crops need to follow rules done by the above-mentioned legislation. Based on this legislation, the Ministry of Agriculture defines **basic principles** for cultivation praxis:

- Notify the neighboring farmers before sowing/planting GM crop
- Keep the prescribed isolation distance between GM crop and the fields with the same non-GM species and/or surround the GM plantings with a buffer strip of the same conventional crop.
- Keep the prescribed isolation distance between GM crop and the fields with the same species crop grown in the organic way.
- Keep the prescribed isolation distance between GM crop and national borders of the Czech Republic.
- Notify the neighbouring farmers after sowing/planting GM crop.
- Notify the Ministry of Agriculture after sowing/planting GM crop.
- Inform the Ministry of the Environment about the location of GM crop cultivation.
- Label the GM crop product.
- Keep records and store data on growing and on further use of GM crop and its product.

Further it is necessary to follow some provisions of **Act 78/2004**, on the use of genetically modified organisms and genetic products, as amended. It is mainly the duty to provide to the Ministry of the Environment a written information about the location of GM crop cultivation and to label GMOs and their products to be placed on the market.

The Ministry of Agriculture in cooperation with the Regional Agricultural Agencies and State Phytosanitary Administration monitors the rules of GM cultivation.

Updated and abbreviated

Hana Jirakova, CPB NFP

November 2019