

APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION OF
GENETICALLY MODIFIED PLANTS
AND DERIVED FOOD AND FEED
IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATION (EC) No 1829/2003

**DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9
(DP-ØØ4114-3xMON-89Ø34-3xMON-87411-9xDAS-4Ø278-9) maize
and sub-combinations**

EFSA-GMO-NL-2020-171

PART VII – SUMMARY

**Submitted by:
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Original submission (CC1) – 9 December 2020

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PART VII – SUMMARY

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 Details of application

a) Member State of application The Netherlands
b) Application number EFSA-GMO-NL-2020-171
c) Name of the product (commercial and other names) The product described in this application is DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize and all sub-combinations, independently of their origin (DP4114xMON89034xMON87411, DP4114xMON89034xDAS-40278-9, DP4114xMON87411xDAS-40278-9, MON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9, DP4114xMON89034, DP4114xMON87411, DP4114xDAS-40278-9, MON89034xMON87411, MON89034xDAS-40278-9, MON87411xDAS-40278-9) (hereafter referred to as “its sub-combinations”).
d) Date of acknowledgement of valid application <i>[Not available at the time of submission]</i>

1.2. Applicant

a) Name of applicant Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc*. as represented by Pioneer Overseas Corporation* *member of Corteva Agriscience group of companies
b) Address of applicant Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. as represented by Pioneer Overseas Corporation 7100 NW 62 nd Avenue Rue Montoyer, 25 P.O. Box 1014 B-1000 Brussels Johnston, IA 50131-1014 (U.S.A.) Belgium
c) Name and address of the representative of the applicant established in the Union (if the applicant is not established in the Union) Same as applicant

1.3. Scope of the application

<p>(a) Genetically modified food</p> <p>X Food containing or consisting of genetically modified plants</p> <p>X Food produced from genetically modified plants or containing ingredients produced from genetically modified plants</p> <p>(b) Genetically modified feed</p> <p>X Feed containing or consisting of genetically modified plants</p> <p>X Feed produced from genetically modified plants</p> <p>(c) Genetically modified plants for food and feed use</p> <p>X Products other than food and feed containing or consisting of genetically modified plants with the exception of cultivation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Seeds and plant propagating material for cultivation in the Union</p>

1.4. Is the product or the uses of the associated plant protection product(s) already authorised or subject to another authorisation procedure within the Union?

<p>Yes [x]</p> <p>Regulatory compliance in the framework of Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 on the establishment of a maximum residue levels (MRL) for the use of glufosinate, glyphosate, and 2,4-D herbicides in genetically modified maize is authorised according to Commission Regulation (EC) No 149/2008.</p> <p>In addition, MON89034xDAS-40278-9 maize has already been authorised by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/2086 of 28 November 2019.</p>	<p>No []</p>
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1.5. Has the GM plant been notified under Part B of Directive 2001/18/EC?

<p>Yes []</p>	<p>No [x]</p> <p>The scope of this application does not include authorisation for the cultivation of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize and its sub-combinations seed products in the EU.</p> <p>The overall conclusion obtained from the e.r.a. confirms that there are no identified adverse effects to human and animal health or the environment arising from the proposed uses of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize or any of its sub-combinations.</p>
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1.6. Has the GM plant or derived products been previously notified for marketing in the Community under Part C of Directive 2001/18/EC?

Yes []	No [x]
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1.7. Has the product been subject to an application and/or authorised in a third country either previously or simultaneously to this application?

Yes [x]	No []
<p>Applications concerning regulatory field trials with DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize have been submitted in the USA and Canada. Applications for an authorisation for cultivation and/or food and/or feed use have been submitted in several other countries around the world where products of breeding stack combinations are regulated.</p>	

1.8. General description of the product

<p>a) Name of the recipient or parental plant and the intended function of the genetic modification</p> <p>DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize has been obtained by traditional breeding between genetically modified DP4114, MON89034, MON87411 and DAS-40278-9 maize. No new genetic modifications were introduced to obtain DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize or its sub-combinations.</p> <p>DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize expresses the Cry1F protein from DP4114 maize and the Cry1A.105 and Cry2Ab2 proteins from MON89034 maize for control of certain lepidopteran pests, the Cry34Ab1 and Cry35Ab1 proteins from DP4114 maize and the DvSnf7 dsRNA and Cry3Bb1 protein from MON87411 maize for control of corn rootworm pests, the PAT protein from DP4114 maize for tolerance to glufosinate herbicide, the CP4 EPSPS protein from MON87411 maize for tolerance to glyphosate herbicide, and the AAD-1 protein from DAS-40278-9 maize for tolerance to 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D) and aryloxyphenoxypropionate (AOPP) herbicides.</p>
<p>b) Types of products planned to be placed on the market according to the authorisation applied for</p> <p>The types of products planned to be placed on the market according to the authorisation applied for include DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize and its sub-combinations, independently of their origin, for all food and feed uses, and for all food, feed and processed products derived from DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003. In addition, this application requests authorisation for import and processing of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize and its sub-combinations in accordance with Part C of Directive 2001/18/EC. The DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 products placed on the market is expected to be used in a manner consistent with current uses of commercial maize grain and maize products. However, this application does not include authorisation for the cultivation of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize or any of its sub-combinations seed products in the EU.</p>
<p>c) Intended use of the product and types of users</p> <p>The DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize products placed on the market are expected to be used in a manner consistent with current uses of commercial maize grain and maize products. The stack maize is anticipated to undergo existing methods of production and</p>

manufacturing used for commercial maize. No novel method of production and manufacturing is envisaged.

d) Specific instructions and/or recommendations for use, storage and handling, including mandatory restrictions proposed as a condition of the authorisation applied for

Safety evaluation of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize and its sub-combinations has shown that no specific instructions and/or recommendations for use, storage and handling of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize are necessary. Therefore, DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize and all its sub-combinations can be used, stored and handled in the same way as is currently done for commercial maize. Labelling of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize products is anticipated to be carried out in accordance with Community law by those entities responsible for such requirements.

e) Geographical areas within the Union to which the product is intended to be confined under the terms of the authorisation applied for

DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize may be used throughout the European Union as any other commercial maize products, with the exception of cultivation.

f) Any type of environment to which the product is unsuited

The application does not cover cultivation of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize and its sub-combinations in the European Union. The DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize is anticipated to be used throughout the European Union as any other commercial maize products.

g) Any proposed packaging requirements

The packaging, handling, and storage systems that are currently used for commercial maize are anticipated to similarly apply. The DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize products are anticipated to be packaged in the same manner as other commercial maize products.

h) Any proposed labelling requirements in addition to those required by other applicable EU legislation than Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 and when necessary a proposal for specific labelling in accordance with Article 13(2) and (3), Article 25(2)(c) and (d) and Article 25(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003. In the case of products other than food and feed containing or consisting of genetically modified plants, a proposal for labelling which complies with the requirements of point A(8) of Annex IV to Directive 2001/18/EC must be included.

Labelling of foods and feeds consisting of or containing DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize or its sub-combinations

In accordance with Articles 12-14 and 24-26 of Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003, Article 13(2)f and Annex IV of Directive 2001/18/EC, and with Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 1830/2003, operators are required to label products containing or consisting of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize (or its sub-combinations) with the words “genetically modified maize” or “contains genetically modified maize”, and operators are required to declare the unique identifier in the list of GMOs that have been used to constitute the mixture that contains or consists of this GMO.

Labelling of foods and feeds produced from DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize or its sub-combinations

For food and feed products produced from DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 that are not exempted according to Article 5(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1830/2003, operators are required to label foods and feeds derived from DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 (or its sub-combinations) with the words “produced from genetically modified maize”, in accordance with

Articles 12-14 and 24-26 of Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 and the requirements of Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 1830/2003. In the case of products for which no list of ingredients exists, operators are required to ensure that an indication that the food or feed product is produced from GMOs is transmitted in writing to the operator receiving the product.

Measures taken by the applicant

Although Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. is the applicant under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 for authorisation to place DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize (or its sub-combinations) on the market for all food and feed uses as any other maize in the EU, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., member of Corteva Agriscience group of companies, is not anticipated to be an operator handling or using the product in the EU.

Operators handling or using DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 (or its sub-combinations) grain and derived foods and feeds in the EU are required to be aware of the legal obligations regarding traceability and labelling of these products. Given that explicit requirements for the traceability and labelling of GMOs and derived foods and feeds are laid down in Regulations (EC) No 1829/2003 and 1830/2003, and that authorised foods and feeds shall be entered in the Community Register, operators in the food/feed chain are expected to be fully aware of the traceability and labelling requirements for DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 (or its sub-combinations). Therefore, no further specific measures are to be taken by the applicant.

i) Estimated potential demand

a) In the EU

Extra-EU maize imports vary from year to year depending on annual EU maize harvest yields; maize import figures for the current and following year are generally influenced by maize harvested in the EU in that given year. In the July 2019-June 2020 period, a total of approximately 19 million tons of maize were imported into the EU, with Ukraine being the largest supplier. Spain is the most important market for extra-EU maize imports with a share of 36,5% in this period. Other significant import markets for extra-EU maize during this period were the Netherlands with a share of approximately 21 %, Portugal and Italy both with a share of approximately 8,7%, followed by Ireland with a share of approximately 5%.

b) In EU export markets

The application does not cover cultivation of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize and its sub-combinations in the European Union.

j) Unique identifier in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 65/2004

DP-ØØ4114-3xMON-89Ø34-3xMON-87411-9xDAS-4Ø278-9

The unique identifiers of all sub-combinations covered in the application are:

DP-ØØ4114-3xMON-89Ø34-3xMON-87411-9, DP-ØØ4114-3xMON-89Ø34-3xDAS-4Ø278-9, DP-ØØ4114-3xMON-87411-9xDAS-4Ø278-9, MON-89Ø34-3xMON-87411-9xDAS-4Ø278-9, DP-ØØ4114-3xMON-89Ø34-3, DP-ØØ4114-3xMON-87411-9, DP-ØØ4114-3xDAS-40278-9, MON-89Ø34-3xMON-87411-9, MON-89Ø34-3xDAS-4Ø278-9 and MON-87411-9xDAS-4Ø278-9.

9. Measures suggested by the applicant to take in case of unintended release or misuse of the product as well as measures for disposal and treatment

Based on the conclusions from the environmental risk assessment of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize and its sub-combinations, no specific measures need to be taken in case of unintended release or misuse or for disposal and treatment. There are no sexually compatible endogenous wild plant species in the EU (teosinte is not indigenous to the EU) with which maize can cross-hybridise and maize plants are unlikely to survive as a weed outside agricultural fields. The establishment of maize volunteer plants is therefore unlikely.

In case of unintended release of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize or its sub-combinations, current agronomic measures taken to control other commercially available maize can be applied, such as use of mechanical means and selective use of herbicides (with exception of glufosinate, glyphosate, 2,4-D and AOPP herbicides).

2. INFORMATION RELATING TO THE RECIPIENT OR (WHERE APPROPRIATE) PARENTAL PLANTS

1. Complete name

a) Family name
Poaceae
b) Genus
<i>Zea</i>
c) Species
<i>Z. mays</i> L.
d) Subspecies
<i>Zea mays</i> ssp. <i>mays</i> L.
e) Cultivar/breeding line
DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9
f) Common name
Maize, corn

2.2. Geographical distribution and cultivation of the plant, including the distribution within the Union

Maize is one of the most important crops worldwide with an annual cultivation area of more than 177 million hectares and an annual harvest of over 872 million tonnes (MT) of grain in 2012 (FAOSTAT, 2014). The cropping area within the 28 Member States of the European Union (EU-28) reached 9.8 million hectares for grain maize in 2012 and 5.0 million hectares for silage maize. The annual production quantity in the EU-28 was 59.9 MT of grain. By far the largest maize producer in the EU-28 is France (15.6 MT), followed by Italy (8.2 MT), Romania (5.9 MT), and Germany (5.5 MT) (EUROSTAT, 2014).

2.3. Information concerning reproduction

(i) Mode(s) of reproduction

Maize (*Zea mays* L.) is the only species usually included in the subspecies *mays* of the genus *Zea*, belonging to the Poaceae family. It is a highly domesticated annual crop with well-characterised phenotypic and genetic traits. It reproduces sexually by wind-pollination and being a monoecious species has separate male staminate (tassels) and female pistillate (silk) flowers. This allows natural outcrossing between maize plants but also enables the control of pollination in the production of hybrid seed. Typical for wind-pollinated plants, a large amount of excess maize pollen is produced for each successful fertilisation of an ovule on the ear. Wind movements across the maize field cause pollen from the tassel to fall on the silks of the same or adjoining plants. Measuring about 90 µm in diameter, maize pollen is the largest of any pollen normally disseminated by wind from a comparably low level of elevation.

(ii) Specific factors affecting reproduction

As a wind-pollinated, monoecious species, reproduction takes place by both self- and cross-pollination and fertilisation, with frequencies of each normally determined by proximity and other physical influences on pollen dispersal. Reproductive factors such as tasselling (pollen production), silking, and pollination are the most critical stages of maize development. Repeated cycles of self-pollination lead to homogeneity of the genetic characteristics within a single maize plant (inbred). Controlled cross-pollination of inbred lines from chosen genetic pools combines desired genetic traits resulting in a hybrid with improved agronomic performance and yield increase (heterosis effect). This inbred-hybrid concept and improved yield response is the basis of the modern maize seed industry. Maize varieties planted by EU farmers are almost entirely hybrid plants.

(iii) Generation time

Maize is an annual crop with a cultural cycle ranging from as short as 10 weeks to as long as 48 weeks covering the period of seedling emergence to maturity.

2.4. Sexual compatibility with other cultivated or wild plant species

In the EU, there are no other cultivated or endogenous wild plant species that are sexually compatible with maize (teosinte is not indigenous to the EU).

Maize plants intra-pollinate and transfer genetic material between maize except for certain popcorn varieties. The extent of pollination between maize depends upon wind patterns, humidity and temperature. Low humidity and high temperatures cause the pollen to become desiccated and unviable.

2.5. Survivability

a) Ability to form structures for survival or dormancy

During the domestication of maize, many significant agronomic attributes for cultivation have been gained, whilst maize has lost the ability to survive in the wild. Maize is a non-dormant annual crop and seeds are the only survival structures. Natural regeneration of maize from vegetative tissue is not known to occur.

b) Specific factors affecting survivability

Survival of maize seed is dependent upon temperature, moisture of seed, genotype, husk protection and stage of development. Maize seed can only survive under favourable climatic conditions. Freezing temperatures have an adverse effect on germination of maize seed and this has been identified as a major risk in limiting production of maize seed. Furthermore, maize is a C₄ plant and therefore its vegetative growth is sensitive to low temperatures. Chlorosis will occur at temperatures below 15 °C. The generative phase of maize is supported by short day conditions. The minimum temperature for germination of 8 to 10 °C restricts maize survival and reproduction capabilities mainly to the Central and Southern European geographical zones.

2.6. Dissemination

a) Ways and extent of dissemination

Maize dissemination occurs via kernel (seed/grain) and pollen. Maize has been domesticated for thousands of years and, as a result, maize dispersal of individual kernels does not occur naturally.

Pollen shedding from the tassels takes place over a period of 10 to 15 days. Pollen grains are round, heavy and contain a large amount of water, characteristics that limit their dispersal and attachment to plant surfaces, such as leaves. Generally, viability of shed pollen is 10 to 30 minutes, although it can remain viable for longer time under favourable conditions. However, dispersal of viable maize pollen tends to be limited as it is influenced by the large size and rapid settling rate of the pollen. Deposition of maize pollen has been found to rapidly decline within 30 m from the source, with very low dispersal remaining at distances farther than 30-50 m from the source.

b) Specific factors affecting dissemination

Mechanical harvesting and transport are ways of disseminating grain and insect or wind damage may cause mature ears to fall to the ground and avoid harvest. Regardless of these routes of dissemination, maize cannot survive without human assistance in non-agricultural habitats in the EU. Because of its highly domesticated nature, maize seed requires the semi-uniform soil conditions resulting from cultivation in order to germinate and establish in agricultural habitats.

2.7. Geographical distribution within the Union of the sexually compatible species

Because of its many available cultivars, maize can grow in a wide range of climatic conditions. However, survival and reproduction in maize is limited by cool conditions. Practically no maize can be cultivated where the mean mid-summer temperature is <19 °C or where the average night temperature is <13 °C. The majority of maize is produced between latitudes 30 and 55 degrees, with a relatively small amount grown at latitudes higher than 47 degrees anywhere in the world. Summer rainfall of 15 cm is the lower limit for maize production without irrigation. There is no upper limit of rainfall for growing maize, although excess rainfall will decrease yields. There are no endogenous wild plant species that are sexually compatible with maize in the EU (teosinte is not indigenous to the EU).

2.8. In the case of plant species not normally grown in the Member State(s), description of the natural habitat of the plant, including information on natural predators, parasites, competitors and symbionts

Not applicable as maize is normally grown in the EU.

2.9. Other potential interactions, relevant to the GM plant, of the plant with organisms in the ecosystem where it is usually grown, or used elsewhere, including information on toxic effects on humans, animals and other organisms

Maize is extensively cultivated in the EU and has a long history of safe use. Maize is known to interact with other organisms in the environment including insects, birds, and mammals. It is susceptible to a range of fungal diseases and insect pests, as well as competition from surrounding weeds. Maize or derived products of maize are not considered to have toxic effects on humans, animals and other organisms.

3. MOLECULAR CHARACTERISATION

3.1. Information relating to the genetic modification

(a) Description of the methods used for the genetic modification

DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize has been obtained by traditional breeding between genetically modified DP4114, MON89034, MON87411 and DAS-40278-9 maize. No new genetic modifications were introduced to obtain DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize or its sub-combinations.

(b) Nature and source of the vector used

The DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize was produced by means of conventional breeding between DP4114, MON89034, MON87411 and DAS-40278-9 maize. No vector has been used to produce this maize hybrid.

(c) Source of donor DNA, size and intended function of each constituent fragment of the region intended for insertion

Not applicable, see section 3.1(a). Details of the source of donor DNA, size and intended function of each constituent fragment of the region intended for insertion in each single event can be found in the respective EFSA opinions:

EFSA, Naegeli H, Birch AN, Casacuberta J, De Schrijver A, Gralak MA, Guerche P, Jones H, Manachini B, Messéan A, Nielsen EE, Nogué F, Robaglia C, Rostoks N, Sweet J, Tebbe C, Visioli F, Wal J-M, Álvarez F, Ardizzone M, Paraskevopoulos K, Broll H, Devos Y, Fernandez Dumont A, Gómez Ruiz JÁ, Lanzoni A, Neri FM, Olaru I and Papadopoulou N, 2018a. Assessment of genetically modified maize **4114** for food and feed uses, under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 (application EFSA-GMO-NL-2014-123). EFSA Journal 16, e05280. <https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2018.5280>

EFSA, 2008. Scientific Opinion on Application (Reference EFSA-GMO-NL-2007-37) for the placing on the market of the insect-resistant genetically modified maize **MON89034**, for food and feed uses, import and processing under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 from Monsanto. The EFSA Journal 909, 1-30. <https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2008.909>

EFSA, Naegeli H, Birch AN, Casacuberta J, De Schrijver A, Gralak MA, Guerche P, Jones H, Manachini B, Messéan A, Nielsen EE, Nogué F, Robaglia C, Rostoks N, Sweet J, Tebbe C, Visioli F, Wal J-M, Ardizzone M, De Sanctis G, Fernandez DA, Gennaro A, Gómez RJA, Lanzoni A, Neri FM, Papadopoulou N, Paraskevopoulos K and Ramon M, 2018b. Assessment of genetically modified maize **MON 87411** for food and feed uses, import and processing, under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 (application EFSA-GMO-NL-2015-124). EFSA Journal 16, e05310. <https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2018.5310>

EFSA, Naegeli H, Birch AN, Casacuberta J, Schrijver Ad, Gralak MA, Guerche P, Jones H, Manachini B, Messéan A, Nielsen EE, Nogué F, Robaglia C, Rostoks N, Sweet J, Tebbe C, Visioli F, Wal JM, Alvarez F, Ardizzone M, Dumont AF, Liu Y, Neri FM and Ramon M, 2016. Scientific opinion on an application by DOW AgroSciences LLC (EFSA-GMO-NL-2010-89) for placing on the market the genetically modified herbicide-tolerant maize **DAS-40278-9** for food and feed uses, import and processing under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003. EFSA Journal 14, 4633. <https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2016.4633>

3.2. Information relating to the genetically modified plant

3.2.1. Description of the trait(s) and characteristics which have been introduced or modified

DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize has been obtained by traditional breeding between genetically modified DP4114, MON89034, MON87411 and DAS-40278-9 maize. No new genetic modifications were introduced to obtain DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize or its sub-combinations.

DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize expresses the Cry1F protein from DP4114 maize and the Cry1A.105 and Cry2Ab2 proteins from MON89034 maize for control of certain lepidopteran pests, the Cry34Ab1 and Cry35Ab1 proteins from DP4114 maize and the DvSnf7 dsRNA and Cry3Bb1 protein from MON87411 maize for control of corn rootworm pests, the PAT protein from DP4114 maize for tolerance to glufosinate herbicide, the CP4 EPSPS protein from MON87411 maize for tolerance to glyphosate herbicide, and the AAD-1 protein from DAS-40278-9 maize for tolerance to 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D) and aryloxyphenoxypropionate (AOPP) herbicides

3.2.2. Information on the nucleic acid(s) sequences actually inserted or deleted

a) The copy number of all detectable inserts, both complete and partial

The results of the molecular characterisation described in this application support the conclusion that the DP4114, MON89034, MON87411 and DAS-40278-9 insertions in DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize are equivalent to the single event maize lines. Southern blot analysis demonstrated that DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize does not contain other fragments from the inserts than those that were present in the respective single lines.

Information on the elements present in the single events can be found in the EFSA opinions of the DP4114, MON89034, MON87411 and DAS-40278-9 single events, respectively (EFSA 2008, 2016, 2018a, 2018b).

b) In case of deletion(s), size and function of the deleted region(s)

Not applicable

c) Subcellular location(s) of insert(s) (nucleus, chloroplasts, mitochondria, or maintained in a non-integrated form), and methods for its/their determination

The DP4114, MON89034, MON87411 and DAS-40278-9 maize inserts are all integrated into different loci in the maize nuclear genome as confirmed by the inheritance of the inserts through conventional

crosses and by the molecular characterisation of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize by Southern blot and characterisation of the flanking sequences through BLAST searches.

d) The organisation of the inserted genetic material at the insertion site

A detailed molecular characterisation by Southern blot analysis has confirmed that the copy number, structure and organisation of the inserts in DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize are equivalent to those found in the parental breeding lines DP4114, MON89034, MON87411 and DAS-40278-9 maize.

e) In the case of modifications other than insertion or deletion, describe function of the modified genetic material before and after the modification, as well as direct changes in expression of genes as a result of the modification

Not applicable.

3.2.3. Information on the expression of the insert

a) Information on developmental expression of the insert during the life cycle of the plant

Field studies have been carried out in order to estimate the level of expression of the insert-encoded proteins in DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize of these events in comparison with the expression levels in the GM parental lines. Key plant tissues were collected from the plants at different developmental stages across the 2019 growing season. Protein concentrations were measured using Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) systems developed for each protein. The results of the field studies have shown that the expression of the Cry1F, Cry1A.105, Cry2Ab2, Cry3Bb1, Cry34Ab1, Cry35Ab1, PAT, CP4 EPSPS and AAD-1 proteins in grain and forage of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize was comparable to the expression of these proteins in the corresponding GM parental lines.

b) Parts of the plant where the insert is expressed

As summarised above, studies to evaluate the range of expression of the Cry1F, Cry1A.105, Cry2Ab2, Cry3Bb1, Cry34Ab1, Cry35Ab1, PAT, CP4 EPSPS and AAD-1 proteins in different tissues of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize have been conducted.

These results obtained confirm that, as expected, transgenic protein expression in DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize tissues is not substantially different from that of the respective single maize events.

3.2.4. Genetic stability of the insert and phenotypic stability of the genetically modified plant

Genetic and phenotypic stability of the inserts in DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize was confirmed by molecular analysis, agronomic characterisation and protein expression analysis of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize.

3.2.5. Information on how the genetically modified plant differs from the recipient plant in:

(a) Mode(s) and/or rate of reproduction

DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize does not differ from conventional maize in this respect.

(b) Dissemination

DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize does not differ from conventional maize in this respect.

(c) Survivability

DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize does not differ from conventional maize in this respect.

(d) Other differences

Not applicable.

3.2.6. Any change to the ability of the GM plant to transfer genetic material to other organisms

a) Plant to bacteria gene transfer

The potential transfer and impact of plant to bacteria gene transfer has been assessed for all the parental single events using bioinformatic data.

b) Plant to plant gene transfer

There are no other cultivated or endogenous wild plant species (teosinte is not indigenous to the EU) sexually compatible with maize in the EU. Maize plants will intra-pollinate and transfer genetic material between maize. The extent of pollination between maize will depend upon wind patterns, humidity and temperature. Potential for gene transfer is therefore limited to other maize grown in culture. In addition, the genetic modification in DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize and its sub-combinations do not introduce any selective advantages to maize plants outside the agricultural environment.

It should be noted that this application is for authorisation of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize and its sub-combinations for all food and feed uses, and for all food, feed and processed products derived from DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize and its sub-combinations, and not for cultivation of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize or its sub-combinations seed products. Any plant to plant gene transfer is therefore limited to occasional unintentional releases.

4. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

4.1 Choice of the conventional counterpart and additional comparators

The comparator chosen for the safety evaluation of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize consists of non-GM near-isogenic control maize. Data on other commercial non-GM maize hybrids have also been used in the comparisons with DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize.

4.2 Experimental design and statistical analysis of data from field trials for comparative analysis

The field phase of this study was conducted during the 2019 growing season at sites in North America, which were selected on the basis of their inclusion in the commercial maize-growing regions. Each site utilized a randomized complete block design and contained four blocks. Each block contained the following entries: conventional herbicide-treated (CHT) DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize, intended herbicide-treated (IHT)

DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize, non-genetically modified (non-GM) near-isoline CHT control maize (referred to as control maize), and non-GM CHT commercial reference maize lines. Samples were collected for nutrient composition analysis at 8 sites, and consisted of forage (BBCH 85 growth stage) and grain (BBCH 87-99 growth stage).

Statistical analysis was done according to the EFSA Guidelines using difference and equivalence testing.

4.3 Selection of material and compounds for analysis

Samples were analyzed for the following key nutritional components in accordance with OECD guidelines for the assessment of genetically modified maize: proximate, fiber and mineral composition in forage and proximate, fiber, mineral, fatty acid, amino acid, vitamin, secondary metabolite and anti-nutrient composition in grain. The compositional data obtained support the conclusion that DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize is comparable to the conventional counterpart and commercial reference maize lines, taking into account natural variation.

4.4 Comparative analysis of agronomic and phenotypic characteristics

DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize has been tested at different locations across key maize growing regions of North America for the major agronomic and phenotypic characteristics in maize. The agronomic data obtained support the conclusion that DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize is comparable to conventional maize represented by non-GM control maize with comparable genetic background and non-GM commercial reference maize lines.

It should be noted that this application is for authorisation of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize and its sub-combinations for all food and feed uses, and for all food, feed and processed products derived from DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize, and not for cultivation of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 (or its sub-combinations) maize seed products.

4.5 Effect of processing

As discussed in this application, food and animal feed products derived from DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize and its sub-combinations can be considered to be as safe as and nutritionally equivalent to food and animal feed products derived from commercial maize. Therefore, the specification of food and animal feed products from DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize and its sub-combinations is expected to be equivalent to that of food and animal feed products derived from commercial maize.

5. TOXICOLOGY

a) Toxicological testing of newly expressed proteins

DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize was produced by combining the maize events DP4114, MON89034, MON87411 and DAS-40278-9 through conventional breeding and therefore produces the insert-encoded proteins inherited from their parents. The safety assessment of Cry1F, Cry1A.105, Cry2Ab2, Cry3Bb1, Cry34Ab1, Cry35Ab1, PAT, CP4 EPSPS and AAD-1 proteins has previously been conducted in the frame of the single events applications. In addition, a re-analysis

with updated databases of the similarity searches of amino acid sequence homology to known toxins or other biologically active proteins that could cause adverse effects to humans or animals did not reveal any safety concerns.

Furthermore, there is no evidence of potential interactions between the different insert-encoded proteins in DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize and sub-combinations of these events that would affect the safety of this combined trait maize compared to the single events. In addition, the low concentration of these proteins in maize tissues provide further assurance for the safety of the consumed DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize products. It is therefore unlikely, based on the existing safety information, that the insert-encoded proteins will cause any adverse effects to human and animal health.

b) Testing of new constituents other than proteins

Not applicable as the genetic modification in DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize does not give rise to the expression of any new constituents other than the transgenic proteins or the dsRNA. The GMO Panel has previously assessed dsRNA and derived siRNAs in the context of different applications and based on background info from a systematic literature search (<https://doi.org/10.2903/sp.efsa.2019.EN-1688>), and did not identify specific safety concerns for humans and animals.

c) Information on natural food and feed constituents

Detailed analyses of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize have demonstrated that the composition of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize is comparable to that of control maize. Furthermore, the nutritional equivalence of the single events present in DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize have previously been assessed by the EFSA GMO Panel.

d) Testing of the whole GM food/feed

The evaluation of the nutrient composition of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize has confirmed that it is comparable to conventional maize represented by non-GM control maize with comparable genetic background and non-GM commercial reference maize lines, taking into account natural variation.

During the assessment of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize no indications of potential adverse effects were identified. The assessment does not suggest the potential for adverse effects due to combining the four different events in DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize. Based on this weight-of-evidence, no further animal studies on food/feed derived from the four-event stack maize are necessary.

6. ALLERGENICITY

a) Assessment of allergenicity of the newly expressed proteins

The Cry1F, Cry1A.105, Cry2Ab2, Cry3Bb1, Cry34Ab1, Cry35Ab1, PAT, CP4 EPSPS and AAD-1 proteins were previously evaluated for their allergenic potential (EFSA, 2008, EFSA, et al 2016, EFSA et al, 2018a; EFSA et al, 2018b).

In addition, a re-analysis of the similarity searches with updated allergen databases did not reveal any allergenicity concerns. The results obtained confirm that the insert-encoded proteins expressed in DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize are unlikely to be allergenic or to cause celiac disease in humans.

b) Assessment of allergenicity of the whole GM plant

Maize has a long history of safe use as food and feed in the EU and is not considered to cause significant food allergies. Furthermore, the newly expressed proteins in DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize are unlikely to be allergenic.

7. NUTRITIONAL ASSESSMENT

a) Nutritional assessment of GM food

The compositional analysis of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize supports the conclusion that DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize is comparable to the conventional counterpart and commercial reference maize lines, taking into account natural variation. Therefore, DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize can be considered nutritionally equivalent to non-GM control maize.

In conclusion and taking into account the anticipated dietary intake of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize products, consumption of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize (or its sub-combinations) foods or feed is unlikely to have adverse nutritional impacts.

b) Nutritional assessment of GM feed

As evaluated in Section 7.a) above, consumption of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize (or its sub-combinations) feed is unlikely to give rise to adverse nutritional impacts.

8. EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT – ANTICIPATED INTAKE/EXTENT OF USE

The nutritional assessment has concluded that DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize is nutritionally equivalent to non-GM control maize. In addition, the use of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize food and feed is not anticipated to be different from that of commercially available maize food and feed. The estimated potential dietary exposures of animals and humans to the transgenic proteins in DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize have been assessed and are not expected to pose a risk to humans or animals.

9. RISK CHARACTERISATION

Maize food and feed products have a long history of safe use. The information presented in this application confirms that DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize (and its sub-combinations) and derived food and feed products are as safe as those of its conventional counterpart.

10. POST-MARKET MONITORING ON THE GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD OR FEED

A thorough risk assessment has confirmed that DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize is comparable to any commercial maize and as safe as conventional comparator. Therefore, post-market monitoring of GM food and GM feed products containing, consisting of or derived from DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize (or its sub-combinations) is not necessary.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

11.1 Mechanism of interaction between the GM plant and target organisms

In this area of assessment, the main potential environmental concern, according to the EFSA ERA Guidance, is that target organisms develop resistance to the insect or pathogen tolerance traits expressed by the GM plant (EFSA, 2010).

The scope of this application covers the import, processing and food and feed use of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize and its sub-combinations, independently of their origin, in the EU.

According to the EFSA ERA Guidance: “resistance development is only relevant for applications with scope cultivation of GM plants and not for applications restricted to import and processing of GM plants and their products” (EFSA, 2010).

Therefore, an assessment of the potential resistance development in target organisms resulting from the import, processing and food and feed use DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize (and its sub-combinations) is not relevant for this application.

11.2 Potential changes in the interactions of the GM plant with the biotic environment resulting from the genetic modification

a) Persistence and invasiveness

There is negligible likelihood for DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize and its sub-combinations to become environmentally persistent or invasive giving rise to any weediness. The cultivation of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize (and its sub-combinations) in the EU is not within the scope of this application.

Furthermore, cultivated maize does not possess any trait for weediness and the expression of the PAT, CP4 EPSPS and AAD-1 proteins in DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize does not introduce new traits for weediness. Maize is a highly domesticated crop and is unlikely to survive without human intervention.

b) Selective advantage or disadvantage

Maize is highly domesticated to the extent that it is unlikely to become established as a feral species outside the agricultural environment. The specific advantages introduced by the genetic modification in DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize (resistance to certain target insect pest, tolerance to certain herbicides) do not confer any selective advantage to the plants in the natural environment, *i.e.* outside the agricultural environment. These traits are not the main limiting factors for the survival of the crop outside agro-ecosystems. Therefore, should the DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize plants resulting from the accidental spillage of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize into the environment be exposed to glufosinate, glyphosate, 2,4-D and/or AOPP-containing herbicides, even if the trait(s) would confer a selective advantage to these maize plants, it would be only a short-term selective advantage, limited

temporally and spatially, with no relevance to the development of longer term populations, not affecting the persistence and invasiveness of the GM plants. The same conclusion has been previously made by the EFSA GMO Panel for other GM plants expressing herbicide tolerance traits, including MON89034xDAS-40278-9 and MON89034xMON87411 maize.

c) Potential for gene transfer

There are no sexually compatible endogenous wild or weedy relatives of *Zea mays* known to exist in the EU, which eliminates any potential for gene transfer to such species (teosinte is not indigenous to the EU; see 2.4). Potential for gene transfer is therefore limited to other maize grown in culture. Cultivation of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize or its sub-combinations is, however, not part of the scope of this application. The potential for gene transfer to other cultivated maize is, therefore, limited and the environmental risk of such gene transfer is negligible.

d) Interactions between the GM plant and target organisms

In this area of assessment, the main potential environmental concern, according to the EFSA ERA Guidance, is that target organisms develop resistance to the insect or pathogen tolerance traits expressed by the GM plant (EFSA, 2010).

The scope of this application covers the import, processing and food and feed use of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize and its sub-combinations, independently of their origin, in the EU.

According to the EFSA ERA Guidance: “resistance development is only relevant for applications with scope cultivation of GM plants and not for applications restricted to import and processing of GM plants and their products” (EFSA, 2010).

Therefore, an assessment of the potential resistance development in target organisms resulting from the import, processing and food and feed use DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize (and its sub-combinations) is not relevant for this application.

e) Interactions of the GM plant with non-target organisms

Considering the scope of this application, which does not include cultivation of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize (and its sub-combinations) in the EU, it is unlikely that any non-target organisms will be significantly exposed to the intended traits expressed in this maize.

f) Effects on human health

Maize has a long history of safe use in human food and animal feed. A detailed evaluation of the potential toxicity and allergenicity to humans of the insert-encoded proteins as expressed in DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize, has been carried out. As a result, and in conclusion, DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize and its sub-combinations do not express any known toxic or allergenic proteins that could cause adverse effects to humans. Therefore, consumption of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize and its sub-combinations or derived food products is not expected to result in adverse effects on human health.

g) Effects on animal health

Consumption of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize (or its sub-combinations) or any derived food, feed and processed products is not expected to result in any adverse effects on human or animal health. Therefore, use of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize as feed and consumption of any food, feed and processed products derived from DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize and its sub-combinations is not expected to result in adverse effects on animal health or the food/feed chain.

h) Effects on biogeochemical processes

Taking into account the scope of this application, which does not include cultivation, DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize and its sub-combinations is not expected to cause any significant immediate and/or delayed effects on biogeochemical processes.

i) Impacts of the specific cultivation, management and harvesting techniques

Not applicable as cultivation is not part of the scope of this application.

11.3 Potential interactions with the abiotic environment

The scope of this application does not include authorisation for the cultivation of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize (or its sub-combinations) seed products in the EU. Exposure to the environment from the import of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize and its sub-combinations will be limited to unintended release of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize. This can be controlled with current measures used to control unintended release of commercially available maize, such as use of mechanical means and selective use of herbicides (with the exception of glufosinate, glyphosate, 2,4-D and AOPP herbicides). Moreover, maize is unlikely to survive in the environment without human intervention. Therefore, the likelihood of adverse interactions with the abiotic environment is negligible.

11.4 Risk characterisation

An environmental risk assessment (ERA) has been conducted following the requirements and methodology described in EFSA Guidance documents and Implementing Regulation EU 503/2013. The baseline considered for this risk assessment is the use of conventional maize in the EU, applying the concept of “familiarity”, where the fact that maize is a common crop in the EU, previously used as food and feed for centuries and considered safe for human and animal health and the environment. The ERA considers all sub-combinations of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize independently of their origin.

A comparative safety assessment has been conducted using a weight-of-evidence approach, considering molecular characterization data as well as expression, compositional and agronomic comparisons between the product and its conventional counterpart or the single events. This assessment has been used to establish whether unintended changes in the GM plant have occurred as a result of the combination of the single events or interactions between the gene products. The results of this comparative safety assessment demonstrated that the only differences of biological relevance identified between DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize and the conventional counterpart are the intended traits. Despite the large number of parameters compared, no unintended differences of biological relevance were found. Thus, the hazard and exposure

assessments conducted for the single events have been used to support the ERA of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize and its sub-combinations.

An assessment whether DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize or its sub-combinations will be more persistent than the conventional crop in agricultural habitats or more invasive in natural habitats has been conducted. The results of this assessment allowed the conclusion that the risk that the import, processing or food and feed uses of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize or its sub-combinations in the EU will result in harm to sustainable agricultural production or biodiversity as a result of changes in persistence or invasiveness compared with the conventional crop is negligible.

An assessment whether the new genes present in DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize or its sub-combinations could be transferred into micro-organisms and become integrated into their genome leading to adverse effects in human and animal health or the environment has been previously performed as part of the ERA to support the single events, or MON89034xDAS-40278-9 and MON89034xMON87411, as part of higher order stack maize which have been previously risk assessed. The conclusion from these assessments was that it is unlikely that these genes would become established in the genome of micro-organisms in the environment or human and animal digestive tract. In the unlikely event that such a horizontal gene transfer would take place, no adverse effects on human and animal health or the environment are expected.

Potential interactions with target and non-target organisms that could lead to harmful environmental effects have also been assessed. The conclusion from these assessments is that adverse effects on sustainable agricultural production or biodiversity due to adverse effects on populations of NTOs as resulting from the import, processing or food and feed use DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize or its sub-combinations are expected to be negligible.

As recommended by the EFSA ERA Guidance from 2010, no assessment of adverse environmental effects due to changes in management practices or effects on biogeochemical processes has been performed since cultivation of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize or its sub-combinations is not within the scope of this application.

Finally, potential risks associated with the import, processing and food and feed uses of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize or its sub-combinations in the EU on human and animal health, have been assessed in Section 3 of this application. The conclusion from this assessment was that food and feed derived from DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize or its sub-combinations is as safe for humans and animal consumption as food and feed derived from the conventional crop.

In summary, the import, processing and food and feed use of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize or its sub-combinations in the EU is expected to pose negligible risk to human and animal health or the environment. The uncertainties associated with this risk characterisation are very low and no long-term adverse environmental effects are expected.

12. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PLAN

a) General (risk assessment, background information)

The scope of this application does not include authorisation for the cultivation of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize (and its sub-combinations) seed products in the EU. Exposure to the environment from the import of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize (and its sub-combinations) is expected to be limited to unintended release of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize which can be controlled with current measures used to control unintended release of commercially available maize, such as use of mechanical means and selective use of herbicides (with the exception of glufosinate, glyphosate, 2,4-D and AOPP herbicides).

A proposal for an environmental monitoring plan for DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize has been developed according to the principles and objectives outlined in Annex VII of Directive 2001/18/EC and Council Decision 2002/811/EC establishing guidance notes supplementing Annex VII to Directive 2001/18/EC, and following the guidance on the Post-Market Environmental Monitoring (PMEM) of genetically modified plants (EFSA, 2011).

b) Interplay between environmental risk assessment and monitoring

The design of the environmental monitoring plan is based on the conclusions of the environmental risk assessment (e.r.a.) carried out for this application for authorisation of genetically modified DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize and its sub-combinations and derived food and feed in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003.

The e.r.a. has been carried out in accordance with Annex II of Directive 2001/18/EC and Commission Decision 2002/623/EC establishing guidance notes supplementing Annex II to Directive 2001/18/EC. The overall conclusion obtained from the e.r.a. confirms that there are no identified adverse effects to human and animal health or the environment arising from DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize or its sub-combinations. Therefore, the risk to human and animal health or the environment from DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize or its sub-combinations and any derived products is the same as for any commercial maize and any derived products.

c) Case-specific GM plant monitoring (approach, strategy, method and analysis)

In accordance with Annex VII of Directive 2001/18/EC and Council Decision 2002/811/EC establishing guidance notes supplementing Annex VII to Directive 2001/18/EC, case-specific monitoring should only be carried out in those cases where potential adverse effects have been identified in the e.r.a.

The e.r.a. concluded that the risk to human and animal health or to the environment from DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize and its sub-combinations and any derived products is the same as for any commercial maize and any derived products. As a result, case-specific monitoring is not applicable for the use of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize or its sub-combinations for all food and feed purposes and the import and processing of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize.

d) General surveillance of the impact of the GM plant (approach, strategy, method and analysis)

In accordance with Council Decision 2002/811/EC, general surveillance is not based on a particular hypothesis and it should be used to identify the occurrence of unanticipated adverse effects of the GMO or its use for human and animal health and the environment that were not predicted in the risk assessment.

The scope of this application is for the authorisation of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize and its sub-combinations for all food and feed uses in accordance with Articles 3(1) and 15(1)

of Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 and for import and processing of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize and its sub-combinations in accordance with Part C of Directive 2001/18/EC. In this application we are not seeking approval for cultivation of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize (or its sub-combinations) seed products in the EU.

As discussed in detail in the e.r.a., exposure to the environment is expected to be limited to unintended release of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize (or its sub-combinations). However, such limited exposure is highly unlikely to give rise to any adverse effect and, if necessary, can be controlled with current measures used to control unintended release of commercially available maize, such as use of mechanical means and selective use of herbicides (with the exception of glufosinate, glyphosate, 2,4-D and AOPP herbicides).

However, and in order to safeguard against any potential adverse effects on human and animal health or the environment that were not anticipated in the e.r.a., general surveillance on DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize and its sub-combinations will be undertaken for the duration of the authorisation.

e) Reporting the results of monitoring

Case-specific monitoring is not applicable for the use of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize and its sub-combinations for all food and feed purposes and the import and processing of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize and its sub-combinations. As a result, no case-specific monitoring is proposed for this application for authorisation of DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize and its sub-combinations.

The applicant will inform the European Commission, and in accordance with EU law, of any reported adverse effects arising from the handling and use of imported DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize, if any.

Furthermore, the applicant will submit an annual monitoring report to the European Commission including results of the general surveillance in accordance with the conditions of the authorisation.

13. DETECTION AND IDENTIFICATION TECHNIQUES FOR THE GM PLANT

A PCR-based quantitative event-specific detection method is available for DP4114 maize, MON89034 maize, MON87411 maize and DAS-40278-9 maize. In addition, an in-house validation study on the performance of the single event detection methods on the DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize stacked product has been submitted to the European Union Reference Laboratory (EURL) for GM Food and Feed (Joint Research Centre, Italy) for verification, in accordance with the requirements of the EURL/ENGL Guidance document "Definition of minimum performance requirements for analytical methods of GMO testing".

14. INFORMATION RELATING TO PREVIOUS RELEASES OF THE GM PLANT

14.1. History of previous releases of the GM plant notified under Part B of the Directive 2001/18/EC and under Part B of Directive 90/220/EEC by the same notifier

a) Notification number
Not applicable – no previous releases in the EU.
b) Conclusions of post-release monitoring
Not applicable.
c) Results of the release in respect to any risk to human health and the environment (submitted to the Competent Authority according to Article 10 of Directive 2001/18/EC)
Not applicable.

14.2. History of previous releases of the GM plant carried out outside the Community by the same notifier

a) Release country
United States (USA), Canada
b) Authority overseeing the release
United States Department of Agriculture (USADA), Canadian Food Inspection Agency
c) Release site
Multiple sites, selected to represent typical growing regions for maize.
d) Aim of the release
Regulatory trials
e) Duration of the release
One or more growing season for maize
f) Aim of post-releases monitoring
Monitoring of volunteers
g) Duration of post-releases monitoring
One season or year
h) Conclusions of post-release monitoring
The DP4114xMON89034xMON87411xDAS-40278-9 maize plants performed as expected, with no evidence of any unintentional morphological or phenotypical characteristics.
i) Results of the release in respect to any risk to human health and the environment
No adverse effects on human health and the environment observed.