

SIDE EVENT

Research on GM Trees: objectives and progress

Monday, 19 May 2008, Lunch-Time
13:15 - 14:45
Room 0.133, Ministry of Transport (BMVBS)

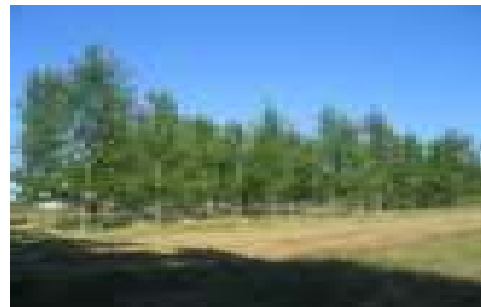
Public research groups all over the world are engaged in research in modern biotechnology to strengthen sustainable production of food, feed and fibre; to improve health care; and to preserve the environment and biodiversity. A significant portion of this research focuses on forest trees and fruit trees. As many of the above challenges cannot be solved using conventional techniques alone, public research in this field includes the use of genetically modified (GM) trees.

A unique advantage of biotechnology is that it may help overcome the long generation time and other difficult breeding constraints that hamper the use of sexual crosses for introduction and testing of economically and environmentally important traits. It also enables the introduction of new kinds of traits not otherwise possible.

This side event will start with presentations by public researchers on the rationale for public research on GM trees, and then provide examples of progress. They will also consider the obstacles faced in conducting research.

Programme:

- 13.15 – 13.45 GM tree research in the North- by Prof. Steven Strauss Oregon State University-USA
- 13.45 – 14.15 GM tree research in the South - by Prof. Giancarlo Pasquali, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil
- 14.15 – 14.45 Questions and discussion



Field trial of GM poplar. Orléans, France (4-year-old)