

PUBLIC ATTITUDE TOWARDS ADOPTION OF TRANSGENIC TREE PLANTATIONS: A EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE

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The EU-COST Action FP0905 aims at collecting the scientific knowledge of genetically modified trees (GMT) related to biosafety both published in the last 30 years and open accessible, and not available through public databases. Collected existing or new information from various European countries will be evaluated in order to provide a basis for future EU policy and regulation recommendations regarding the use of GM forest trees.

To fulfill these aims, the COST Action FP0905 is divided in four Working Groups (WGs). The Working Group 3 (WG 3) focuses on the socio-economic implications and public acceptance and concerns of potential use of GM forest trees and R&D investments in the framework of Cost-Benefit Analysis.

Therefore, two types of surveys are being conducted worldwide by WG3: one to define a set of environmental and socio-economic indicators to be included in Cost-Benefit Analyses, and a Knowledge Attitude Perception (KAP) survey to explore public attitude towards adoption of transgenic forest trees. The cross-country results of the KAP surveys are expected to provide policy support to the European Commission with regards to public acceptance of transgenic forest trees and their potential conflicts of values.

Preliminary results derived from the WG3 activity will be reported.