

**Name of issue:**

**How to deal with genetically modified organisms in gene bank collections/national programs?**

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**Highlights from the discussion:**

Background information:

- According to present knowledge genetic drift from modern varieties to landraces is a common phenomenon.

Questions:

1. How to avoid the contamination of gene bank material by genetically modified varieties?
  - Regeneration of samples on GMO-free areas or, if gm-varieties are common, in greenhouses.
  - Test all the incoming samples. This becomes very expensive or even impossible when there are several modified genes.
2. How to avoid legal problems with gene bank accessions spread around and turning out to be gm-contaminated?

- Attach a disclaimer in samples indicating that to the best knowledge of the gene bank this sample is gm-free. The legal status of this kind of disclaimer is however not clear.

**Future/Next step:**

Gene banks should be aware of the situation and should try to serve all the clients on the best possible way.