

# PRESS RELEASE 131-2010-INIA-PW

## INIA - INNOVATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

### "INIA DISCARDS THE PRESENCE OF TRANSGENIC MAIZE IN THE BARRANCA VALLEYS"

- Research studies confirmed that non-authorized crops do not exist.
- Maize samples taken from crop fields, local markets, collection facilities, poultry and seed marketing companies were evaluated.

The National Institute for Agrarian Innovation (INIA) discards the presence of transgenic maize grown in the Barranca valleys, as noted by a report published in November 2007.

INIA has confirmed that no unauthorized crops exist after evaluating a total of 162 maize samples (134 samples from crop fields, 15 from local markets, 8 from collection facilities at poultry companies, one sample from the local collection facility and 4 samples from seed marketing companies) at the Laboratory for Detection of Living Modified Organisms (LMO) of the institution.

The 134 samples of corn from the fields were assessed *in situ* by means of reactive strips, with no significant positive results of transgenic elements. Transgenic events were not detected either in these samples using more specific molecular analyses.

As expected, four events from transgenic origin were detected in grain samples from the collection facilities at the poultry companies, since they are leading importers of bulk maize grains from LMO-producing countries such as Argentina and the United States.

The study was based on the analysis of samples coming mainly from the Pativilca River basin, as it is the main river in the province of Barranca, from the districts of Barranca, Supe, Pativilca and Puerto Supe, as well as from fields of 16 Irrigation Committees members of the Users Union of the Pativilca Valley, which includes even the district of Cochabamba, province of Ochos Rios, Ancash region. Additionally, a sample was taken at the Users Union of the Fortaleza Valley.

[See the summary and conclusions of the Technical Report](#)

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## TECHNICAL REPORT

### “Verification of the presence of transgenic maize crops in the valley of Barranca”

#### SUMMARY

Two studies in Peru reported the possible presence of unauthorized cultivation of transgenic corn in the valley of Barranca. The first study reported the presence of Bt11 and NK603 events with a frequency of 33%. The second study confirmed the presence of the NK603 event and the presence of 2 new events (T25 and MON863) with a frequency of 62% in grain samples collected in the mentioned area. Faced with these reports, the National Institute of Agrarian Innovation (INIA) requested from the author of the reports further information on the reported findings, as well as the respective backup samples in order to validate these claims. However, more information was not provided nor were the respective countersamples remitted to us.

The INIA undertook this research study to verify the presence of illegal cultivation of transgenic maize, which was reported in the town of Barranca. To this end, a total of 162 corn samples were collected (134 from fields, 15 from local markets, 8 from the collection facilities of poultry companies, one from the local collection facility and 4 samples from seeds marketing companies) which were sent to the LMO Detection Laboratory of INIA, for qualitative detection of sequences P35S and Tnos by PCR, as well as specific events Bt11, NK603, T25, 176, TC1507 and MON810.

The 134 samples of corn from the fields were evaluated *in situ* using test strips to detect the presence of events Bt11 and NK603, without any positive results. The PCR analysis did not detect any of the 6 specific events analyzed in samples from fields, local markets, seed marketers and local collection center. As expected, 4 events were detected in grain samples coming from the collection facilities of the poultry companies, since they are leading importers of bulk corn from LMO-producing countries such as Argentina and the United States. In conclusion, we have not detected any of the GM events originally reported as GM maize grown in the valley of Barranca.

#### CONCLUSIONS

Because of our probability of detection of 95.82% with a confidence level of 95%, we can conclude that there are no fields planted with transgenic maize varieties, which had been reported to exist in the valley of Barranca.

The presence of specific events Bt11 and NK603 was not detected by immunoassay testing carried out in the farm fields of Barranca.

The presence of specific events T25, Bt11, NK603, MON810, 176 and TC1507 was not detected by PCR analysis performed on samples from 127 fields in the valley

of Barranca, 15 samples from local markets, 1 sample from the local collection facility, and 4 samples of the seed marketing companies.

As expected, 4 events were detected: T25, NK603, MON810, TC1507 in grain samples from the collection facilities of poultry companies as these firms are leading importers of bulk maize grain from known LMO-producing countries such as Argentina and the United States.

SOURCE: <http://www.inia.gob.pe/notas/nota0675/informe%20tecnico.pdf>