Questions and Answers: BASF's HT Soybean (Event BPS-CV127-9)

APHIS received a petition from BASF Plant Science (BPS) in January 2009, seeking a determination of nonregulated status for soybean BPS-CV127-9 developed for tolerance to imidazolinone herbicides. Imidazolinone herbicides control a wide variety of weeds. There has been a long history of safe production of crops containing imidazolinone-tolerance.

Q: What are Imidazolinones?
A: Imidazolinones are highly effective low-dose herbicides and work by inhibition of an enzyme in plants. These herbicides can be used on annual and perennial broadleaf and grass weeds. There are six herbicides in this family: imazapic, imazapyr, imazamethabenz-methyl, imazethapyr, imazaquin, and imazamox.

Q: How is soybean BPS-CV127-9 different from traditional soybeans?
A: This soybean has been genetically engineered to be tolerant of imidazolinone herbicides.

Q: Has soybean BPS-CV127-9 been field tested in the U.S.?
A: No. Field tests for soybean BPS-CV127-9 were conducted by BASF in Brazil.

Q: Why is APHIS making this petition available to the public?
A: This first comment period provides the public an opportunity to review the petition for nonregulated status and provide input that will be considered by APHIS as it develops its ensuing environmental assessment and plant pest risk assessment. APHIS will accept written comments regarding the petition for a determination of nonregulated status from interested or affected persons for a period of 60 days from the date of the Agency's notice in the *Federal Register*.

Q: What is the next step following the comment period?
A: After the comment period closes, APHIS will carefully consider all written comments received during the comment period and any other relevant information; any substantive issues identified by APHIS based on our review of the petition and our evaluation and analysis of comments will be considered in the development of the Agency's environmental assessment and plant pest risk assessment.

Q: Under APHIS' process, what does the Agency do after it prepares its draft assessments?
A: After the Agency prepares these documents, it makes them publicly available, providing a second 30-day opportunity for public input. The Agency then carefully reviews comments before any determination becomes final.
For more details on the petition process, go to:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/biotechnology/pet_proc_imp_info.shtml