



ENVIRONMENTAL POSITION

RENEWABLE RAW MATERIALS FROM GMO

The use of renewable raw materials derived from Genetic Modified Organisms (GMO) is perceived as a potential risk by some consumers. The main concerns surround GMO food. However, some biodegradable materials may also be a cause of concern because of the use of natural raw materials derived from GMO.

The opposition to the use of GMO is based on the perception of a biohazard posed by the creation of new inter-specific genome combinations whose effects in the food chain and in the environment cannot, according to today's knowledge, be totally predicted. On the other hand, the decrease of biodiversity and economic damage to local, traditional crops are also elements of concern from social and economic viewpoint.

NOVAMONT's policy is to source and use only non GMO natural raw materials (such as starch). To reach this objective, traceability of natural raw materials is routinely applied as a quality control procedure in cooperation with suppliers.

Whenever, the GMO origin cannot be excluded because additives are sourced in markets and geographical areas where GMO organisms are already grown, Novamont takes part to "off-set programs" in order to assure the growth of non-GMO crops proportionally to the untraceable additives.

In any case no Mater-Bi® material is contaminated by modified DNA residues.

Finally, in order to optimise the environmental impact and fully control the origin of raw materials, NOVAMONT is establishing its own production chain starting from farmers and ending in biodegradable polymers (the Novamont's Biorefinery project). In this case, the supplying chain control is extended to the crops thus further facilitating the traceability of raw materials and the exclusion of GMO cultivars.