

1 August 2006

Dear stakeholder

ERRATA NOTE FOR GM COEXISTENCE CONSULTATION PAPER

Since issuing the consultation paper we have discovered that there are related technical errors at footnote 26 and paragraph 80, both on page 27. The third sentence of the footnote is incorrect - it should say: "Therefore, the range of field depths expressed in the NIAB report of 100m, 200, 400m and 600m broadly equate with field sizes of 1ha, 4ha, 16ha and 36ha respectively." Similarly, in the third line of paragraph 80 the reference to "2ha" is incorrect - it should say "4ha".

Defra's proposed separation distance for oilseed rape is 35m. This is based on the NIAB recommended distance for a field depth of 200m, which as now confirmed equates with a field size of 4ha and not the 2ha wrongly stated in the consultation paper. Table 4 in the paper (page 27) indicates that in 2004 nearly three-quarters of the fields used to grow oilseed rape in England were 4ha or above. A 35m separation distance should be more than adequate for a clear majority of oilseed rape fields, but consultees will want to consider the proposed 35m distance in the light of the correction explained here before answering the relevant questions put at page 28 of the Defra paper.

Yours faithfully

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