

Preface

The impacts of releasing transgenic crops for the environment and the economic consequences are not yet well understood. The level of concern about the environmental impacts differs between Europe and North America and influences not only government response but also international trade and public as well as private incentives for R&D.

To address the complex issues around the environmental impacts of transgenic crops a workshop on Environmental Costs and Benefits of Transgenic Crops was organized at Wageningen in June 2003. The participants were a heterogeneous group of natural and social scientists from North America and Europe. This book contains revised and reviewed papers presented at the workshop.

This book is not intended to cover all the aspects related to environmental costs and benefits of transgenic crops. But every paper presents specific aspects of the problem and contributes to a better understanding of the whole.

The organizers

The workshop was organized by Frontis – Wageningen International Nucleus for Strategic Expertise, together with the Environmental Economics and Natural Resources Group of the Department of Social Sciences, both at Wageningen University and Research Centre, Wageningen, The Netherlands.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank the workshop participants and the authors for their contributions, the reviewer for his comments, advice and openness while discussing the different issues, Wendelien Ordelman (Frontis), Erik Ansink, Anna Maciejewska and Sara Scatasta for making the organizational arrangements for the workshop, Debbie Kleinbussink for proof-reading and Paulien van Vredendaal for technically editing the manuscripts, Hugo Besemer for facilitating the lay-out process and the Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Safety, the Netherlands Ministry for Spatial Planning, Housing and the Environment, the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research – Social Science Research Council (NWO-MAGW), Wageningen University and Research Centre and the Wageningen Institute for Environment and Climate Research (WIMEK) for financial support, and Rob Bogers of Frontis for stimulating the workshop and the publication of this book.

The editor,

Justus Wesseler

Wageningen, May 2004