



DEPARTMENT ENABLE

CLARIFICATION N°4

Call reference: GP/EFSA/MESE/2022/01

Call title: NAMS4NANO: Integration of New Approach Methodologies results in chemical risk assessments: Case studies addressing nanoscale considerations.

Question:

My lab, in collaboration with a another lab, is trying to functionalize chitosan nanoparticles with dsRNAs for gene silencing and consequent weed control, a kind of non-chemical nano-pesticide. We do not have toxicological skills and it is not clear to us what the call asks in terms of toxicological analyzes. We could do the analyzes on the crops rather than on the environmental impact of this new technology, but no evaluations on the impact of such a technology on the final agricultural products and/or on the user or on the animals that will eat those products. For a job of this type it would take a consortium with much more heterogeneous skills.

So we wanted to understand if EFSA is looking for a proof of concept at the nano-material use level, if in some way it will participate in the analyzes or if it wants a complete 360-degree project from the applicants. In this last case, could someone tell us if there are already any consortiums which we could contact to talk about it?

Answer:

The proposals to be submitted for this EFSA call should focus on the risk assessment of nanoparticles to consumers. Technological and scientific developments such the one you are proposing, not linked to the risk assessment methods, are not covered by this call. Specifically, as you will not evaluate the impact on the final agricultural product, the user or the animal, this type of research is outside the scope of the call. The proof of concept case studies should focus on the risk assessment and evaluation of safety for the consumers, not on the use level.

It is possible to submit proposals which are part of a broader project, but the case studies submitted for requesting funding by EFSA under this call should cover exclusively the elements related to the risk for consumers.

In line with the financial rules, EFSA is not involved in the formation of consortia, it is up to Art 36 organisations to agree and submit proposals. The list of Art 36 organisations is available in the EFSA web page.