

[1290] STRATEGIES FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESISTANCE IN TRANSGENIC MAIZE IN BRAZIL

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The use of Bt transgenic plants can be a new and efficient approach to control some pests in Brazil. However, it should be considered the complexity of the pests and the diversity of climatic conditions that exist. An in-depth evaluation of the effect of the transgenic plants over the main group of insect pests should be done. Even for the principal pest, *S. frugiperda*, the existence of genetic variability within its natural population related to the susceptibility of transgenic plant is possible. Plant-pest-natural enemy balance should be considered to prevent any disruption in favor of the pest, increasing the selection pressure over the transgenic plant and facilitating the build up of a resistant pest strain. In order to make the transgenic plant last longer, strategies such as constant monitoring (susceptible population from different locations should be maintained in the laboratory for comparison with advance field generations of pests subjected to transgenic plants) or the use of natural enemies should be encouraged. A good complementary action could be achieved by egg parasitoids such as *Telenomus remus* and *Trichogramma* spp. or predators such as the earwig *Doru luteipes* from natural populations or even through artificial releases from laboratory culture. The success of the transgenic technology also will depend upon joint action involving the private and governmental institutions working closely together with the farmer. These actions necessarily include the introduction of integrated pest management concepts to be applied to those pest controlled by the transgenic plants as well as to other insects. The strategy to set up the distribution of a natural refuse area depends on the production region and the level of technology used. In Brazil, a large portion of farmers still use unimproved seed. Usually they are small farmers and the use of transgenic maize will probably depend upon seed prices. All these maize production regions could be considered as a natural refuse area. In the case that this new technology is adopted, one strategy should be the use of a common area based on cooperative efforts from all farmers.

Index terms: *Spodoptera frugiperda*, *Diatraea saccharalis*, *Helicoverpa zea*, resistance management, biological control