

Press Release: “EU Commission proposal on New Genomic Techniques published”

6th July 2023

The consortium of the Horizon Europe project GeneBEcon welcomes the publication of the EC’s legislative proposal¹ to provide an adapted and proportionate assessment of NGT plants, acknowledging the diversity of outcomes possible using NGTs and considering both potential risks and benefits of the final plant product.

As to the first assessment by the GeneBEcon consortium, the EU Commission seems to have taken a more product-focussed approach, according to the principle of proportionality, and has suggested two categories of NGT plants. GeneBEcon hopes future dialogues will bring further clarifications regarding the criteria defining “conventional-like” NGT plants that would fall under category 1, as well as the practical implementation of the notification procedure for these.

As part of GeneBEcon’s activities, a Technical Report, outlining different regulatory options for NGT plants, was recently published². The EC’s legislative proposal aligns closely with selected aspects of three of our options, particularly the product-based categorisation of NGT plants, the regulatory design, and the notification/verification procedure. GeneBEcon will closely follow the legislative procedure and consider new regulatory elements in its future work, assessing its implications, corresponding data requirements and regulatory procedures, while considering social, economic, and regulatory dimensions.

“We hope that this proposal will be a step towards more legal predictability and enabling breeding innovation within safe boundaries, with modern and efficient methods for plant researchers and breeders in EU. With our Horizon Europe-funded project GeneBEcon, we will do our best to contribute with scientific data to the upcoming discussions” says Dennis Eriksson, coordinator of GeneBEcon and Associate Professor at the Department of Plant Breeding, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.

¹ REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL [on plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques and their food and feed, and amending Regulation \(EU\) 2017/625](#)

² GeneBEcon (2022) [Regulatory Options for New Genomic Techniques in the European Union](#)



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GeneBEcon - capturing the potential of Gene editing for a sustainable BioEconomy

GeneBEcon is a Horizon Europe project that examines the innovation potential of gene editing for enabling a sustainable bioeconomy in the EU. Through the application of this technology in potato and microalgae, coupled with stakeholder and consumer engagement, GeneBEcon is assessing their expected contributions towards energy-efficient, low-input agricultural production and clean industrial processing, while at the same time considering social, economic, and regulatory implications.

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