

Press Release: GeneBEcon Policy Brief Confirms: A reduction in biosafety data requirements does not compromise safety of NGT products

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In its latest Policy Brief, Horizon Europe project GeneBEcon sheds light on biosafety data requirements for plants developed using New Genomic Techniques (NGTs), and how different regulatory options would influence these requirements.

On 30th of September 2024 GeneBEcon released its Policy Brief on “NGT Biosafety Data Requirements”, now available on its website [here](#).

This Policy Brief, titled "**New Genomic Techniques Biosafety Data**", summarises the project deliverable [1] that explores how various regulatory options [2] determine the amount of data required for assessing the biosafety of NGT plants and their products. It highlights that more streamlined legislation results in reduced data requirements for NGT plants, which substantially lowers the costs for applicants without compromising safety. The Brief highlights that in the case of NGT plants that resemble conventionally bred plants and lack foreign DNA (such as category 1 NGT plants as described in the [EC's legislative proposal for NGT plants](#)), targeted verification datasets will be sufficient for regulatory approval.

GeneBEcon also addresses the impact of different regulatory options on different plants through case studies, focusing on:

- **NGT Potato:** A virus-resistant potato with optimised starch quality and virus resistance. This would reduce pesticide use and the need for chemicals during starch processing.
- **NGT Microalgae:** Enhanced microalgae strains producing high value compounds for industrial use. The leftover biomass will then be repurposed as poultry feed, contributing to a zero-waste bioeconomy.

By applying NGTs to these plants, the project aims to promote more sustainable agrifood systems, and contribute to a circular bioeconomy that benefits farmers, industries, and consumers.

[1] GeneBEcon (2024) [Report on biosafety data requirements](#).

[2] GeneBEcon (2023) [Technical report: Regulatory Options for New Genomic Techniques in the European Union](#).