



HeadsUp A COMMENTARY ON INDUSTRY ISSUES



Confidential

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In this issue: [FSANZ Launch Review of Foods Derived using NBTs](#) | [World Cotton Day](#) | [New Member for CropLife Australia](#)

FSANZ Launch Review of Foods Derived using NBTs

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) has today launched consultation on [Proposal P1055 – Definitions for gene technology and NBTs](#). The consultation period is eight weeks and will close **03 December 2021**.

P1055 is a proposal to amend the definitions for 'food produced using gene technology' and 'gene technology' in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code).

These definitions determine what foods are classed as genetically modified (GM) food under the Code. Currently, all GM food available for sale in Australia and New Zealand must have been assessed for safety by FSANZ and be expressly permitted and listed in relevant Code schedules.

FSANZ is proposing to update the definitions to make them clearer and better able to accommodate food produced by existing, emerging and future genetic technologies. On first assessment it is a very positive document that has captured the positions that CropLife is advocating for, however there are some areas relating to approvals of foods derived from NBTs with altered characteristics that CropLife will continue to engage the Regulator on.

In the first of two rounds of proposed public consultation, FSANZ invites interested parties to comment on its proposed approach to:

- revise and expand the process-based definition for 'gene technology' to capture all methods for genetic modification other than conventional breeding; and
- revise the definition for 'food produced using gene technology' to include specific product-based criteria for excluding certain foods from pre-market safety assessment and approval as GM food. Foods that do not meet all relevant exclusion criteria would still require an application to FSANZ.

To coincide with this release, FSANZ has also developed a new [factsheet and video](#) on NBTs to add to their growing [consumer resources](#) section.

CropLife supports well-considered reform that maintains a high level of integrity in Australia's biotechnology and agricultural chemical regulatory system and, in turn, maintains community confidence while delivering important efficiencies. All efforts must be made to ensure the system remains fit for purpose, is risk-based and proportionate, and provides certainty and clarity for industry.

CropLife has constructively engaged in all previous reform agendas and proposed specific initiatives to improve Australia's food regulatory system, both in its effectiveness and its efficiency. Despite our frustration with the slow process and lack of proper implementation of these reforms to date, we remain committed to continuing to work constructively with the Australian Government and stakeholders to ensure Australia has the world's best food regulation system.

For more information, contact: Lucy Darragh | 0459 550 010 | <mailto:lucy.darragh@croplife.org.au>

World Cotton Day

Today is World Cotton Day, a chance to celebrate a great fibre and amazing biotechnology innovation.

CropLife Australia has put out a media release to note the occasion along with a number of social media posts in celebration of the success of genetically modified cotton cultivation in Australia, with GM cotton now making up more than 99.5 per of all cotton grown in Australia.

Chief Executive Officer of CropLife Australia, Mr Matthew Cossey, said of World Cotton Day, “2021 marks 25 years that Australian farmers have benefited from the advantages of growing genetically modified cotton, which has assisted them in adopting more environmentally sustainable and profitable farming practices.”

Read our full media release [online](#).

Engage with and share our social media posts: [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

New Member for CropLife Australia

CropLife Australia is pleased to announce that DGL Manufacturing Australia Pty Ltd has joined as a Class B Crop Protection member.

We are very pleased to have DGL Manufacturing Australia join CropLife.

For more information, contact: Katherine Delbridge | 0410 491 261 | katherine.delbridge@croplife.org.au

All previous Heads Up alerts can be found through the [member section of our website](#).

Please note:

As an employee of one of CropLife Australia's member companies, you currently receive CropLife Australia's Heads Up, a service by CropLife Australia providing a commentary on industry issues. To unsubscribe, please send an email to: info@croplife.org.au and write 'unsubscribe Heads Up' in the subject box.

