

From: Jay Byrne
 To: Wray-Cohen, Diane - FAS
 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Oct. 31, 2017
 Date: Tuesday, October 31, 2017 9:03:43 PM

2019-FAS-03111-F 5 of 7

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included coverage of the EAT Asia-Pacific Food Forum, highlighting efforts to meet the Sustainable Development Goals and address climate impacts. In Uganda, civil society groups vowed to fight the country's recently pass biosafety bill.

Consolidated highlights include:

- Indonesian news outlets reported on the start of the EAT Asia-Pacific Food Forum, a regional event to promote sustainable regional food production. While commentary specifically about agricultural biotechnology has been limited, several media outlets have reported on the need for agricultural technology, in general, to ensure regional food security. In a statement at the conference, Indonesia Vice President Jusuf Kalla noted that biotechnology and bioengineering could be important tools to address climate impacts on food production in the country. **[See more](#)**
- Uganda's *The Independent* reported civil society groups are threatening to sue over the Parliament's passage of Uganda's Biosafety and Biotechnology Bill. The newspaper quoted a spokesperson for the Uganda Network on Toxic Free Malaria, who said activist groups are organizing to file a lawsuit once the bill receives a presidential signature and is passed into law. Other critics interviewed in the piece claimed the seed bill could force farmers to plant biotech seeds and that GM foods could harm human health. **[See more](#)**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **[click here](#)**

North America

[News: Brownfield Ag News previews Organic and Non-GMO Forum to be held in St. Louis on Nov. 6-7, with industry experts to discuss how producers, food companies can strategically enter organic food market; one of organizers says forum to address advent of gene editing technology, logistics that affect farmer returns](#)

[Commentary: The Packer's Tom Karst reports on release of non-browning Arctic apples in U.S. market, without a label indicating they are GM, believes promotion of "preservative-free" may be a winning message for sliced apples](#)

[Commentary: "SupermarketGuru" Phil Lempert writes for Forbes, amplifies recent Michigan State University study demonstrating consumer confusion about organic and non-GMO labels, calls for acknowledgment that current communication methods are ineffective](#)

[News release: Dow AgroSciences promotes its record-setting number of finalists at 2017 AGROW Awards in Indianapolis, taking top honors in four categories, including win for GE Enlist cotton in Best New Crop Protection Product or Trait, as well as Best R&D Pipeline](#)

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Ugandan news outlet reports on opposition to and support of recently passed biosafety bill, organic stakeholders are concerned that introduction of GMOs will threaten their competition, civil society organizations threaten legal action, but scientists are excited

Commentary: Zambia Daily Mail columnist argues the country cannot afford to miss out on benefits of biotech, highlighting potential to boost food security and successful adoption of the technology by other nations, notes need for appropriate regulations and guidelines

Commentary: University of Ottawa law professor and Co-Founder of Open African Innovation Research, Chidi Oguamanam, writes for Nigerian news outlet, argues introduction of high-tech industrial ag practices such as GMOs is not best solution to food insecurity

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Filipino food news site reports on Philippine Rice Research Institute's (PhilRice) recent meetings, coordinated with International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), on status of Golden Rice development, with participation from multiple stakeholders

News: Indonesia's Merdeka highlights four obstacles that have prevented country from achieving President Joko Widodo's 2014 target to become food self-sufficient in three years, with Vice President Jusuf Kalla saying food technology needed to increase productivity by 3 percent annually

Commentary: The Huffington Post runs op-ed by global sustainability advocate promoting inaugural EAT Asia-Pacific Food Forum (Oct. 30-31) in Indonesia, work of NGO LAUNCH Food to increase access to healthy food globally, inspire consumers to make more nutritious choices

Commentary: The Diplomat runs op-ed co-written by Indonesia's health minister, founder of EAT Foundation promoting EAT Asia-Pacific Food Forum on Oct. 30-31 in Jakarta, arguing Asia-Pacific has potential to lead world in ensuring healthy, sustainable food for all

News: Bisnis Indonesia reports on Oct. 30 opening of EAT Asia-Pacific Food Forum in Jakarta, with Vice President Jusuf Kalla saying he believes biotechnology and bioengineering can help solve problems of sustainable food security in Indonesia, other countries

Commentary: Kavitha Kuruganti of Alliance for Sustainable & Holistic Agriculture (ASHA) writes for Hindustan Times, calls for regulatory overhaul on GMOs and pesticides, linking recent pesticide poisonings to increased use on Bt cotton and illegal herbicide-tolerant cotton

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Campaign: French NGO Resistance Verte urges supporters to sign Fondation Pour La Nature Et L'Homme's petition against "hidden GMOs," claiming GMOs negatively impact the environment, biodiversity, soil and farmers

Campaign: French NGO Fondation Pour La Nature Et L'Homme urges supporters to sign petition "Refuse GMOs Hidden On Your Plate," calls for GMO moratorium in France, EU regulation of new breeding techniques as GMOs, and promotion of agroecology

News: Dutch news outlet reports on feed company ForFarmers' announcement that it now offers GMO-free goat feed with Verband Lebensmittel Ohne Gentechnik (VLOG) certification to meet Dutch demand for VLOG certified dairy products

News: Dutch ag news outlet reports on Committee on Genetic Modification's (COGEM) call for tightening criteria for Category 2 GM field trials, while criteria for categories 1 and 3 may remain unchanged, regarding data requirements to ensure health and environmental safety

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Event: Brazil's Commission for the Environment and Sustainable Development (CMADS) will hold public hearing on social and environmental impact of GM crops (Oct. 31, 2017), participants include representatives of biotech and civil society organizations

News release: Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa) recently held workshop with theme "Agronomy in the economic and social development of Brazil," researcher Rubens Augusto de Miranda noted new Green Revolution will come from science and technology

News: Russia Today reports on study by Autonomous University of Yucatán researchers demonstrating that plantations of Monsanto's GM soybeans in Yucatan Peninsula are impacting bees and contaminating organic honey exported to the EU

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News: The Weekly Times reports on the close of public comment period for Food Standards Australia and New Zealand review of Omega-3 enhanced GM canola

News release: Soil and Health Association of New Zealand celebrates Federated Farmers' decision not to appeal against right of local councils to restrict use of GMOs, following dismissal of previous appeals to Environment Court and High Court

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included the start of the Seventh Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Developments in the commercialization of GM mustard in India and the start of the Nobel Prize Dialogue in Seoul also generated commentary.

- Marking the launch of the meeting on plant genetic resources, civil society groups issued statements on the need for protecting smallholder farmers' access to seeds. Representatives of the All-India Coordination Committee of Farmers' Movements, La Via Campesina and Third World Network each commented on the important role peasant farmers play in preserving seed diversity. [See more](#)
- Following last week's controversy over the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee's apparent withdrawal of support for GM mustard, *Indo-Asian News Service* reported that minutes from the group's May meeting had been corrected to show that regulators had recommended approval of the crop. Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan has yet to accept or reject the recommendation. [See more](#)
- The Nobel Prize Dialogue began, with discussion centering on "The Age to Come." *The Korea Herald* reported on the various sessions, including statements from Nobel laureate Richard Roberts on the importance of biotechnology in agriculture. [See more](#)

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North America

Commentary: Scott Miller of Farmers Alliance for Integrated Resources in Broomfield, Colorado writes for local news outlet, explains environmental benefits of GM crops, argues that any research program for Boulder County ag should be comprehensive, methodical and fair

Commentary: Independent Women's Forum posts piece by senior fellow and author Julie Gunlock about political correctness surrounding Halloween, including Non-GMO Project advising parents to make sure their children's treats are non-GMO only, blasts group for promoting its own "money-making scheme"

Commentary: Mark Lynas of Cornell Alliance for Science describes Italian farmer Giorgio Fidenato's legal struggles over his decision to grow GM maize, highlighting Fidenato's goal of reducing pesticide use, and his plans to plant GM maize again next year

News: Food Dive amplifies University of Florida study finding some consumers mistake "organic" and "non-GMO" terms on food labels as synonymous, more consumers willing to pay higher price for products labeled "Non-GMO Project Verified" than for "USDA Organic," don't understand certified organic products also non-GMO

Commentary: Farmer's Daughter USA Amanda Zaluckyj lists six concerns about current food marketing trends, notes non-GMO labeling vilifies good food, negatively impacts low-income consumers, and promotes less environmentally-friendly ag practices

Event: Toxin-Free Pima County to host Resist! & Revitalize our Communities Summit (Nov. 4), featuring "Whitewash" author Carey Gillam, "Going Against GMOs" author Melissa Diane Smith, and Organic Consumers Association's Alexis Baden-Mayer

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News release: La Via Campesina, on occasion of International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) meeting in Kigali, Rwanda, calls on ITPGRFA governing body to prohibit patenting of genetic information, and grant peasants' rights to save, use, exchange and sell seeds

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Korea Herald reports on recent Nobel Prize Dialogue in Seoul with theme "The Age to Come," Laureate Richard Roberts spoke in support of GMOs, noting potential to fight malnutrition, and arguing that good quality food makes a big difference in longevity

Commentary: Prickly Research's Edward Hammond writes for Third World Network, calls on International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) governing body to clarify that Multi-lateral System (MLS) sequences come with same benefit sharing obligations as apply to seeds

News: United News of India reports farmers groups worried about government's lack of national consultation over its position in ITPGRFA that affects their rights over seeds, intellectual property rights; farmers complain much of seed banks collection under Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources held by CGIAR

News: Xinhua reports on 7th Session of Governing Body of ITPGRFA in Kigalia, Rwanda, aimed at strengthening treaty, which facilitates access to genetic materials of 64 crops in multilateral system for research, breeding and training for food and agriculture; experts call for conservation of food plant genetic varieties to fight world hunger

Commentary: Vivian Fernandes of Smart Indian Agriculture writes for Indo-Asian News Service, notes ball is in Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan's court regarding GM mustard, after Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) uploaded revised minutes of its meeting on GM mustard, documenting its recommendation

News: Korean news outlet reports on government efforts to control spread of GM oilseed rape, highlights concerns about ecosystem pollution and biodiversity loss

News: Korea Herald reports on Nobel Prize Dialogue in Seoul, where laureate Richard Roberts spoke about benefits of GMOs, noting they help fight malnutrition and solve starvation issues in developing nations, and that good quality food impacts longevity

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News release: Belgium's Federal Public Service Health announces public consultation starting Oct. 30 and running to Nov. 29 on field trial application with GM maize, with citizens allowed to vote on field trial, provides access to data in application file, online form to send comments, questions

News release: UN FAO promotes Oct. 30-Nov. 3 meeting of Governing Body for ITPGRFA in Kigali, Rwanda, where curtain-raiser event held to discuss synthetic biology, new technologies that could revolutionize crop breeding; scientist notes shift toward digital collections that include complete genomes and "parts" registries

Audio: United Nations Radio posts interview with Kent Nnadozie, head of governing body for International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, about expectations for governing body's 7th Session (Oct. 30-Nov. 3) in Rwanda

Commentary: Michela Becchi of Italian food and wine publication Gambero Rosso praises Food Evolution documentary, highlighting its goal of countering fake news about GMOs, argues time has come to abandon preconceptions and unfounded opinions

News: Bosnia and Herzegovina news outlet reports local manufacturers will soon be able to label products as non-GMO, Food Safety Agency Deputy Director Dragan Benjo noted difficulty in determining whether animal products such as milk or meat contain GMOs

News: U.K. news outlet reports on Sainsbury Laboratory's field trials of late blight-resistant GM potato variety, lead researcher Jonathan Jones noted initial results offer hope of being able to control late blight without use of chemical fungicides

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Commentary: Vía Campesina's Latin American coordination, CLOC, amplifies Friends of the Earth radio podcast in reaction to EU's hint that it will block UN treaty negotiations on transnational corporations and human rights violations

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

Commentary: Organic farmer warns on New Zealand news site of "looming threat" synthetic proteins pose to country's farmers, calls for organic approach

News: Australian farming news site reports on recent report by Belgium-based International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food), warning that large agribusiness firms have gotten too big to feed humanity sustainably, and increase farmers' costs

[More Oceania items](#)

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From: [Jay Byrne](#)
 To: [Wray-Cohen, Diane - FAS](#)
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Oct. 30, 2017
 Date: Monday, October 30, 2017 4 01:45 PM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

This week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter features columns from three world regions - Asia, Oceania and Africa - calling on national governments to clear the way for biotechnology. Commentary pieces from India, Australia and Nigeria argue on behalf of genetically modified crops as a safe means to feed the hungry, provide consumers additional choices and help farmers compete financially.

As European regulators again delayed their decision on whether to renew glyphosate's license - and for how long - commentators continued to poke holes in the case for a ban, with Terence Corcoran arguing only green activists see reason to support one. Paul Driessen urged U.S. lawmakers to subpoena officials behind the disputed International Agency for Research on Cancer review.

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In This Issue

[Stakeholder Spotlight](#)
[Stories Worth Sharing](#)
[What's Trending?](#)
[Calendar highlights](#)

Stakeholder Spotlight: Paul Mills



California alternative health researcher Paul J. Mills appeared last week as the lead author of a heavily promoted [study alleging increased glyphosate levels in California residents](#).

■ Stories Worth Sharing

[Michael Tabb: Non-GMO labels could be persuading people to make poor food choices](#)

[Hannah Ritchie: Data analysis shows organic farming harms environment more than conventional in several ways](#)

[Terence Corcoran: Reasons to ban glyphosate don't exist "except in the minds of global green activists"](#)

[Mami Soupcoff: If GM corn causes paranoia after all these years of safety, modified pigs sure to "freak out" environmentalists](#)

[Financial Express: "It would be tragic if India is not able to harness GM technology" and keeps pandering to opponents](#)

[Peter Hunt: Time for Australia to "trust the rigour of science" and stop falling behind on GM technology like non-browning apples](#)

[Paul Driessen: U.S. Congress should subpoena Chris Portier, IARC officials and demand openness on glyphosate review](#)

[Durrie Bouscaren: St. Louis scientists developing gene-edited cassava for East Africa, although regulatory future remains unclear](#)

[Sonnie Nwosu: Delays in adopting biotechnology have economic and](#)

Mills' background, affiliations with the Maharishi movement and questionable credentials raised questions from watchdog groups.

Learn more about Mills [HERE](#).

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humanitarian costs

Borlaug communications award winner Lusk sees need to engage consumers who don't trust ag technology

Josh Bloom: Newsweek falls for usual trick in generating "overblown" fear about pesticides - failing to consider the exposure level

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What's Trending?

European lawmakers delay decision on glyphosate reauthorization; debate turns to shorter term as 10-year proposal fails

Documents show Indian regulators plan to delay consideration of GM mustard commercialization

French NGO files legal action in bid to block country's approval of sulfoxaflor, citing risk to bees

California study involving Maharishi-educated researcher claims glyphosate levels in urine increased after introduction of GM crops

Calendar highlights

October 31- November 1	October 31	November 3
British Crop Production Council Congress	Presentation of the Findings of the Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health (Ottawa)	Canadian Biotechnology Action Network public forum on synthetic biology, new genetic engineering

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Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included international coverage on genetically engineered pigs with lower body fat developed by Chinese and British scientists. There was continued reporting and commentary on illegal Bt cotton cultivation in India.

- *The Washington Post* reported on researchers' development of GE pigs with 24 percent less body fat that also can withstand colder temperatures. Farmers said the pigs likely would cut costs for larger producers but would not taste as good as conventional pigs. Media outlets from France, New Zealand, Croatia and throughout Asia reported on the development. **See more**
- *The Times of India* reported the Nagpur District's agricultural department filed reports against three people for the illegal sale of unapproved herbicide-tolerant cotton seed. The reports recommend an investigation to see if the seed originated from the Mahyco-Monsanto Biotech field trials. An activist wrote in an op-ed for *FirstPost* that "Monsanto's reckless practices" have led to Bt toxins in food and edible oil and noted that Gilles-Eric Seralini claims this could be a health hazard. **See more**
- The University of Illinois announced that its RIPE research project would allow smallholder farmers to have access to Bt cowpea seeds free of charge in 2018. The newly developed crop is resistant to the Maruca pod borer, which can destroy up to 80 percent of an African farmer's cowpea crop. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: American Council on Science and Health's Alex Berezow criticizes New York Times' Eric Lipton's science coverage, highlighting biased treatment of Kevin Folta and recent EPA appointee Nancy Beck, notes work with industry does not make one dishonest

Commentary: Organic Authority's Jill Ettinger examines development of "clean" vegan meat, which she argues could potentially lead to end of GM crops, claiming they are dangerous due to herbicide tolerance, also claims herbicide use harms the environment

News: Hawaiian TV station reports Kauai County Mayor Bernard Carvalho announces candidacy for lieutenant governor, says he wants to take battle against GMOs to state level

Campaign: Noting upcoming Halloween events, Center for Food Safety amplifies petition calling for on-package GMO labeling and urges parents to buy organic candies to prevent child exposure to GMOs and pesticides

News: Arizona NPR affiliate reports state's cotton growers seeing increase in pink bollworm resistance to GM cotton, with only three cases of resistant bugs in first decade of use followed by 13 cases in last 10 years; growers also plant some traditional cotton seeds to keep bollworm's resistant gene at bay, release sterile moths

Commentary: Boulder Daily Camera editorial says County Commission ignores responsibility for creating mess after banning GMOs, depriving farmers of their livelihood, failing in creating plan to replace GM crops on public land, and blaming farmers for "polarized climate"

Commentary: Platform for millennial content posts piece by food writer defining GMOs, comparing them to traditional hybrids, calling them "far cry" from toxic substances, pointing out 92 percent of corn grown in United States genetically engineered

Commentary: Treehugger reviews "Modified" documentary examining question of why Canada and United States don't label GM foods, quotes Seralini claim in film that opposition to GMOs justified because GM seed companies want to gain ownership of world's most important food crops

[More North America items](#)

Africa

Commentary: Nigerian news site columnist says delays in adopting biotech and pod-borer-resistant cowpea have high cost economically and in terms of malnutrition, hunger, lives

News: Nigerian news site profiles World Food Prize recipient Akinwumi Adesina, African Development Bank president, notes activists chide him for being too friendly with Monsanto, other GM product producers, highlights successes such as ending corruption in fertilizer subsidies and innovations to aid farmers

Audio: Kevin Folta's Talking Biotech podcast features former anti-GMO activist Mark Lynas in discussion about food security in Africa, with focus on threats to production, innovations to address them, and resistance toward adoption of new technologies

News: Ghanaian news outlet reports U.S. Embassy training program for 30 journalists in Kumasi on understanding biotech, Ghana's biosafety regulatory systems, and implications for food security and economic growth

News: Ghana news site reports local food crops being phased out because they cannot withstand environmental degradation, notes National Biosafety Authority advocates GM crops to increase yields, withstand weather changes

News release: University of Illinois promotes role of its RIPE research project, which has genetically engineered cowpea to produce Bt protein that protects against Maruca pod borer; many African smallholder farmers depend on cowpea, will have option to grow Bt variety in 2018

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

Commentary: Activist writes in Indian news site op-ed that "Monsanto's reckless practices" led to Bt toxins in food, edible oils, claims this could be hazardous to health according to Seralini

Commentary: Retired Bangladesh Rice Research Institute Director General Jiban Krishna Biswas concludes series on GMO debate, with focus on disagreement between Greenpeace and scientists, calls for case-by-case evaluation of GMOs and consideration of various impacts

News: Times of India reports on Nagpur ag department's filing of three first information reports (FIR) for alleged illegal sale of herbicide-tolerant cotton seeds, calling for investigation of whether seeds were leaked from Mahyco-Monsanto-Biotech field trials

News: Pakistan's Business Recorder interviews executive director of Crop Life Asia, Siang Hee Tan, who calls for country to craft ag investment policy to use biotech to help farmers benefit from crop protection technology

Campaign: Coalition for a GM-Free India letter to Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee accuses regulator of lies, withholding information, disorganization in oversight of biotech regulations, GM

Commentary: Writing in India news outlet, Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies researcher argues Yavatmal farmer deaths should raise red flags on value of GM crops growing resistant to pests, requiring more pesticides, crippling farmers economically

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Commentary: Italian pro-science NGO says Roman Observer op-ed by pro-organic NGO president accusing biotech industry of manipulating science on GMOs, glyphosate omits facts on the conflicts of interest, data mishandling of IARC

News release: BfR focus group research finds participants largely reject gene editing technologies, believing they are forms of genetic engineering; BfR emphasizes importance of public education of technology

News: German news site reports Germany's Social Democratic Party introduces bill to ban GMO cultivation, calling on Bundestag members to vote in 'decision of conscience' before new government forms

News: Dutch news source reports increased extent of resistance to GM crops in Brazil, notes Dow AgroSciences recently introduced transgenic soybean with fivefold resistance, including two genes to resist insects and three to resist different herbicides

Commentary: Bulgarian news site editorial says Parliament's ban on advertising GMOs is good start "to protect children's health," says lobbyists should not be allowed to create loopholes in the law

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Mexican news outlet reports on lack of GMO labeling requirement in the country, highlights labeling mandates in 61 other countries, Alliance for Food Health demands labeling for consumers in spite of scientific consensus on GMO safety

News release: Brazil's Chamber of Deputies announces public hearing Oct. 31 before Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development to discuss GMO crops, environmental and economic consequences

News: Uruguayan news site reports no GM seeds approved in last 5 years despite rules and control mechanisms; official says ideology, politics prevent GMO approval despite promise of higher yields

News: Peruvian news site reports biologist David Castro argues that Peru's GMO moratorium should be limited to six years and GMO production should be allowed in some areas

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News: New Zealand Herald reports on development of GE pigs with 24 percent less body fat using CRISPR-Cas9, highlights regulatory and ethical debate surrounding CRISPR, products of which are not currently regulated by USDA

News: Australian Associated Press reports Australia, EU to begin formal talks this year on trade deal after European Parliament set initial negotiating position, which mandates any deal to include measures to fight counterfeiting of GM or licensed ag and food products

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Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included ongoing commentary on GM mustard delays in India, as well as international coverage of the U.S. launch of pre-sliced GE apples. Regulators and researchers in Nigeria highlighted the benefits of the biosafety law, despite activist criticism.

- Indian regulators' delay in approving a GM mustard for commercialization drew more commentary today. Continuing a series of articles criticizing the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee, *Smart Indian Agriculture* editor Vivian Fernandes argued that its unexpected delay was disheartening for local researchers. In a similar piece, *The Times of India* reported that Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company (Mahyco) was refocusing its business on other Asian countries given India's poor intellectual property environment. [See more](#)
- Reports throughout the week have highlighted the November U.S. launch of pre-sliced genetically engineered Arctic Apples. Reports in Italian, U.S. and Indonesian sources have quoted Okanagan Specialty Fruits founder Neil Carter on his hopes that the product will reduce food waste. An Australian publication highlighted the role of CSIRO research in the product's development. [See more](#)
- Nigerian news outlets reported on ongoing biosafety awareness events in the country. In separate interviews, regulators and researchers with the National Biotechnology and Biosafety Consortium (NBBC), the University of Ibadan and the Open Forum for Agricultural Biotechnology (OFAB) all encouraged consumers and farmers to understand and embrace the benefits of GM crop cultivation. [See more](#)
- Australia's assistant minister for health announced that the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator would release draft amendments to gene editing regulations in November, to be followed by public consultation and approval by the Legislative and Governance Forum on Gene Technology. [See more](#)

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North America

News release: MIT and Broad Institute promote new paper in Science describing how their scientists created CRISPR-based system called "REPAIR" that can efficiently edit RNA in human cells, altering gene products without making changes to the genome, carrying profound potential as tool for research, treatment of disease

News: Wired reports articles published in journals Nature and Science show new CRISPR techniques could be more precise, have potential for helping create new drought-resistant crops

Commentary: Writing in Global Farmer Network, Italian farmer Giorgio Fidenato explains his long court battle over the planting of GM maize; says farmers should not allow activists to define the GMO debate

News: The Fresno Bee reports GMO Arctic apples being rolled out in November to about 400 stores in Midwest in form of sliced Golden Delicious apples engineered to keep from turning brown; company says GMO apples designed to reduce food waste, provide consumers with sliced apples packaged without preservatives

News: Montreal's Journal Metro reports tofu in Canada contains no GMOs, despite rumors based on fact that 78 percent of world's soybean crops genetically modified in 2016; report notes non-GMO yellow bean soybean used to make tofu, other products for human consumption in Canada

Interview: AgWeb Farm Journal talks to Michele Payn of Cause Matters Corp., author of "Food Truths From Farm To Table," who lists GMOs as most contentious food issue for consumers, in her opinion, says she would list nothing on food labels but government-mandated claims, calls absence claims most misleading

[More North America items](#)

Africa

Event: Coalition pour la protection du Patrimoine Génétique Africain to host conference reviewing findings of study by farmers on Burkina Faso Bt cotton cultivation (Oct. 27)

News: Ghana news site reports during biotech media training workshop, National Bio-Safety Authority board chairman says GMOs safe to eat, notes Ghana received GM food from US during 1983 drought; says anti-GMO groups churn out false information

News: Nigerian news site reports National Biotechnology and Biosafety Consortium secretary says Nigeria must embrace ag biotech to improve its food security

News: AFSA chair criticizes Nigeria's biosafety regulating agency, claiming it puts GM crop certification ahead of the environment and people, says NBMA is "unreliable umpire," notes Bt cotton failure in Burkina Faso, says Monsanto's GM products contain "super toxins"

News: PM News Nigeria reports food technology professor at University of Ibadan asks federal government to use Bt cotton to revive nation's textile industry; speaking at meeting of Nigerian Institute of Food Science and Technology, Ogugua Aworh said use of Bt cotton would increase production of agricultural raw materials

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Singapore news site reports China rejects fruit imported from Malaysia after detecting GMOs; crops included tomatoes, cassava, corn, cotton, soybeans

News: South China Morning Post amplifies news that researchers have developed gene-edited pigs better able to regulate body temperatures, add that regulatory approval is unlikely

News: Chinese English-language news site reports China releases regulations that will make GMO testing more transparent, international companies must report experiment materials, testing methods when importing GM products for processing

News: India news site reports pesticide poisoning in Maharashtra raising concerns about pesticide practices, claims that Bt doesn't need pesticides; farmer group says safety precautions are non-existent

News: Times of India reports Maharashtra state government requests denotification of Bollgard II due because it is no longer pest-resistant; Monsanto spokesperson notes the denotifying the seed may be unlawful, and there are only pockets of resistance loss reported

News: Indian economic news site reports Mahyco reduces GM research in India, plans to take technology to other Asian, African countries due to stringent regulations, lack of clarity in India

Commentary: Vivian Fernandes criticizes GEAC, environment ministry decision to defer GM mustard approval due to stiff opposition, notes Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan claims there are arguments on both sides, but no evidence supports anti-biotech arguments; says scientists are baffled by U-turn on

biotech crop

News: Oman's Al Roya reports National Bioethics Committee agrees to convene symposium, "Ethical considerations for genetically modified foods," in cooperation with stakeholders, to be held in first quarter of 2018

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: Bulgarian English-language news outlet reports Bulgaria Parliament passes law prohibiting promotion of unhealthy, GM foods to children

Commentary: French anti-GMO NGO inf'OGM points out China has authorized two new transgenic plants developed by U.S. firms, renewed authorizations for 14 others but also returned 350 tons of alfalfa to United States because it had not been reported as transgenic

News: Sueddeutsche Zeitung reports that SPD has introduced a bill to ban genetically modified plants, says passage will be difficult but current parliamentary situation could be beneficial

News: France's BFMTV reports critics warn CETA free trade agreement between Canada and EU could allow GM salmon to be sold in France without government's knowledge; report notes Canada doesn't require labeling of GE salmon, but fishing industry sources claim simple tests can determine if salmon genetically modified

News: Turkey's Daily Sabah reports country has world's highest yields of non-GMO cotton, citing German online portal Statista; USDA says non-GMO cotton yield has increased 10 percent in last 10 years, with Turkey seeing top yields; article asserts GMO cotton fiber linked to allergies, skin irritation among people who wear it

Commentary: Swiss news source runs op-ed by writer for NGO criticizing World Food Prize for ties to major agribusinesses, comparing 2017's prize awarded to president of African Food Bank to Food Sovereignty Award given to Zimbabwe Smallholder Organic Farmers Forum, fighting to promote local seeds in southern Africa

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Latin America during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News release: Australia ag ministry to release draft amendments to gene editing regulations for public consultation, review by Gene Technology regulator, amendments aim to respond to scientific advances with the industry

News: Australian news site reports Canadian company uses CSIRO technology in Arctic apples to keep fruit from browning; International Food Information Council Foundation spokesperson says concerns regarding GM food are decreasing

[More Oceania items](#)

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 Date: Wednesday, October 25, 2017 9 01:33 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included ongoing commentary over news that India's genetic engineering regulator was not planning to make a decision on GM mustard. In Mexico, villagers protesting GM soy cultivation criticized a recent court decision reducing required public input sessions.

- Indian news outlets continued to report on the controversy over regulatory delays in GM mustard. The *Financial Express* criticized the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee's decision to delay approval, calling opposition to the crop "tragic" in light of productivity needs. Vivian Fernandes, editor of *Smart Indian Agriculture*, argued that the government's approach to the crop indicated little concern for intellectual property or the rule of law. *The Hindu*, quoting a GEAC chairperson, said that the supposed delay may have been a "typographical error." **See more**
- In Mexico, villagers in the Hopelchén district accused a Second District judge in Campeche of siding with multinational companies and undermining the public consultation process. Colectivo Maya de Los Chenes criticized the judge for only requiring consultation with six indigenous communities, rather than the 34 communities it claims have been affected by the planting of transgenic soybeans. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**.

North America

News: Reuters reports Nestle leaving Grocery Manufacturers Association at end of year, following similar decision by Campbell Soup Co., notes Nestle had differences with lobbying group on issues including disclosure of GE ingredients, which company supports, and federal overhaul of nutrition labeling requirements

News: The Washington Post reports hybrid coffee plants coming onto market in bid for crop to withstand effects of climate change; French agronomist says new technology, innovations needed to address climate threat; industry-funded group World Coffee Research field-testing 46 new varieties of coffee plants

Commentary: Writing for American Council for Science and Health, Hank Campbell criticizes Time writer for amplifying study by UC San Diego professor whose doctorate came from unaccredited Maharishi University of Management in Iowa, notes previous papers included study on yogic flying

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science blogger discusses UN's World Food Day celebrations in Uganda, highlighting farmer support for public ag biotech, noting ag minister said nation has advanced food crop research and development techniques via genetic engineering, will soon deliver better varieties to farmers

News: Brownfield Ag News reports new study from University of Minnesota plant genetics professor finds both enthusiasm and concern surrounding biotech crops, concludes cooperative network of plant breeders, investors, advocacy groups could construct path to broader acceptance of gene editing

Commentary: StarTalk podcast features Intrexon CEO Randal J. Kirk as guest during discussion of future of biotechnology, including how CRISPR allows for better, more precise gene editing, as well as new developments such as Arctic apple, synthetic meat

News: Colorado newspaper reports Boulder County drops plan for sustainable agriculture research program to help it make transition away from use of GMOs; search for someone to run program opposed by local farmers, who alleged process was unethical, biased toward organic farming

Commentary: Independent Science News contributor amplifies recent study which found that introduction of golden rice gene into a high-yielding Indian rice variety had unintended effects leading to yield loss, highlights Johnathan Latham's argument that Golden Rice exemplifies flaws in using GE as a plant breeding tool

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) Director General Rufus Ebegba's statement that the agency's responsibility is to ensure that GM products are safe and labeled for consumers, speaking at recent training session entitled "Capacity Building for Effective Biosafety Management in Nigeria"

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Indian news outlet contributor criticizes GM mustard approval process as being undemocratic compared to the process leading to rejection of Bt eggplant, points to health and environmental risks of GMOs, criticizes secretive decision making, over-centralization and domination by powerful vested interests

News: Indian science periodical reports government puts hold on commercial release of GM mustard, quotes anti-GMO activist Kavitha Kuruganti saying opponents will continue fight to reject GM mustard, ensure no GMOs approved; article says farmers, ag experts skeptical about GM mustard after country's problems with Bt cotton

News: The Hindu reports on controversy surrounding Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee's (GEAC) stance on GM mustard, as records from a May 2016 meeting do not record approval of the variety, in spite of GEAC's announcement at the time, GEAC Chairperson Amita Prasad attributed the omission to a "typographical error"

Commentary: Editorial in India's Financial Express criticizes Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee's (GEAC) decision to put GM mustard on hold, in spite of government support and favorable safety assessments, argues it will be "tragic" if India is unable to harness GM technology

Commentary: Vivian Fernandes writes for India Legal, argues government's handling of illegal GM cotton variety shows it has little regard for intellectual property and rule of law, notes use of pirated seed inhibits technology stewardship and can lead to pest and weed resistance, points out that farmers have no legitimate alternative

News: Times of India reports Vandana Shiva blames Monsanto for recent farmer deaths due to pesticide inhalation in Yavatmal, claiming its Bt cotton has failed to protect crops from pests, resulting in higher pesticide spraying, she also accused Monsanto of intentionally allowing its herbicide-tolerant variety onto the market illegally

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: European farmers' organization Coldiretti sounds alarm following presentation of Ipes

Food report at International Food and Agriculture Forum, noting recent agribusiness mergers will mean that three companies could control over 70 percent of plant protection products and over 60 percent of seeds globally

News release: University of Oxford promotes C4 Rice Project led by its researchers moving toward "supercharging" rice to level of more efficient crops by introducing single maize gene to plant, aimed at improving photosynthesis in rice to increase crop yields; new study published in journal Current Biology

News release: German market research group GfK promotes online survey of consumers in 17 countries that finds they list low or no sugar content, absence of GMO ingredients as very or extremely important factors in their choice of food and drinks; consumers in high-income households place most importance on non-GMO foods

News release: Testbiotech demands that all approvals of GM soybeans sprayed with glyphosate be stopped, after vote on glyphosate's renewal was postponed again, points to potential health risks of residues on GM soybeans, criticizes loopholes in the risk assessment process

News: Deutsche Welle reports scientists working to develop soybean varieties capable of withstanding Germany's cold weather, notes WWF claims large quantities of GE soy, which must be clearly labeled in Germany and EU, reach consumers through being fed to meat animals

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Mexican news outlet reports members of Mayan communities and NGOs accuse Campeche district judge, Adrián Fernando Novelo Pérez, of favoring Monsanto, by reducing number of communities with consultations on GM soybeans from 34 to six

Commentary: Mexican news outlet contributor claims GMOs are produced by multinational corporations like Monsanto to control the global food supply, criticizes Judge Adrián Fernando Novelo Pérez for ruling in favor of Monsanto regarding GM soy, claiming it violates human rights and those of indigenous peoples

News: Mexican economy news outlet reports on Mexican Institute for Competitiveness (IMCO) deputy general manager, Manuel Molano's recent assessment that rising maize purchases could be reversed if better technology is adopted, arguing that Mexico is "wasting" biotech, pointing out contradiction in importing GM maize

Interview: Argentinian independent publication, Marcha, interviews former Environmental Ombudsman of the City of Buenos Aires, Elio Brailovsky, in context of document signed by Multisectorial No to the Monsanto Seed Law, he highlights health dangers of glyphosate, especially when sprayed near populated places

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

Commentary: Australian news outlet contributor voices disappointment that Australia is falling behind in GM technology adoption, noting technologies developed in Australia, such as non-browning apples currently being sold in the U.S., are shunned locally, while other countries reap benefits, calls for trust in science

[More Oceania items](#)

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 Date: Tuesday, October 24, 2017 9:03:46 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included news that India's biotechnology regulator had no plans to decide on GM mustard commercialization. In Europe, MEPs called for a new regulatory scheme on GM crop import approvals. African news outlets reported on efforts to regulate GM crops in Nigeria.

- *Reuters and Indo-Asian News Service* reported that India's Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) had decided to indefinitely delay its approval of a GM mustard variety. The decision was made during a May meeting, though minutes from the meeting were only now posted. Follow-up reporting in several news outlets quoted the Coalition for a GM-Free India, which criticized the regulatory body for not rejecting the application outright. **See more**
- In Europe, MEPs with Greens/EFA and European United Left/Nordic Green Left reported that the European Parliament had approved three objections to recent European Commission decisions allowing GM crop varieties for import. Both statements criticized the current "comitology" process, arguing that the commission's ability to approve crops when Parliament could not reach a qualified majority decision was undemocratic and in need of reform. **See more**
- Nigerian news outlets reported on continuing efforts to implement the country's National Biosafety Agency Law. Speaking at the South-West Agro-ecological Biosafety Awareness Workshop in Ife-Ife, an Obafemi Awolowo University administrator encouraged regulators to use the university's research program for GM crop field trials. In Abuja, the National Biosafety Management Agency launched a four-day training session for regulators. The agency's director-general, Rufus Ebegba, specifically addressed an activist lawsuit and said the agency would maintain its focus on ensuring GM crops in the country were safe. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, [click here](#)

North America

News: Politico reports Nestle leaves Grocery Manufacturers Association, notes Nestle and GMA have differed on food policy issues, citing Nestle disagreement with GMA's opposition to GMO labeling

News: NPR's "The Salt" reports biotech students at State University of New York working to engineer fungus-resistant hop varieties native to New York, where mildew blight destroyed state's hops industry in early 1900s; biotech research could benefit farmers, revive state's historic craft beer industry

News: The Progressive Farmer's "Washington Insider" column amplifies Bloomberg report suggesting U.S. biotech companies may find it harder to secure authorizations for GE crops in EU after United Kingdom leaves bloc in 2019, because UK has voted in favor of GM crops at EU level, where about 60 GM crops approved for import

Commentary: Doug Gurian-Sherman of Strategic Trainings and Expansion begins first of two-part series on "Food Evolution" documentary for Foodtank, claims the film is a piece of pro-GMO propaganda, criticizes its focus on food safety while ignoring other concerns about GM crops

News: NPR's "The Salt" amplifies paper in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences in which Chinese scientists report creating healthy GE pigs with 24 percent less body fat than normal pigs; scientists used CRISPR-Cas9 to give pigs gene allowing them to regulate their body temperatures better

More North America items

Africa

News: News Agency of Nigeria reports on recent training workshop where National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) Director-General Rufus Ebegba emphasized importance of training for modern biotech regulators, noting purpose of NBMA is to ensure effective regulation and safety for human health and the environment

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife Vice-Chancellor Eyitope Ogunbodede's call on federal government to use the university's Teaching and Research Farm for GM field trials, arguing Nigeria should not discriminate against technologies proven to be safe

Commentary: Hannah Nnadi of Nigerian Biotechnology and Biosafety Consortium writes for local news outlet, dispels myth that deployment of GMOs is part of government plan to kill Nigerians, notes GM products do not kill, and are the most highly regulated products in the world

News: Namibian news outlets reports that student from University of Namibia held a GMO awareness forum, quotes student leaders who link GM crops to infertility and high blood pressure

News: Burkina Faso news outlet reports on recent press conference organized by Citizen Collective for Agroecology (CCAIE), where spokesperson Ali Tapsoba warned about dangers of Bt Cowpea, promoted Burkina's March Against Monsanto on May 19, 2018

More Africa items

Asia

News: Reuters reports on release of Environment Ministry's Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) document revealing decision to defer approval of GM mustard, in spite of prior GEAC approval, following opposition from activists and politicians

News: Times of India reports that GEAC will not decide on GM mustard cultivation approval, citing recently released meeting minutes; quotes advocacy groups who question how crop was tested

News: Indo-Asian News Service reports on Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee's (GEAC) reversal of its prior recommendation for approval of GM mustard, according to minutes of a May 2017 meeting, indicating the decision came following receipt of representations of various stakeholders

Commentary: Contributor for India's Financial Express criticizes Indian government for failing to act when Monsanto made Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) aware of illegal seeds back in 2008, argues India is not much better than China with regards to intellectual property theft

Commentary: Vivian Fernandes writes for India's Financial Express, criticizes ag ministry's intervention in cotton seed market, notes removing the illegal variety would leave farmers with no alternative, criticizes government handling of cotton seed trait fees, notes "illegality thrives when ministers behave like monarchs"

News: Indonesian news outlet reports on government recommendations for sovereignty and managing national food security raised at National Congress 2017, including more effective subsidization of fertilizers, seeds, aid tools and farm machinery

More Asia items

Europe

News release: European United Left/Nordic Green Left European Parliamentary Group announces Parliamentary objection to EU Commission's approval of three new GMOs for use in food, GM Soybean, GM oilseed rape and GM maize 1507, finding EFSA's risk assessment to be "insufficient and inappropriate"

Commentary: Greens/European Free Alliance says EU's undemocratic decision making process has authorized 28 GMOs in three years despite public, Parliament opposition, calls on Commissioner Junker to reform CAP, prioritize people over multinationals

News: Italian news source reports European Left Party opposes EU Commission's approval of three GMO varieties, criticizes EU Commission president Junker for supporting undemocratic process that allows EC to continue to adopt policy unpopular in Parliament

News release: FAO shares Director General's comments at FAO technical committee gathering that called on WTO conference to prioritize food security initiatives, including multilateral trade agreements, harmonized food standards to help smallholder farmers

Commentary: Our World In Data researcher examines environmental footprint of organic versus conventional agriculture, finds organic agriculture more environmentally harmful in several areas

Interview: Dutch news source de Volksrant talks to British science journalist Matt Ridley, who blames "pessimists" for resisting use of GM crops, warns EU suppressing innovation by opposing GM crops, biotechnology, cites EU attitude toward biotech as main reason for his support of Brexit

Commentary: Italian pro-science NGO says it is uncertain how Italian institutions will respond to Ministry of Health analysis finding 3 percent of food samples contain GMOs, notes its past lobbying for open field experimentation of biotech, efforts to combat GMO myths

Study: EFSA GMO panel risk assessment for renewal of Syngenta herbicide-tolerant GM maize variety finds no evidence of new hazards, scientific uncertainties to change conclusion of original assessment

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Commentary: Mexican news outlet contributor warns about negative health risks of GMOs and glyphosate, pointing to IARC's review of its carcinogenicity

Interview: Argentinian publication Marcha interviews Julián Galeano of Todos Los 25 Hasta Que Vaya Monsanto, part of Multisectorial Against the Monsanto Seed Law, warns the seed law would make exchanging or reusing seeds illegal

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

[More Oceania items](#)

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

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Today's global biotechnology developments included regional reporting on the African Development Bank's promotion of its Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation program.

- In a statement on Friday, African Development Bank president Akinwumi Adesina announced that the finance group would be re-launching its Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) program. Adesina emphasized the role that regional seed delivery platforms would play in breaking down investment barriers. The news release included statements from officials with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa. **[See more](#)**
- University of Florida researchers announced the results of a new survey, which found that American consumers see non-GMO labels and organic labels as synonymous and put an equivalent price premium on those products. Researchers added that consumers involved in the study were unlikely to scan a QR code to determine whether foods contained GM ingredients, but those who did scan the code were likely to pay more for GM foods. **[See more](#)**

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North America

[Embargoed release \(Oct. 24\): University of California San Diego promotes study finding human exposure to glyphosate has increased since introduction of genetically modified crops, noting California listed the herbicide as a carcinogen](#)

[Embargoed release \(Oct. 24\): Journal of the American Medical Association network announces University of California San Diego study finding higher levels of glyphosate in human urine last year than in 1993; authors claim possible adverse health effects from dietary intake](#)

[News release: University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences announces recent study led by IFAS Brandon McFadden and Perdue University agricultural economics professor Jayson Lusk, which found that consumers see "organic" and "non-GMO" food labels as synonymous](#)

[News: Farm Journal reports on recent Borlaug Dialogue International Symposium, where DuPont's Neal Gutterson highlighted potential benefits and current developments in CRISPR-Cas9 technology, he noted explaining the technology to the general public will take a great deal of care](#)

[News: Ohio news outlet reports on Ohio State University scientists' development of "Insect Allies," using crop pests such as aphids to transfer viruses into the plant to initiate protection from an acute stressor such as drought, USDA geneticist Peg Redinbaugh noted it will not replace need to breed stress-resistant crops](#)

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News release: African Development Bank (AfDB) announces launch of Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) initiative, announced by President Akinwumi Adesina on sidelines of World Food Prize 2017 event, to be implemented via implemented through a collectively agreed central delivery platform

News: The Guardian (Nigeria) reports on African Development Bank's (AfDB) launch of Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) initiative, guaranteeing additional 513 million tons of food for African countries, announced by AfDB President Akinwumi Adesina at World Food Prize 2017 side event

News release: African Development Bank (AfDB) announces partnership between World Food Prize Foundation and AfDB President Akinwumi Adesina to establish World Food Prize Africa Institute, following awarding of 2017 World Food Prize to Adesina, with goal of funding African youth in agriculture

Interview: The Guardian (Nigeria) interviews African Development Bank (AfDB) President Akinwumi Adesina on sidelines of World Food Prize 2017 events, he emphasizes importance of viewing agriculture as a business, promotes Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) initiative

Commentary: Ag communications expert Isaac Ongu writes for Ugandan news outlet, emphasizes importance of mass sensitization following passage of biosafety law, noting Ministry of science technology and innovation and others can now roll out programs to educate the public and train extension workers on biotech

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Times of India reports two Maharashtra state-run universities will begin hybrid Bt cotton seed production in 2018, highlights agriculture officials' assessment that Bt cotton seeds provided by private companies have not proven very effective, and seeking compensation is getting complicated

Commentary: Indian news outlet contributor criticizes government for violating food safety laws by allowing entry of GM canola and soybean oils for human consumption, pointing to information brought to light in recent court case in which activist Aruna Rodrigues asked for imports to be banned or for GM products to be clearly labeled

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: Green Party MEPs table motion calling on the European Commission to withdraw draft approvals for GM oilseed rape varieties ending new risk assessments; similar motions for maize and soy also tabled

News: Food Navigator reports on debate over whether products of new breeding techniques such as CRISPR should be regulated as GMOs, EU Green Party, Greenpeace and European Network of Scientists for Social and Environmental Responsibility (ENSSER) support application of current GMO regulations for such products

News release: Oxfam France, Action Against Hunger, Secours Catholique Caritas France and Agronomists and Veterinarians Without Borders (AVSF), supported by CCFD-Terre Solidaire, decided to leave General States of Food, criticizing government's support of G7's New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition

News: Le Monde reports four NGOs, Oxfam France, Action Against Hunger, Catholic Relief Caritas and Agronomists and Veterinarians Without Borders (AVSF), slam door on General Estates of Food, criticizing government's partnership with G7, arguing it is promoted by large agribusiness companies, endangering African peasant farmers

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Latin America

Commentary: Dominican Republic news outlet contributor claims food has changed since Monsanto began promoting GMOs, links GMOs to rise in rates of several health disorders and diseases, such as cancer

Commentary: Mexican news outlet contributor warns readers about threat posed by transgenic foods, claims multinational companies such as Monsanto, Aventis, Syngenta, Basf and DuPont seek to use transgenic products to control the exploding global population, points to high risk of negative health effects

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News: Australian food processing news site reports on U.S. release of non-browning Arctic apples, highlighting goals of tackling obesity, by encouraging fresh fruit consumption, and reducing food waste, highlights Okanagan Specialty Fruits' emphasis of nutritional value of the apples

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From: Jay Byrne
 To: Wray-Cohen, Diane - FAS
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Oct. 23, 2017
 Date: Monday, October 23, 2017 4:36:45 PM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

With a European Commission committee planning to vote this week on the future of glyphosate in Europe, another round of reporting has revealed new details about the International Agency for Research on Cancer's review claiming the herbicide could cause cancer. Kate Kelland of *Reuters* reported that 10 significant changes - including editing out "multiple scientists' conclusions that their studies found no link between glyphosate and cancer in laboratory animals" - were made to IARC's draft before it was released. All skewed the paper toward the outlier conclusion that glyphosate could be carcinogenic. Kelland's article [can be read here](#), and reaction can be found in the Stories Worth Sharing section.

The past week also featured new examinations noting the recent study finding neonics in honey should not be of concern because the levels are too low to do any harm, along with coverage and stakeholder commentary on the World Food Prize and other World Food Day events.

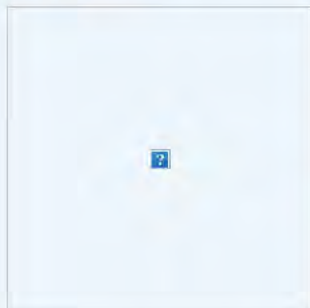
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In This Issue

[Stakeholder Spotlight](#)
[Stories Worth Sharing](#)
[What's Trending?](#)
[Calendar highlights](#)

Stakeholder Spotlight: GMWatch



Recent news reports suggesting International Agency for Research on Cancer monograph reports on glyphosate were manipulated by activist

Stories Worth Sharing

[Matt Ridley: Movement against glyphosate is a "shame on science" as the herbicide has huge environmental benefits](#)

[David Zaruk: Six reasons why IARC chief should be fired over glyphosate assessment](#)

[Julie Kelly: Global food crisis could be at hand if Europe bans glyphosate and U.S. follows suit](#)

[Geoffrey Kabat: "Substantial financial rewards" at stake in debate over glyphosate safety riddled with conflicts of interests](#)

[Hank Campbell: Study finding neonics in honey follows familiar activist science playbook](#)

[Science 2.0: Scary sounding study about pesticide in honey featured levels "too low to biologically make a difference"](#)

[Robert Domoguen: "Absurd" to oppose practical and beneficial discoveries such as Golden Rice](#)

[Michelle Miller: Advice from anti-pesticide activist groups like Center for Food Safety can actually make you sick](#)

participants with undisclosed conflicts of interest have been met with aggressive reputation attacks on those news organizations, reporters and commentators writing on the subject.

One particularly aggressive group is an informal U.K.-based anti-GMO group known as GMWatch. GMWatch has come to the defense of IARC and glyphosate lawsuit expert witnesses by claiming news sources including *Reuters* are under the control and influence of big agribusinesses like Monsanto.

Learn more about GMWatch [HERE](#).

[CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES](#)

[Shenggen Fan: Grow more food with less water, less energy and less land by using biotechnology](#)

[Kevin Folta: Discredited Seralini rat study is the "zombie of the food activist world"](#)

[Giovanni Tagliabue: Explaining to a rational alien the legal persecution of genetically modified petunias](#)

[Tirzah Duren: "Poor bear the brunt" of anti-GMO movement's false glyphosate claims](#)

[Stephan Neidenbach: Amazon review policy for "Whitewash" glyphosate book raises questions about link to Whole Foods](#)

[The Observer: Disease-resistant potatoes could go on sale in Uganda in 2020 as country's first commercialized GM crop](#)

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What's Trending?

European Parliament environment committee approves non-binding resolution calling for glyphosate phase-out by 2020

Study at German nature reserves concludes insect population dropped by more than 75 percent; researchers imply pesticides to blame

Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health targets action against pesticides and endocrine disruptors

World Food Prize recipient pledges to set up fund benefiting African youth in agriculture

Calendar highlights

October 23-25	October 24	October 25
Thirteenth meeting of the Chemical Review Committee of the Rotterdam Convention	Biotech Roundtable: Genetic Editing in Ag Biotech	European Commission Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed considers glyphosate reauthorization
October 25-27	October 25	October 31- November 1
International Food Policy Research Institute conference on climate-smart agriculture	First Agroecology Europe Forum	British Crop Production Council Congress

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More information on the people and

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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Oct. 20-22, 2017
 Date: Sunday, October 22, 2017 9:02:44 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Global biotechnology highlights over the weekend included:

- The French publication *Agrisalon* reported the EU Court of Justice heard arguments Oct. 3 in a case to decide whether products generated using mutagenesis should be treated as GMOs. The court will issue its decision Dec. 20. **See more**
- The World Food Prize was awarded to the African Development Bank's Akinwumi Adesina, who announced he would use the \$250,000 award to set up a fund benefiting African youth in agriculture. The event also highlighted potential uses for gene editing, such as reducing aflatoxin in corn. **See more**
- The *Boulder Daily Camera* reported staff will make recommendations Tuesday (Oct. 24) to the Boulder (Colorado) County Commission regarding transitioning away from GM crops. A letter to the editor and an op-ed pointed out that a GMO ban goes against science on the matter and is contrary to the commission's stated objectives. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**.

North America

Commentary: Middle school teacher Stephan Neidenbach notes his review of USRTK activist Carey Gilliam's book was removed without explanation from Amazon despite lack of personal attacks; notes reviews from Gilliam's boss, Vani Hari, NYT reporter remained on the site despite failure to disclose relationships in violation of Amazon, NYT policy; asks how this looks given Amazon's Whole Foods

Commentary: March Against Monsanto contributor warns readers about release of Arctic Apple in US stores this fall, claims silencing browning genes may lead to increased susceptibility of the plant to diseases and insects, points to potential health impacts and effects on bees

Commentary: GMO.news contributor amplifies Science Daily's reporting on discovery that GE mosquitoes are successfully mating with wild mosquitoes, and Scientific American's 2010 coverage of spread of GM canola traits into the wild, claims these cases provide proof that GMOs cannot be contained

Commentary: Non-GMO Project says non-GM animal feed is "key to a non-GMO future," notes 60 percent of GMOs grown is for animal feed, says herbicide-tolerant GMOs "have serious consequences" on environment, food system

News release: American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall voices support of timely coordinated federal review of advances in ag biotech to help farmers and ranchers gain efficiency and productivity, in response to recent bipartisan letter from 79 House members calling for science-based ag biotech regulations

News: CNN reports on development of method to produce cheaper cancer drugs using GM chicken eggs by Japan's National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), National

Agriculture and Food Research Organization and Cosmo Bio, designing them to produce interferon beta protein, usually very costly

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian environment news outlet reports on National Biotechnology and Biosafety Consortium (NBBC) Secretary Edel-Quinn Agbaegbu's recent statement that biotech will help address rise in pest and disease challenging Nigerian crops, and that stacked traits will address both farmers' and consumers' needs

Audio: Kevin Folta's Talking Biotech podcast features Patricia Nanteza of Uganda's National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO) in discussion of biotech solutions to banana bacterial wilt, and Clet Masiga of Tropical Institute of Development Innovation on needs of Ugandan farmers

Study: AFSA releases study on amplifying agroecology as it relates to policies, frameworks in African nations

Commentary: Nigerian news outlet contributor amplifies Global Prolife Association Chairman Philip Njemanze's claims about health risks of GM cowpeas, linking it to kidney and liver damage and other health disorders, calls on government and National Assembly to review its release

News: Pan-African news outlet reports on farmers and other interest groups' celebration of passage of Uganda's biosafety bill, farmer Joseph Katushabe noted the law will enable use of modern technology to combat drought and disease, boosting yields

More Africa items

Asia

News: CNN reports on development of method to produce cheaper cancer drugs using GM chicken eggs by Japan's National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), National Agriculture and Food Research Organization and Cosmo Bio, designing them to produce interferon beta protein, usually very costly

News: Textile industry news publication, Sourcing Journal, reports on Pakistan's Punjab University's signing of memorandum of understanding to provide disease-resistant GM cotton seed to farmers through seven multinational companies, highlights opposition to GM cotton by UK-based Soil Association

News: The Times of India reports head of state ag task force wants probe into unapproved herbicide-resistant (HT) cotton seeds being planted in several regions, alleges complicity of state agencies and manufacturers of GM seeds, claims herbicides used excessively to kill weeds in fields where illegal HT seeds planted

News release: Syngenta announces renewal of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with USAID to support ag and food security activities in Africa, Asia and Latin America, with focus on improving capacity of smallholder farmers to trial, adopt and safely use inputs to boost yields

Commentary: Third World Network amplifies Sustainability Council of New Zealand's submission on synbio to Convention on Biological Diversity, praising elements of its Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act as an example of good governance of GMOs, gene editing and synbio, calls for strengthening of international regulations

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM compares ISAAA data on GM crop adoption with data from

various government agencies, highlighting data on GM crop adoption by region and country over the past several years

Commentary: Contributor for French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM criticizes Spain's request that EU Commission grant authorization to transform recently discovered unauthorized GM cotton seeds into products intended for animal or human food, as such products are currently allowed on EU market, but the seeds are not

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Argentine news site reports study finds GM soy affects amphibian development, digestive system, and blood

Commentary: Pharmaceutical professor writes for Brazilian news site, says great care is taken to ensure GM crops are safe for consumers, environment; differentiates gene-edited crops from transgenic crops, says gene-edited food may not require labels

News: Brazilian news outlet profiles agronomist Elibio Rech, researcher at Center for Genetic Resources and Biotechnology at Embrapa, highlights his work on gene editing, especially to control drought resistance in crops, as well as his work on applications for human health

News: Ecuadorian news outlet reports on efforts by Ministry of Health and Ecuadorian Institute of Normalization (INEN) to help consumers make informed decisions about GMOs, highlights INEN's Technical Regulation to require labeling of products mad up of over 0.9 percent GM ingredients

News: Argentinian news site reports Monsanto invests in seed plant in Buenos Aires province to replace one the company planned in Cordoba, which was abandoned due to protests

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News release: Amway statement says it's committed to natural ingredients and committed to being a non-GMO brand

Commentary: Third World Network amplifies Sustainability Council of New Zealand's submission on synbio to Convention on Biological Diversity, praising elements of its Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act as an example of good governance of GMOs, gene editing and synbio, calls for strengthening of international regulations

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 Date: Thursday, October 19, 2017 9:02:23 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology commentary highlighted the events around the World Food Prize award ceremony and the Borlaug Dialogue. Elsewhere, controversy over illegally cultivated cotton varieties in India continued. European stakeholders highlighted the ongoing discussion over new plant breeding techniques.

- Civil society groups, government officials and other groups working on agricultural issues continued to amplify the discussion and events of the Borlaug Dialogues taking place in Iowa through Friday (Oct. 20). Statements from officials with the Gates Foundation, the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and from the Nigerian president all highlighted the work of World Food Prize laureate Akinwumi Adesina. Separate commentary from the U.S. Agency for International Development highlighted a new program to address the threat of Africa's fall armyworm infestation. Organic Consumers Association continued to criticize the participants for taking an "industrial" approach to food security. [See more](#)
- Indian officials in Telangana denied reports that they had ignored the illegal cultivation of an herbicide-tolerant Bt cotton variety, stating that they had warned federal officials and were waiting for a response. Similarly, Mahyco-Monsanto Biotech told *The Times of India* that it had filed notices about the illegal cultivation in 2008 but that agriculture officials had decided not to address the problem. [See more](#)
- The European Academies Science Advisory Council announced the conclusion of its Oct. 11-13 meeting to review the policy implications of genome editing techniques. While the conference covered a wide range of applications, including medical and industrial uses, the potential uses in plant and animal agriculture were a central theme in discussions on regulation. *Euractiv* highlighted Green MEP recommendations on new plant breeding techniques, while the European Commission's CORDIS issued a results pack on regulating agricultural biotechnology. [See more](#)
- News outlets in Portugal previewed parliamentary discussions scheduled for Friday (Oct. 20) over whether to require restaurants to label foods made with GMO ingredients. [See more](#)

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North America

[News release: During World Food Prize address, USAID administrator calls on private sector, universities, research centers, other partners to help fight fall armyworm, which threatens to cause humanitarian crisis in Africa due to crop failures](#)

[News: Farming news site reports during World Food Prize presentation, Jayson Lusk shares 3 challenges in communicating with public, including growing divergence between eaters and growers, different food preferences of rich and poor](#)

[News: Successful Farming reports panel of growers at World Food Prize event in Des Moines, Iowa, recommends four ways to effectively advocate for farmers, including communication training, noting that 2017 WFP Laureate Motlatsi Musi of South Africa says anti-GMO activists better at proactive approaches](#)

Commentary: OCA's Katherine Paul criticizes World Food Prize, says it glorifies "degenerative agriculture," which "kills healthy soil life," pollutes water, contaminates food with pesticide

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project runs satirical piece by Italian researcher about controversy over GM flowers, imagining dialogue between "rational alien" and "state officer" whose job it is to locate and destroy GMO seeds and flowers, pointing to media reports that sensationalize claims by anti-GMO activists

Review: Elementa Science of the Anthropocene review article from Tyrone Hayes "From silent spring to silent night: Agrochemicals and the Anthropocene" asserts need to adopt integrated practices that reduce pesticide, fertilizer use in ag, and decouple agricultural and seed industries

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Global Farmer Network profiles South African farmer receiving Kleckner award for his leadership in ag-biotech advocacy, illustrating how the technology helped him out of poverty

Commentary: La Via Campesina notes 2017 Right to Food and Nutrition Watch report details struggles, efforts of small farmers, social movements to solve world food crisis by resisting pesticide use, land sales to corporations

Commentary: Blogger on religion site Patheos argues pro-science supporters of Ugandan GM crop adoption fail to understand scientific progress in cultural and economic context, and instead blame opposition on pseudoscientific propaganda, voices concerns about link between science and corporate interests at expense of farmers

More Africa items

Asia

News: Times of India reports on Telangana Ag Commissioner C Parthasarathy's statement that they have submitted a report to the Centre about illegal GM cotton cultivation, State Seed Certification Agency director K Keshavalu noted the state will only take action when the Centre approves it legally, and then violations can be monitored

News: Times of India reports Mahyco-Monsanto Biotech India informed Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) about illegal sale and cultivation of herbicide-tolerant GM cotton in 2008, but government "chose to sleep over it," MMB called for immediate legal action at the time

Commentary: Pakistani policy analyst insinuates US is behind supposed rise of GM poppy plants, source of heroin, in Afghanistan, questioning whether Taliban has technical expertise to use biotechnology

News: Financial Times reports on head of ChemChina rival Sinochem, Frank Ning's recent statement that GMO adoption in China will come very slowly, in spite of expectation that ChemChina's purchase of Syngenta would accelerate the process, highlights concerns about national security and environment

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Portugal culture and lifestyle blog reports Parliament will discuss bill (Oct. 20) proposed by local anti-GMO group calling for restaurants to disclose use of GMOs on menus, undergo annual review of compliance

Commentary: Editorial in EU Commission publication entitled "Exploiting opportunities and addressing the challenges of biotech in the Agri-Food sector" emphasizes need for in-depth knowledge of impacts of new technologies, as well as transparent and accurate communication of scientific and technological advances

News release: European Academies Science Advisory Council, InterAcademy Partnership genome editing workshop unites science, policy experts in push for int'l, transparent dialogue benefits, security issues connected to gene technology

News: EurActiv reports EU Green Party wants Commission to make traceability and safety paramount in biotech legal framework

Commentary: Via Campesina announces publication of paper listing 12 reasons to regulate new breeding techniques, including

News release: Swiss Academy of Natural Sciences launch evidence review group to gather science to evaluate risks and opportunities of gene technology in Swiss agriculture

Commentary: Swiss Alliance for Agriculture without Genetic Engineering says Swiss national science academy's gene technology review group may signal shift in agency's decision-making from political to science-based

News: French news outlet reports on upcoming support meeting for seven Volunteer Reapers summoned to court for vandalizing products containing glyphosate

News: U.K. farming news site reports Rothamsted Research chief executive says GM food is not the answer for UK's food security due to fierce opposition; says answer lies with gene editing

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Commentary: Bolivian news site runs op-ed touting benefits of GM soybeans for country's economy, citing study by economist, asserting GE crops don't harm human health and are friendly to environment

News: Bolivian news outlet reports on Chamber of Small Producers of the East's assessment that 4,000 hectares in Cuatro Cañadas illegally use GMOs, Freddy Suárez of Agricultural Chamber of the East regretted illegal use, called on government to regulate the technology, government has yet to respond

News: Universidade de São Paulo news publication reports on opinions of two professors on GMO labeling controversy, Professor Flavio Finardi Filho emphasizes that GMOs are safe for humans, and that any labels should be factual and not alarmist, while Patricia Jaime argues consumers have a right to information

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

[More Oceania items](#)

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 Date: Wednesday, October 18, 2017 9 01 05 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included ongoing controversy over reports that Indian farmers are cultivating an unapproved, herbicide-tolerant cotton variety. U.S. lawmakers called for a "consistent, appropriate" regulatory system on agricultural biotechnology.

- *The Times of India* featured several new statements responding to reports that farmers in India were planting an herbicide-tolerant Bt cotton variety that had not been approved by regulators. South Asia Biotechnology Centre (SABC) told the outlet that the black market for this trait was worth more than \$7.3 million. In a separate report, the newspaper reported that Monsanto officials had categorically denied accusations that the company was involved in the proliferation of the seeds. Writing for *Indo-Asian News Service*, ag commentator Vivian Fernandes argued that farmers were demanding new traits despite a regulatory environment that undermined research. **[See more](#)**
- U.S. news outlets and industry stakeholders reported that a bipartisan group of representatives had called on officials in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration and Environmental Protection Agency to modernize the country's regulation of biotechnology. The lawmakers pointed to current draft guidance from USDA and FDA, warning that the proposals offered inconsistent guidance that didn't reflect current science. In separate statements, the Biotechnology Innovation Organization and the American Farm Bureau Federation announced their support for a forward-looking approach to new technologies such as gene editing. **[See more](#)**
- Activist group Organic Consumers Association previewed its "Occupy the World Food Prize" event scheduled for Thursday (Oct. 19) in Iowa. The group boasted that protesters would be situated near attendees of the meeting following an activist lawsuit against city managers. **[See more](#)**

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North America

Campaign: Rep. Neal Dunn of House Ag Committee and several other lawmakers write letter to Ag Secretary Perdue, EPA Administrator Pruitt and FDA Commissioner Gottlieb, calling for science-based, uniform updates to regulations on biotech and gene editing, with goal of providing certainty to international trade partners

Campaign: Organic Consumers Association urges supporters to participate in Occupy the World Food Prize Rally on Oct. 19, on Iowa State Capitol lawn, claims goals of this year's winner, Akinwumi Ayodeji Adesina of African Development Bank, support Monsanto shareholders while harming African biodiversity and food sovereignty

News: Bloomberg reports on Global Harvest Initiative annual study on agricultural productivity growth; report authors say 1.24 percent growth rate won't meet future food needs, highlight role of ag technology

Announcement: Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity announces NGO representatives who will receive funding to attend Montreal meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group (Dec. 13-16)

News release: Office of the United States Trade Representative announces conclusion of fourth round of renegotiation of NAFTA, says discussions in Chapter on Competition substantively completed, Mexico to host fifth round of talks Nov. 17-21 in Mexico City

News: Politico Pro reports NAFTA talks hit impasse as Canada and Mexico team up to block controversial U.S. proposals, with top U.S. trade negotiator accusing partner nations of being obstructionist, unwilling to negotiate amid Trump's threats to withdraw from agreement altogether

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Nigerian news outlet contributor highlights evidence that Nigeria is still far from achieving food security, amplifies speeches at National Agricultural Show and World Food Day 2017, including All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN) National President Architect Kabiru Ibrahim's call on Nigeria to embrace biotech

Commentary: Tsakasile Dlamini of Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Swaziland Country writes for African Centre for Biodiversity, warning about pressure on Swaziland to adopt GMOs, points to dangers of the technology, highlights PELUM's efforts to oppose its introduction

News release: In observation of World Food Day, Global Prolife Alliance voices opposition to GM Bt cowpea under development in Nigeria, claims it is "GMO poison" that will be fed to unsuspecting Nigerian public, criticizes government for allowing companies like Monsanto to engage in "biological colonialism"

Commentary: Ugandan lawyer writes for local news outlet, questions whether GMOs are really the silver bullet to end hunger, acknowledges importance of biotech, but wonders whether passage of biosafety bill will be beneficial to Uganda, pointing to problems with food transport network and farmers' access to only rudimentary tools

News: Ugandan news outlet reports on Kachwekano Zonal Agriculture Research Institute director Alex Barekye's announcement of biotech research on disease-resistant potatoes, with three field trials conducted thus far, noting it will likely be the first GM crop to be commercialized in Uganda

News: Ghanaian news outlet reports on chairman of Parliament's Government Assurances Committee, Yaw Addo Frimpong's call for tax increase to fund science and technology research, especially in ag sector, MP Kwasi Etu Bonde advocated passage of Plant Breeders' Bill to ensure resources for research funding

More Africa items

Asia

News: Times of India reports on illegal cultivation of BG-III GM cotton, referred to as Chor Bt locally, the variety developed by Monsanto is not approved by the government, but its use is an "open secret" in Vidarbha's cotton belt

News: The Times of India reports Maharashtra government task force claims pesticide companies selling products without safety information, blaming Syngenta, Monsanto, Bayer, others for farmer deaths due to pesticide poisoning, alleging Monsanto involved in illegal sale of herbicide-resistant cotton seeds

News: Times of India reports on Monsanto's denial of accusations that it is involved in selling unauthorized herbicide-tolerant GM cotton seeds in the country, brought by Vasandrao Naik Swawalamban Mission (VNSSM) chairman Kishore Tiwari, Monsanto noted it does not stand to gain anything from sale of illegal seeds

News: Times of India reports on South Asia Biotechnology Centre's (SABC) assessment that market for illegal herbicide-tolerant GM cotton is worth about Rs472 crore, the NGO called on government to locate and destroy illegal hybrid seeds production plots, warning about potential negative impact on weed

resistance management

Commentary: Vivian Fernandes of Smart Indian Agriculture examines government's handling of reports of illegal Bt cotton cultivation, pointing to launch of investigation, followed by its withdrawal, and then launch of a new one, argues government attitude towards intellectual property is hostile to trait developers

Commentary: Mongabay Indonesia runs op-ed by adviser with USAID program touting food sovereignty, use of local varieties of food crops as way for nation to boost resilience to climate change

News: Pakistan Observer reports on Punjab University's signing of memorandum of understanding to provide farmers with disease-resistant GM cotton through seven multinational companies nationwide, PU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Zafar Moeen Nasir noted the university-developed variety would boost economy by \$4 billion

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Report: USDA Foreign Agricultural Service annual GAIN Report on agricultural biotechnology in Netherlands highlights Dutch proposal to regulate plants derived from innovative biotech and government decision to sign EU Soya Declaration

News release: German Green MEP Maria Heubuch hopes EU Court of Justice will rule that new breeding techniques are just genetic engineering in a new way, warns agrarian farmers will push EU Commission to amend GE laws to exempt new techniques, which she claims pose serious environmental risks

Commentary: Ahead of Czech Parliamentary elections, natural scientist Zdenek Opatrný writes for local news outlet, examines positions of various parties and candidates on biotech, points out flaws in "save the bees" messaging, noting GM crops reduce pesticide use, notes GM imports are necessary for animal feed

Commentary: Inf'OGM contributor reports Czech Republic did not plant any GM crops this year, after steady decrease from 8,380 hectares planted in 2008, notes number of countries growing GM crops decreases each year

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Argentinian radio outlet reports discussion on amendment to seed law resumed in National Congress, with meeting called by Commission of Agriculture and Livestock, highlights opposition from Multisectoral "No to the Monsanto seed law" to intellectual property rights on seeds

News: Argentinian news source reports Monsanto officials unveil project to build high-tech lab for plant near Buenos Aires; Monsanto Argentina's seed operations leader says goal to produce best corn seed in market

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News: Australian news outlet reports on Horticulture Innovation Australia's commissioning of study to investigate acceptance of new breeding technologies in local industry, Murdoch University Plant Sciences professor Michael Jones noted U.S. release of Arctic Apple will serve as a litmus test for consumer acceptance

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From: Jay Byrne
 To: Wray-Cohen, Diane - FAS
 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Oct. 17, 2017
 Date: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 9:05:03 PM

FAST ACCESS: MONITORING \ STAKEHOLDERS \ COMMUNITY

Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included previews of this week's Borlaug Dialogues and World Food Prize. In India, the state of Andhra Pradesh launched an investigation into the cultivation of unauthorized GM cotton varieties. Nigerian news outlets reported on local workshops where officials described potential GM cowpea benefits.

- Several organizations previewed themes and events scheduled for the upcoming Borlaug Dialogues in Iowa (Oct. 18-20). The African Development Bank Group promoted a speech given by this year's World Food Prize winner highlighting the agricultural potential of Africa. The Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA) announced that former president Jayson Lusk would be recognized with the Borlaug CAST Communication Award. Anti-corporate activists Community Alliance for Global Justice criticized the upcoming World Food Prize events and called for a Food Week of Action through Sunday to highlight the role of grassroots farming. **See more**
- *Reuters* reported that, after conflicting accounts last week, Andhra Pradesh confirmed that it will form an investigative panel to determine how a significant portion of cotton acreage acquired and planted an unapproved herbicide-tolerant cotton variety. The three-member panel has been asked to submit a report by the end of October. **See more**
- Nigerian news outlets reported on the conclusion of field trials for a pod-borer resistant cowpea, announced during a seed industry outreach event in Abuja. *Leadership* and *Daily Trust* highlighted supportive statements from the All Farmers Association of Nigeria, the National Agriculture Seed Council and other stakeholders. In Kano, *News Agency of Nigeria* reported on the National Agricultural Research System's assurances that the "pbr cowpea" was safe for human and animal consumption. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **[click here](#)**

North America

[News release: Agricultural & Applied Economics Association announces past president Jayson Lusk to receive Borlaug CAST Communication Award at World Food Prize for his reporting on food-ag economics](#)

[News release: Community Alliance for Global Justice condemns World Food Prize in promotion of NGO's AGRA Watch campaign, dinner \(Oct. 21\) that will unite attendees to send message to Gates Foundation/ag industry that food sovereignty is world hunger solution](#)

[Commentary: Honoring Int'l Poverty Eradication Day, IFPRI research fellows promote new IFPRI study finding strong links between CGIAR initiatives and increased ag productivity in developing nations, emphasize need for continue CGIAR support](#)

[News: Inside Higher Ed reports Kevin Folta's libel suit against The New York Times and reporter for describing him as paid Monsanto operative, which led to him receiving death threats; suit alleges article serves to silence other "honest" scientists for fear of similar fate](#)

[Commentary: Website focused on media bias amplifies Gainesville Sun article on Florida scientist's libel suit against the New York Times, notes no trial date yet set](#)

Campaign: U.S. Right to Know seeks a reporter to help expand its work reaching out to consumers and policymakers about the food system, ideal candidate will be "skilled in the preparation of FOIA requests, and the development of sources inside companies, legislatures and regulatory agencies"

More North America items

Africa

News release: Africa Development Bank promotes president and World Food Prize winner's Norman Borlaug Lecture, highlights potential of Africa's underutilized land

News: Ugandan news source reports World Food Day celebrated in Kabarole district with call for revival of traditional foods, farmers speak out against National Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill 2012 before Parliament

News: Nigeria news source reports president of All Farmers Association of Nigeria calls on federal government to ensure increased participation by farmers in formulation of ag policies, urges country to embrace biotechnology, genetic engineering, crop intensification

News: The Nation reports president of Biotechnology Society of Nigeria urges federal government to invest heavily in biotech to achieve food security, avert impending global food crisis

News: New Agency of Nigeria reports on NGO Every Woman Hope Centre's (EWHC) call on Nigerian scientists and stakeholders to handle GMO issue with scientifically proven information, executive director Edel-Quinn Agbaegbu labeled spread of misinformation as an "embarrassment" for Nigeria

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on recent sensitization workshop organized by National Agriculture Seed Council (NASC) and African Seed Trade Association (AFSTA) and supported by other industry groups, with goal of educating seed companies ahead of Bt cowpea and cotton commercialization

News: Nigerian Tribune reports on National Agricultural Research System's (NARS) certification that pod borer resistant Bt cowpea is safe for humans and environment, principal investigator Mohammed Ishiyaku noted it will save Nigeria N16 billion in chemical spending

Commentary: Writing for French news site, Mali citizen claims GM crops have short shelf-life post-harvest, are causing disease in Mali consumers, problems for producers who cannot conserve crops

More Africa items

Asia

News: Reuters reports India's Andhra Pradesh launches investigation into illegal planting of Monsanto's unapproved Bollgard II Roundup Ready Flex GM cotton variety, after a similar order for field inspections was withdrawn, Monsanto India voiced "grave concern" at seed companies' use of the technology for profit

News: Times of India reports on Maharashtra state Agriculture Minister Pandurang Fundkar's call for ban on sale of unapproved herbicide-tolerant GM cotton seeds, following tests by Central Institute for Cotton Research (CIRC) revealing that the seeds are being sold and cultivated in the state

News: National Geographic Indonesia posts Voice of America report on new research described in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences on method for genetically engineering corn to produce amino acid methionine, commonly found in meat, which could add to grain's nutritional value, make corn more efficient as animal feed

News: Indonesian news source reports groups representing women and fishing industry urge government on World Food Day 2017 to stand up for ideals of food sovereignty, claiming government policies have threatened farmers and fishermen

Commentary: ELLE Vietnam profiles various farms using organic and "natural agriculture" methods,

highlights Bill Ahrens of New Country Organic Farm, whose focus is on sustainable agriculture to avoid dangers of GM foods

Commentary: Robert Domoguen continues three-part series in SunStar supporting golden rice in the Philippines, hoping to create an objective and correct awareness of the crop, argues those who oppose golden rice simply because it is a GMO are not helpful in the debate

News: Bangladeshi news outlet reports on controversy surrounding government plans to incentivize farmers to produce more Bt eggplant, opposed by environmental activists, who claim government has failed to conduct health and environmental assessments, and violated Convention on Biological Diversity and Cartagena Protocol

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: EurActiv reports on Italian MEP Paolo De Castro's remarks at recent conference on Modern Biotechnologies in Agriculture, arguing that products of new breeding techniques should not be regulated as GMOs, calling for development of a broad legal framework to enable farmers to produce more with less

Commentary: In speech to G7 ag ministers, Slow Food president criticizes agriculture industry consolidation and calls for coordinated policy to support smallholder farmers

Commentary: European Seed Association promotes Seventh Session of the Governing Body of International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture from Oct. 30 - Nov. 3 in Kigali, highlighting goal of conserving plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

News: Bosnian news source reports Food Safety Agency approves company's request to sell GM soy-based animal feed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 35th company allowed to do so; GMO Council official calls for labeling of GMO products

Commentary: Turkish news source runs column by president of local chamber of agriculture citing Turkish study on GMOs and community health, claiming consumption of GM food additive "L-Tryptophan" caused consumers to suffer from muscle disorders, stroke, neurological and heart problems, and autoimmune disorders

News: French news source reports dairy company Ingredia and WWF France foundation launch "Via Lacta," project to produce "eco-responsible" milk guaranteed to be GMO-free in Arras region; project guarantees no GMOs in diet of dairy cows used, with about 100 livestock breeders involved

News: French news outlet reports on upcoming Alimenterre festival organized by Biocoop Lou Coussu and the association L'Embobineuse with goal of promoting environmentally-friendly agriculture, former INRA research director Jean-Pierre Berland will moderate debate on GMOs

News: Dutch ag news site reports on Commission for Genetic Modification's (COGEM) assessment that environmental risks posed by import and processing of GM maize variety MZIR098 are negligible, noting sprouting of maize plants has not been observed in the Netherlands, and there are no wild relatives

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Commentary: Chilean news outlet contributor claims Nagoya Protocol is a threat to food sovereignty and biodiversity, voices support of La Via Campesina's Day of Food Sovereignty initiative, highlighting opposition to free trade agreements and patents on seeds

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News: The Weekly Times reporter highlights disconnect between Australia's GM crop import approvals versus cultivation approvals, quotes CropLife Australia, Victorian Farmers Federation execs on need for reduced regulation

More Oceania items

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included several NGO statements highlighting World Food Day. Two activist groups issued reports today criticizing Bayer's proposed purchase of Monsanto.

- Several commercial, NGO and government stakeholders issues statements in support of World Food Day, many of which highlighted the role of biotechnology in food security and resilience. News releases and commentary from CropLife Asia, the International Food Policy Research Institute and the Biotechnology Innovation Organization emphasized the role of technology in ensuring food production. **See more**
- Anti-biotechnology activist groups La Via Campesina and ETC Group issued new reports criticizing so-called industrial food systems and calling for a return to peasant-led agriculture. Among other items, ETC Group and La Via Campesina both highlighted the importance of supporting smallholder-developed seed varieties - rather than commercially bred seed - through government subsidies and other investments. (**La Via Campesina report**) (**ETC Group report**)
- European activist groups WeMove.eu, SumOfUs, Friends of the Earth Europe, Corporate Europe Observatory and Food and Water Europe issued a statement announcing a new report that claimed Bayer's purchase of Monsanto would undermine rural livelihoods and environmental protections. The report was prepared by researchers with University College London. Similarly, a report from the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food) argued that industry consolidation would exacerbate companies' emphasis on seeking short-term profits at the expense of long-term sustainability. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Ohio agriculture columnist calls for science education to address public's food phobias, including use of GMO-free labels, pointing out GMO salmon safer for human consumption than wild-caught salmon, arguing genetic engineering led to development of safer insulin, treatments for other health problems

Interview: Wall Street Journal interviews Monsanto CEO Hugh Grant and DowDuPont Agriculture Division COO James C. Collins Jr. on advances in data science and gene editing, both explain how the new technologies will boost food production and farm efficiency, they argue products of gene editing could occur in nature

News: Organic Authority reports on Ben & Jerry's announcement that it will launch an organic line following recent European survey which found traces of the herbicide in ice cream samples, the company will advocate policies to end pre-harvest glyphosate treatments

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on conclusion of GM cowpea field trials, with plans for market release in 2018, lead researcher Mohammed Ishiyaku emphasized absolute safety of GM foods at recent sensitization workshop, noted trials demonstrated increased yield and protection from pod borer

Commentary: Million Belay of Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) writes blog post for African Centre for Biodiversity, highlights recent participation in international meetings with focus on transformation and sustainability, including food system transformation, pointing to negative impacts of industrial ag practices

Report: African Centre for Biodiversity publishes report entitled "GM cotton in Africa: Battleground between Chinese and US capital," argues promises of boosted yield will not help smallholders, noting they already receive low prices for what they produce, examines impact of agribusiness mergers

News: Africa Science News reports students from eight Kenyan universities celebrate World Food Day 2017 by urging government to promote ecological farming practices; forum supported by Greenpeace Africa argues ecological farming doesn't contaminate environment with chemical inputs or use GMOs

News: Ghanaian news outlet reports on former Director General of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Prof. Walter Alhassan's assessment that recent EU Court of Justice ruling against Italy's GM crop ban demonstrates lack of safety concerns with the technology, vindicates Ghana's policy position

News release: La Via Campesina announces publication of new report to mark International Day of Action for Peoples' Food Sovereignty and against Transnational Corporations, entitled "Struggles of La Via Campesina for Agrarian Reform and the Defense of life, Land and Territories"

News: French language African news outlet reports on Kenya's preparation to introduce GMOs, according to Minister of Livestock and Fisheries Willy Bett, highlights several crop varieties under development, Kenya Small Farmers' Forum (FPFK) opposes GMOs, pointing to health risks and dissemination of Monsanto seeds

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News release: CropLife Asia commends UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on occasion of World Food Day 2017, for its efforts to increase awareness of need for food security, notes crop protection products help reduce rice and maize harvest losses by 40 percent each year, and biotech crops reduce carbon emissions

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Commentary: Blogger for French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM criticizes EU Member States' recent adoption of EU Commission's revision to environmental risk assessment, arguing it fails to make any notable progress on environmental risks of GMOs, points out that many assessments are carried out by companies themselves

News: Le Marche region of Italy played prominent role in drafting decree approved by the Regions to support implementation of a National Monitoring Plan on GMOs, Agriculture Councilor Anna Casini highlighted controls in place to ensure that land and products are kept GMO-free

Commentary: Contributor for French news outlet Humanite et Biodiversite amplifies Stephane Foucart's recent article in Le Monde, highlights examination of study which found that use of transgenic vine rootstocks had no negative impact on soil microorganisms

Commentary: Mediaplanet site runs op-ed by IFPRI Director General Shenggen Fan reflecting on World Food Day, noting global hunger levels rising, calling for acceptance of biotechnology and genetic engineering that face hurdles from regulations, restrictions and consumer rejection, highlighting IFPRI's

annual Global Hunger Index

News release: WeMove Europe promotes new study from University College London suggesting proposed Bayer-Monsanto merger should be blocked under EU competition law because it reduces competition, raises prices and farmer dependency, stifles alternative businesses, and because asset selling won't solve crisis

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Mexican news outlet reports on academics' reactions to study showing over 90 percent of tortillas consumed in the country contain transgenic maize, researcher Luis Herrera Estrella noted the study confirms what had been long expected, argues it falls short in not detailing how much GM maize was detected, noting tests are highly sensitive

News: Texoco, Mexico publication reports on recent National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) study which found that 90 percent of tortillas consumed in the country contain transgenic maize as well as traces of the "highly carcinogenic" glyphosate, reports tortilla producers often do not know where their corn is coming from

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

[More Oceania items](#)

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 To: [Wray-Cohen, Diane - FAS](#)
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Oct. 16, 2017
 Date: Monday, October 16, 2017 3:59:38 PM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

As European lawmakers gathered last week to discuss the so-called "Monsanto Papers" documents, David Zaruk detailed on his blog the revelations from a deposition of Chris Portier, the former NIEHS-turned-Environmental Defense Fund scientist who became the central figure in a push for glyphosate bans and lawsuits. Among them, Portier admitted to negotiating a lucrative consulting contract with litigators just as the International Agency for Research on Cancer monograph he helped to craft was being released.

Zaruk's piece examines how little attention has been paid to "class-action-driven" law firms like the ones Portier agreed to help, and how Portier's work is exactly what he accuses Monsanto and industry figures of doing.

It is included below, along with articles on topics such as genetically engineered tomatoes and a company's decision to ditch non-GMO labels so as not to perpetuate fear.

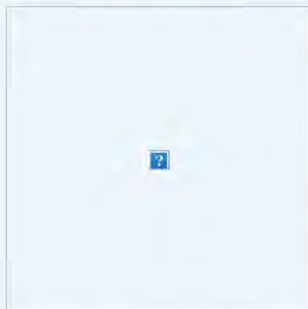
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In This Issue

[Stakeholder Spotlight](#)
[Stories Worth Sharing](#)
[What's Trending?](#)
[Calendar highlights](#)

Stakeholder Spotlight: Christopher Portier



New details from a deposition reveal that Christopher Portier made a quick turnaround to negotiate a litigation consulting contract after the release of the

Stories Worth Sharing

[David Zaruk: Deposition shows Portier signed lucrative contract as litigation consultant same week IARC glyphosate report was released](#)



[Paul McDivitt: Genetically engineered tomato could eliminate bacterial spot disease, but commercial partner is needed](#)



[Rothamsted, Syngenta scientists conclude in scientific review that GM crops are "essential to avert future food shortages"](#)



[Julie Kelly: Congress should investigate sale of "phony organic food"](#)



[PR Week: Mann's removing non-GMO labels to stop "perpetuating a fear that something is wrong with GMOs"](#)



[Tim Barker: University of Minnesota analysis shows conventional farming has "clear advantage" over organic farming in yield per acre](#)



[Rebecca Nesbit: Extensive studies find no health problems associated with GMOs, and nine other GMO facts to know](#)



International Agency for Research on Cancer monograph claiming glyphosate could cause cancer.

The Environmental Defense Fund activist scientist's contract insisted on his consulting work being kept confidential as he traveled the world to advocate for a glyphosate ban.

Learn more about Portier [HERE](#).

[CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES](#)

[Adrian Dubock: How to contribute to the adoption of Golden Rice and address vitamin A deficiency](#)

[Michelle Miller: Eight myths about milk, including how "non-GMO" claims are just a marketing ploy](#)

[David Zaruk: Why must European taxpayers fund organic industry lobbyist Carey Gillam's witch hunt against glyphosate?](#)

[Genetic Literacy Project: Conspiracy theorist Alex Jones spreading fear about GMOs, pesticides to sell questionable products](#)

[Chris Woolston: Cancer experts say there's no reason to avoid GMOs or buy only organic fruits and vegetables](#)

[CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING](#)

What's Trending?

[Indian officials investigate pesticide poisoning that reportedly affected 1,000 farmers](#)

[Greenpeace, science advocacy group raise alarm about GM corn in Mexican tortillas despite moratorium on planting](#)

[European Parliament examines claims that Monsanto wrongfully influenced regulatory reviews of glyphosate](#)

[Ben & Jerry's announces plans for glyphosate-free line of ice creams in response to Organic Consumers Association attack](#)

Calendar highlights

October 16-18	October 16	October 17
Embrapa symposium on loss of bees in Brazil	Vandana Shiva presentation at Georgia Southern University	Vandana Shiva at University of North Carolina-Asheville lecture tour
October 18	October 18-20	October 23-25
U.S. EPA Environmental Modeling Public Meeting on pesticide risk to pollinators	13th ICPPR International Symposium "Hazards of Pesticides to Bees" (Spain)	Global Science, Technology and Innovation Conference (Brussels)

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR](#)

<p>Stakeholder database</p> <p>More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate</p>	<p>Monitoring portal</p> <p>Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.</p>	<p>Bonus Eventus community</p> <p>Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.</p>
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 Date: Sunday, October 15, 2017 9:05:09 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included an Indian seed company's announcement it would continue pursuing its lawsuit against Monsanto. BASF announced it will purchase parts of Bayer's seed business. At a workshop in Nigeria, seed companies endorsed GM crop commercialization.

- *Reuters* reported that Nuziveedu Seeds announced it continue its intellectual property lawsuit against Monsanto although two other seed companies settled out of court. The *Deccan Chronicle* reported a Nuziveedu official said the company defrauded seed companies by illegally collecting royalty payments. [See more](#)
- BASF announced it will buy parts of Bayer's seed and and glufosinate business for about \$7 billion. The transaction is contingent upon Bayer closing on its purchase of Monsanto. [See more](#)
- During a sensitization workshop for the Nigeria seed industry, several local seed companies endorsed GM crop commercialization. African Agricultural Technology Foundation Executive Director Denis Kyetere called for partnerships to transform small- and medium-sized farms into profit-driven businesses. [See more](#)

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North America

[Campaign: FDA announces comment period for Agricultural Biotechnology Education and Outreach Initiative, including public meetings](#)

[News: Gizmodo reports company behind non-browning apple hopes product will overcome consumer resistance; notes Friends of the Earth has mounted campaign questioning apple's safety,](#)

[News: Canadian news agency reports Vigilance OGM points out Canadians could be unaware they are eating GE salmon; agency says "health risks remain unknown;" NGO wants more restrictions on GMOs](#)

[News: Western Canada ag news site highlights results of Canadian Centre for Food Integrity survey indicating public's opinion of country's food system, notes nearly half of respondents expressed concern over use of pesticides in crop production, safety of GMO food, use of hormones in animal ag](#)

[News: Farming news outlet reports on Gates Foundation's decision not to grant Phase II funding for University of Arizona research on GM corn variety that prevents formation of aflatoxins, lead researcher Monica Schmidt wished public distrust of GMOs didn't extent to researched aimed at preventing disease and famine](#)

[More North America items](#)

Africa

[News: Nigerian news site reports agency declares Bt cowpea safe to consumer, notes biotech can help](#)

[News: Burkina Faso news site reports Collective Citizens for Agro-ecology urges African heads of state to reject Bt cowpea, claims it is EU attempt to privatize seeds, will cause food poisoning](#)

News: Xinhua reports on Kenyan Minister of Livestock and Fisheries, Willy Bett's recent announcement of legislation to help oversee transfer, handling and use of GMOs, and regulations for research and commercial activities, highlights several GM crop varieties currently under development

Announcement: Uganda Biotechnology and Biosafety Consortium announces Ministry of Agriculture, United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organization will hold World Food Day Celebration Oct. 16

News: Nigerian news site reports seed companies endorse GM crop commercialization, farmers wait to use and benefit from GM seed, government finalizes plans to commercialize GM crops

News: Nigerian news site reports scientists dismiss claims that GM crops damage health; AATF cowpea project director notes criticism that GM cowpea damages kidneys, liver unfounded because the crop has not been tested

News: South African news source reports members of South African Food Sovereignty Campaign march in bid to persuade government to adopt "People's Food Sovereignty Act," calling for ban on all GM seeds, phaseout of industrial agriculture and pesticides in favor of indigenous crops

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: South Korean news site reports investigation finds unapproved GM rapeseed in 8 regions, officials worry about environmental impact

News: Reuters reports Indian state of Andhra Pradesh revokes order to inspect fields planted with unapproved GM cotton, no reason given for rescinding the order; Monsanto official says seed companies incorporating unapproved traits into their seeds is of "grave concern"

News: Indian business newspaper reports India's largest seed company, Mahyco, has reduced research into developing genetically modified seeds, may seek markets in Africa, South Asia; company says government reluctance to approve GM crops stifling innovation

News: Indian news site reports Bt cotton failure due to increased insect resistance leads to increased pesticide use and alleged farmer poisoning deaths

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: The Scottish Farmer reports Rothamsted and Syngenta researchers concluded GM limited by plant science boundaries, new research needed to continue yield improvements

Commentary: Le Monde's Stephane Foucart weighs in on GMO debate, believes problems arise from intended effects of using transgenesis, rather than the technology itself, highlights link between GMOs and rise in glyphosate use, pointing to environmental impacts, acknowledges potential benefits of gene editing

News: Italian news source highlights report from Ministry of Health that finds 3 percent of food tested contain traces of GMOs, despite nation's absolute ban on cultivating GM plant species; 33 percent of food supplements found GMOs, with organic "vegetable milk" showing some of highest levels

Commentary: Sciences et Avenir runs responses from two experts to reader's question about eating fruits and vegetables that contain pesticides or GMOs; epidemiologist says benefits of eating them outweighs risks of pesticide exposure, points out no serious studies show any risk to eating GMOs

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Colombian news outlet reports non-browning Arctic Apples will soon appear in US supermarkets, highlights Okanagan Specialty Fruits President Neal Carter's hope that they will help reduce food waste, reports on possible marketing difficulties due to perceived health risks

News: Argentinian news source reports social groups criticizing government's initiative to sanction bill that would punish farmers who save and reuse native seeds; opponents say bill designed to benefit multinational companies that create transgenic seeds

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News: Australian news outlet reports on research by La Trobe University, Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence in Plant Energy Biology and University of Western Australia, with goal of using gene editing to help control crop germination, which could provide significant economic benefits to beer industry

[More Oceania items](#)

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 To: [Wray-Cohen, Diane - FAS](#)
 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Oct. 12, 2017
 Date: Thursday, October 12, 2017 9:02 09 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included the launch of reports criticizing transgenic crop production in Mexico and India. Argentina activists renewed criticism of the country's proposed seed law changes. In Nigeria, legislators called for an investigation into GM maize varieties illegally imported into the country.

- Greenpeace Mexico published a statement calling on the country's government to re-evaluate the use of transgenic crops in agriculture following a report that found transgenic maize DNA in most corn tortillas. The president of the Unión de Científicos Comprometidos con la Sociedad (UCCS) announced the study results in a news conference with researchers from the Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and the Metropolitan Autonomous University (UAM). [See more](#)
- Activist groups in Argentina issued a collective statement criticizing draft revisions of the country's seed law, calling for a rejection of all intellectual property restrictions on seeds. Under the Multisectorial for No on the Monsanto Seed Law, the groups announced plans to present their demands during a meeting today of the Commission of Agriculture and Livestock. [See more](#)
- In Nigeria, the House of Representatives ordered an investigation into reports that several ships containing unapproved GM maize varieties had been stopped at the borders by Nigeria's biosafety agency. Legislators tabling the motion called for committees to review the violation, criticizing importer Olam Group for not supporting local farmers. [See more](#)
- In an announcement coinciding with the Textile Exchange Sustainability Conference in Washington, D.C., the U.K.-based Soil Association promoted a new report claiming that Bt cotton was "failing" farmers in India. Pointing to increases pest resistance to the trait, the group called for a shift to organic cotton production. In India, a Communist Party-affiliated group called for "criminal negligence" investigations against Monsanto over the spread of herbicide-tolerant Bt cotton following reports that farmers were illegally cultivating the crop. [See more.](#)
- U.S. regulators announced two public listening sessions to allow input on an outreach program explaining the benefits of agricultural biotechnology. The events will take place in November in California and North Carolina; comments will be accepted on the program beginning tomorrow. [See more](#)

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North America

Event: FDA announces public meetings in partnership with USDA to provide outreach and educate public on agricultural biotechnology in Charlotte on Nov. 7 and San Francisco on Nov. 1

News: Reuters reports Dow working with ADM to keep Enlist E3 soybeans separated from rest of harvest due to lack of approval in Europe and China; adds Dow has waited over four years to receive soy approvals

Commentary: Los Angeles Times reporter summarizes evidence on cancer-causing agents, warns against smoking and excessive drinking but adds that GMOs have not been shown to be harmful

News: The Canadian Press reports environmental groups say first shipment of GE salmon from Panama "likely ended up on the plates of Quebec consumers"; groups say it's unclear which stores purchased the salmon

Commentary: Canadian anti-GM NGO reports "highly probable" country's first delivery of GE salmon imported into Quebec, demand mandatory GMO labeling from provincial government

News: Florida newspaper summarizes plant researcher Kevin Folta's libel lawsuit against the New York Times, quotes Poynter Institute VP who outlines difficulties of libel cases

Commentary: Sierra Club piece on spread of fall armyworm across Africa notes Lancaster University armyworm expert who is testing range of biopesticides as alternative to chemical pesticides used by country governments says combo of GM crops and pesticides used to keep pest in check is expensive

More North America items

Africa

News: Ugandan news source reports FAO project manager of climate change and resilience calls on small farmers to embrace agroecology at launch of five-year Ugandan Participatory Ecological Land Use Management plan

News: Ugandan news site reports farmers speaking at launch of five-year Participatory Ecological Land Use Management strategic plan call for immediate law to regulate imported GMO seeds, claiming seeds not resilient to climate change and contribute to poor harvests; FAO manager at launch calls for "sustainable use of biodiversity and genetic resources"

News: Nigerian news site reports House of Representatives orders committee to investigate unapproved GM maize import, orders maize imports suspended until investigation is complete; notes Olam Group imported the unapproved maize for a factory rather than support local farmers

News: Nigerian news site reports House instructs committee to investigate import of unapproved GM maize; resolution indicates officials cognizant of "grave dangers" presented by GMOs

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Hindu Business Line reports Monsanto settles royalty dispute with three Indian cotton seed firms, remains in arbitration with others

News: Press Trust of India reports Monsanto settles royalty dispute with three Indian cotton seed companies, arbitration process with five other firms continues; Monsanto's appeal of government decision to fix cotton price with royalty pending before Delhi High Court

News: Business Standard reports Communist Party-affiliated farmer group calls on India authorities to punish Mahyco Monsanto for negligence it alleges resulted in leak, illegal cultivation of Glycel Bt cotton

News: Voice of America Indonesia reports study in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences describing how researchers found way to genetically engineer maize to produce amino acid found in meat, predicting nutrient-rich food could benefit millions worldwide, reduce costs of animal feed

More Asia items

Europe

News: Italian news source reports visit by Vandana Shiva in conjunction with G7 summit; she calls creation of G7 a mistake and says farm and social groups must decide future solutions for food systems

News: Italian news agency ANSA reports Vandana Shiva visits with mayor during G7 agricultural

meeting, emphasizes mayors' importance and notes local agricultural emphasis

Report: Soil Association reflects on India GM cotton history to argue crops failed to deliver promised benefits, instead developed pest resistance that increased pesticide use, bankrupted farmers; urges consumers to buy organic to urge industry shift

News: Agence France-Presse reports French President Emmanuel Macron says CETA will ensure products imported from Canada will adhere to EU health and environmental standards, meaning products such as GE salmon will not be allowed for import

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Mexico's La Jornada reports Union of Scientists Committed to the Society presents study finding 90 percent of tortillas tested contained transgenic maize, with glyphosate detected in many, group cites concerns about possible health impacts

News release: Greenpeace Mexico issues list of demands including re-evaluations of transgenics for human consumption by government, labeling of GMOs as right to know for Mexican consumers, following study by Union of Scientists Committed to the Society that showed widespread presence of transgenics in corn tortillas, processed foods

Commentary: CIAT blog profiles research assistant working on gene-edited crops designed to resist diseases or improve digestibility; previews Oct. 17 conference on genome editing

News: Argentinian broadcaster reports social and political groups raise questions about Seed Bill being considered Oct. 12 by Agriculture Committee that would modify current regulations, oppose limiting farmers' rights to store seeds, criminalization of native seeds, free exchange among producers, peasants, native peoples

News: International news agency Pressenza reports coalition of groups in Argentina issue statement in advance of Committee on Agriculture meeting Oct. 12 to address amendment of law on seeds, oppose bills that propose limiting farmers' ability to store seeds, criminalizing free exchange of native and Creole seeds

Interview: Brazilian news site interviews outgoing member of National Technical Biosafety Commission (CTNBio), calls advisory body "a farce" for conflicts of interest and for endorsing GMOs

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News: New Zealand news site reports chief science advisor says country needs to reconsider approach to GM food as synthetic food will have "major impact" in next 10 to 15 years as strides being made in commercializing synthetic milk, meat

[More Oceania items](#)

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included news that Monsanto settled with some Indian seed companies over Bt cotton royalties. Meanwhile, Kenyan and Ethiopian news outlets reported on Bt cotton commercialization in those countries. International news outlets continued to amplify a study on pest resistance to Bt traits.

- Highlighting the ongoing controversy over cotton trait royalties in India, *Reuters* reported today that Monsanto had settled patent disputes with three of the country's leading seed makers. In a letter to India's farm minister, Monsanto had disclosed that Ajeet Seeds, Kaveri Seed Co. Ltd. and Ankur Seeds had all accepted a settlement over Bt cotton royalty payments. The terms of the arrangements were not discussed. *Reuters* noted that three additional companies were still contesting royalty payments. **See more**
- Agriculture officials in Ethiopia and Kenya both recently disclosed efforts to move toward commercialization of Bt cotton in the region. In a series of articles in *The Ethiopian Herald*, reporters amplified a statement from the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) about the progress of Bt cotton field trials. **See more** In Kenya, *Xinhua* reported that the government would convene a "national task force" to oversee the launch of Bt cotton. **See more**
- International media outlets continued to highlight a new University of Arizona study that found increasing examples of insects evolving resistance to GM crop traits. Reports on the study circulated in Portuguese and Spanish, and an Indian news outlet linked the findings to pesticide poisonings in Maharashtra. *Cosmos* magazine noted that farmers often failed to follow refuge guidelines. **See more**

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North America

News: Harvest Public Media reports on work of Coalition for Responsible Gene Editing in Agriculture, funded by U.S. Pork Board, Monsanto, Syngenta and Bayer; Coalition leader Charlie Arnot emphasized importance of transparency and engaging the public about gene editing

Commentary: Article in October issue of The Nation examines question of how to build a just, sustainable food system, authors suggest that new technologies like CRISPR may be used to enrich agrochemical companies at expense of farmers and the environment

Commentary: Dylan Sher of "Before The Plate" crew writes for Ag Daily, describes the film making process, following restaurant food ingredients back to the farm, highlighting goal of helping consumers understand where their food comes from, notes the film will not be a "pro-GMO" movie, but it will stress their importance and safety

News: CropLife reports Dow AgroSciences and ADM reach agreement that will give U.S. farmers access to Enlist E3 soybeans for 2018 planting; product resistant to applications of 2,4-D choline, glyphosate and glufosinate; farmers must deliver their crops to one of four ADM processing plants designated for program

News release: Food First! announces global community leader exchange meeting in South Africa to promote agroecology alternatives campaign via U.S. Food Sovereignty Alliance; effort intended to counter corporate threats to food supply by Monsanto, Syngenta and Gates Foundation

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Xinhua reports on Kenya's launch of task force to oversee commercialization of Bt cotton over the next five years, Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Willy Bett announced government commitment to harnessing benefits of biotech, noting Kenyan farmers will start Bt cotton cultivation in 2019

News: Ethiopian news outlet reports on recent workshop where Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) Deputy Director General Adugna Wakjira noted Ethiopia is on the right track towards Bt cotton commercialization, which will boost textile and garment industry

News: Ethiopian news outlet reports on progress towards Bt cotton commercialization, Sanjay K. Gupta of JK Agri Genetics LTD noted Ethiopia's fertile land and abundant water resources opens potential for improved yields and profits using GM technology, highlights recent workshop on other countries' experiences with Bt cotton

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Reuters reports Monsanto settles GM cotton intellectual property dispute with three Indian cotton seed makers, Ajeet Seeds, Kaveri Seed Co Ltd and Ankur Seeds, terms of resolution were not disclosed, disputes with Sri Rama Agri Genetics, Amar Biotech and Nuziveedu Seeds Ltd (NSL) are pending

News: Indian news outlet reports on recent study in Nature Biotechnology demonstrating accelerating rate of pests evolving resistance to GM crops, a significant discovery for India as it weighs large-scale GM crop adoption, highlights reports on pest resistance to Bt cotton in India, and pesticide poisonings in Maharashtra due to overuse

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Commentary: U.K.'s Rothamsted Research promotes opinion article co-written by its scientists touting potential for GM technology to create higher-yielding, more resilient food crops; scientists from Syngenta Crop Science and Symmetry Bioanalytics collaborated on article

Announcement: Global Plant Council issues statement on gene editing in agriculture, calls for evaluation of new products on a case-by-case basis, only regulating them as GMOs if the end product could not occur in Nature, calls for transparent, evidence-based regulations

Commentary: U.K.'s Female First runs piece by popular science author Rebecca Nesbit listing 10 facts about GM foods, pointing out GM crops being developed in England include disease-resistant potatoes and camelina, extensive studies have found no health problems associated with GM foods

Campaign: German natural food producer Rapunzel publishes position paper for its FOODPrints campaign; notes opposition to products of new breeding techniques, highlights threats to EU standards and precautionary principle's ability to enable protection of GM-free food

News: German anti-GMO news site reports on new campaign launched by natural food producer Rapunzel, FOODPrint, seeking to raise awareness of risks of new GE methods, and calls for regulation of new breeding techniques as GMOs, Rapunzel Managing Director Joseph Wilhelm wants to present demands to the new Ag Minister

News: Italian news outlet reports on University of Arizona study demonstrating acceleration of pests' resistance to GM crops, highlighting ability of pests to develop resistance in five years, and benefits of refuge areas

News: Portuguese news agency reports on study in Nature Biotechnology demonstrating that pests are rapidly developing resistance to GM insect-resistant crops, author Bruce Tabashnik noted that when Bt crops were first introduced in 1996, no one knew how quickly pests would adapt

News: Bergamo, Italy news outlet reports on Vandana Shiva's visit and lecture ahead of G7 Agriculture Summit, in which she speaks out against industrialized agriculture, which she claims destroys biodiversity and contributes to greenhouse gas emissions

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Mexican news source reports provincial regent of ecology and environment calls on consumers in Huajuapán region of Oaxaca to avoid processed foods in supermarkets, buy mainly organic products that protect health, strengthen economy of peasants, praises groups that eschew transgenic maize

Commentary: Bolivian news outlet contributor voices concern that agribusiness sector is requiring government to violate state constitution by allowing entry of GM crops, points to existing problem of glyphosate-resistant weeds, as well as controversy surrounding its toxicity

News: Chilean news outlet reports on concerns surrounding reopening of TPP negotiations, international analyst Guillermo Holzmann noted the deal may allow companies like Monsanto a new opportunity to enter the country, raising intellectual property and patent issues, and health and environmental concerns

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News: Cosmos reports on Nature Biotechnology study finding rapid rise in rate of insect resistance to GM crops, highlighting authors' recommendation that use of abundant refuge areas can delay development of resistance, reports many farmers have not properly followed refuge guidelines

[More Oceania items](#)

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Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included commentary and announcements anticipating a meeting of the G7 agriculture ministers, as well as a meeting of the European Parliament's environment committee.

- Italian agriculture groups previewed the G7 agriculture ministers' meeting scheduled for Oct. 14-15. Slow Food Valli Orobiche highlighted an presentation planned tomorrow by activist Vandana Shiva. The Associazione Luca Coscioni, a pro-research group, used the occasion to launch a new website that explains the potential benefits of genome editing. [See more](#)
- The European Parliament's Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety previewed its Oct. 11-12 meeting, highlighting a public session to review Monsanto's promotion of glyphosate. A committee newsletter also previewed a session on the European Commission's recommendations for updating GM crop risk assessments, noting that a vote on the commission's proposal is likely to take place on Friday (Oct. 13). [See more](#)
- The U.K.'s *Daily Mail* highlighted recent research out of the University of Arizona claiming that insects were "rapidly" developing resistance to GM crops expressing Bt proteins. The article quoted activists with GM Freeze and Beyond GM. [See more](#)

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North America

News: New York Daily News reports GM Arctic apples to be released this fall in stores throughout Midwest and Southern California but won't be labeled as GMOs thanks to 2016 law; University of California-Berkeley ag professor defends product, says it may hasten consumer acceptance of GMO foods

News: Dow Jones Newswires reports on ag industry's investment in new gene editing technologies, and hopes that they could help shift debate on GE seeds, Monsanto CEO Hugh Grant emphasized importance of explaining benefits, and DowDupont's James Collins noted gene editing is different in that no outside genes are inserted

News: Ag Information Network reports global cotton, wheat and specialty crops lead for Monsanto says gene editing allows for more crop diversity, asserts cost of gene editing less than for genetic modification, predicts gene editing will create new opportunities for wheat, fruits and vegetables

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Tim Barker amplifies recent meta analysis published in Environmental Research Letters, highlighting findings that conventional agriculture holds several ecological advantages over organic, especially with regards to yield gap

News release: Organic supplement company Garden of Life announces it's teaming up with author Robyn O'Brien to celebrate Non-GMO Month by creating pop-up "garden experience" Oct. 10 in New York City, promotes its products all Non-GMO Project Verified and Certified USDA Organic

More North America items

Africa

Video: Kenyan TV station posts YouTube video of report on new agreement to use gene editing in attempt to develop variety of maize resistant to maize lethal necrosis disease

News: Ugandan news outlet reports on implications of recently passed biosafety law for farmers and other stakeholders, farmer Abdallah Drasiku highlighted many benefits of biotech crops, but noted farmers will still have choice in whether to plant GM, hybrid or traditional varieties

News: News Agency of Nigeria reports on National Bio-safety Management Agency (NBMA) Director General Rufus Egbegba's recent statement that GM crops are not new crops, but the same conventional crops with improvements inserted, urging citizens to ignore statements painting GMOs as harmful

News: Nigerian Tribune reports on recent sensitization workshop for seed sector stakeholders, following announcement of plans to release Bt cowpea and cotton to farmers next year, National Agriculture Seed Council (NASC) Director General Phillip Ojo noted the meeting's importance for education about newest technological advancements

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

Interview: Indian finance news outlet publishes excerpt of interview with Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) chairperson Amita Prasad, regarding illegal cultivation of herbicide-tolerant cotton, Prasad notes GEAC has not received reports from Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Central Institute for Cotton Research

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Commentary: EU Parliament ENVI Committee newsletter previews Oct. 11-12 meetings expected to commence Monsanto papers/glyphosate hearing, also feature exchange of views with EU Commission on GMO environmental risk assessment, EDC criteria

Commentary: Slow Food promotes upcoming Summit on the Future of Food to accompany G7 Ag Ministers Summit, where Vandana Shiva will be a featured speaker, highlights her fight against agribusiness and patented seeds

Announcement: Italian Federation of Biological and Biodynamic Agriculture announces speakers for G7 Agriculture in Bergamo event on Oct. 12, with theme of "The biological as a model of sustainable farming systems," reiterates claim that organic agriculture is the only way to sustainably feed the planet

Announcement: Italian pro-science group, Associazione Luca Coscioni announces launch of its GeniMigliori.it website, dedicated to genetic editing of plants, reiterating appeal to Ministers of Agriculture, Environment and Health to allow field experimentation of GM crop research

News: Daily Mail (U.K.) reports on recent research demonstrating that pests are able to develop resistance to GM crops within five years, researchers noted planting refuge areas of non-GM crops can slow down development of resistance to the technology, highlights reactions from GM Freeze and Beyond GM

News: Agence France-Presse reports on Rutgers University scientists' development of GM corn capable of producing important nutrient methionine, commonly found in meat, co-author Thomas Leustek noted that the technology could be quickly deployed in principle, but that regulatory hurdles would be a major obstacle

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Commentary: Brazilian agroecology NGO AS-PTA recounts recent 7th State Party of the Seeds of the Passion, jointly organized with Paraíba Semiarid Association (ASA Paraíba), ASA Brasil coordinator Naidison Quintella charged government with protecting creole seeds, others warned about contamination from transgenics

News: Brazilian tech news source reports GM arctic apples from Okanagan Specialty Fruits about to go on U.S. market, notes gene silencing used to reduce enzyme that causes inside of fruit to turn brown when cut open, points out anti-GMO groups opposing sale of product despite labeling requirements

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

[More Oceania items](#)

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Today's global biotechnology commentary included ongoing response to last week's European Parliament meeting where members adopted a resolution opposing new GM soy imports. Ugandan media outlets continued to discuss the country's recently approved biosafety law.

- Amplifying the European Parliament's resolution calling on the European Commission not to approve new GM soy varieties for import, Italy's 5 Star Movement announced that it was proposing an amendment to the EU's GM crop approval processes. The group added that consumers and member states oppose the crops but legislative procedures allow the commission to approve them through a "loophole." **See more**
- Commentary on Uganda's recently approved biosafety bill continued. A columnist with Uganda's *The Observer* questioned the motives of companies promoting the measure, arguing that farmers will be locked into expensive crop production systems with unknown health risks. *The Sunrise* quoted researchers who criticized the bill's requirement for environmental impact assessments on test crops. **See more**
- Agricultural news outlets promoted a *PR Week* interview with Mann Packing's marketing director, who elaborated on a Facebook statement that the company would be discontinuing the use of "Non-GMO Project Verified" labels on its vegetables due to the company's concern that the free-from claim perpetuates fear about GMOs. **See more**

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North America

Embargoed release (Oct. 10): University of Arizona researchers examine growing pest resistance to GM crop traits, identify use of refuges as crucial to delaying adaptation; highlight case study of India versus US pink bollworm resistance

News: PR Week reports on Mann Packing corporate marketing director Gina Nucci's explanation of the company's decision to remove non-GMO labeling, noting they did not want to perpetuate fear that something is wrong with GMOs, highlights their participation in Alliance for Food and Farming

News: Ag news outlets amplify reports that vegetable supplier Mann Packing will remove "non-GMO" label from certain lettuce products; NAFB news notes company doesn't want to perpetuate GMO fears, acknowledges that there is no GM lettuce

Commentary: Biotech research news site Legume Laboratory amplifies recent article in Plant Biotechnology Journal which reviewed several studies frequently cited by anti-GMO movement, highlights the paper's demonstration of several flaws in each of the studies, notes majority of studies find that GMOs are safe

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science posts piece by Ghana-based journalist reporting intensified debate over safety of biotech applications in food production as nation prepares for first commercial release of GE crop in 2018; officials say GMO cowpea ready for commercialization next year after successful field trials

Commentary: Jonathan Latham writes for Bioscience Resource Project's Independent Science News, describes his recent research in which he claims to demonstrate that biotech Bt toxins are substantially different from those occurring in nature, claims biotech companies like Monsanto are patenting "supertoxins"

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Ugandan news outlet reports on controversy surrounding recently passed biosafety law's requirement that any researcher must conduct an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) prior to beginning research, Peter Wamboga Mugirya, from Science Foundation for Livelihoods and Development argued the measure is uncalled for

Commentary: Ugandan news outlet contributor voices concerns about recently passed biosafety bill, criticizing involvement of multinational corporations, believes introduction of GM seeds will worsen poverty, and that GMOs are being introduced without environmental or health assessments

News: Nigerian news source reports head of National Bio-safety Management Agency defends use of GMO crops, says they're same as conventional crops improved for purpose of sustainability and improved yields, urges citizens to take scientific view of GMOs and ignore claims they cause health and environmental problems

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science posts piece by Ghana-based journalist reporting intensified debate over safety of biotech applications in food production as nation prepares for first commercial release of GE crop in 2018; officials say GMO cowpea ready for commercialization next year after successful field trials

News: Ghana News Agency reports on Council for Scientific and Industrial Research's (CRI-CSIR) former Crops Research Institute director Adu-Dapaah's recent lecture at Prempeh College, calling for open, candid and informed debate on GMOs, noting their safe use is essential for food security

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Indian news outlet reports on recent International Soy Conclave organized by Soyabean Processors Association in Indore, highlights arguments presented both for and against GM soy adoption in India

News: India's The Wire discusses history and evolution of dengue virus, reports trials underway of GM mosquitoes carrying lethal gene that induces sterility among wild mosquitoes, along with attempts to infect mosquitoes with Wolbachia bacteria that can prevent dengue virus from replicating in mosquitoes

Commentary: Third World Network amplifies policy brief published in Food Ethics, highlighting proposed framework of "care-based" ethics and politics to guide biotech regulatory assessments, and argument that assessments must go beyond risks to human health and the environment

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: Farmers Guardian reports on recent research by Syngenta and Rothamsted Research scientists, finding need for increased knowledge on genes that control plant yields, Rothamsted's Matthew Paul noted the technology's potential is running ahead of ability to deploy it

Commentary: Italy's Five Star Movement proposes amendment to rules regarding technical committees, in reaction to EU Commission plans to authorize new GM soybean varieties in spite of opposition from Parliament and member states, proposes that authorizations cannot proceed in absence of opinion by technical committee and panel of appeals

Commentary: French MEP Marie-Christine Vergiat voices opposition to proposed authorization of new herbicide-tolerant GM soybean varieties by Bayer and Dow, voicing concern about uncertainties surrounding impact on immune system and the reproductive system, calls for adherence to precautionary principle

Announcement: Parliament of Ukraine posts update on draft law on state control of GM products in agriculture and food industry, basic revision of bill referred to Committee on Agrarian Policy and Land Relations

Commentary: Norwegian NGO GenØk promotes new article by its senior scientist suggesting use of Bt-toxins may lead to pests developing resistance, that observed benefits of Bt maize and cotton may not last long, and that milkweed nearly extinct in GM soybean and corn fields covering vast area of United States

News release: Bayer, along with Belgian young farmers associations Groene Kring (GK) and Fédération des Jeunes Agriculteurs (FJA), announce's kick-off of third edition of Youth Ag-Summit, bringing together 100 young leaders to discussion solutions for feeding the growing population in a sustainable manner

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Mexican news outlet reports on recent II Maize Festival at House of Culture of Tijuana, where event organizer Adriana Mercado Polanco claimed Mexican maize is at risk of being privatized and made artificial, and that transgenic maize will cause the land to become infertile

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

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From: Jay Byrne
 To: Wray-Cohen, Diane - FAS
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Oct. 9, 2017
 Date: Monday, October 9, 2017 4:05 05 PM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

As the European Parliament voted down proposed criteria to define endocrine disruptors and again delayed action on the reauthorization of glyphosate last week, David Zaruk used his blog to coin a new term about the thinking behind the European regulatory process: The Possibilist Principle. As Zaruk describes it, he sees possibilism as seeing a "remote possibility as good reason to avoid a decision and take precaution." There's much more on this topic in his full article featured in the Stories Worth Sharing section.

There's also a piece by Kevin Folta taking a retrospective look at how a controversial study by Gilles-Eric Seralini continues to block the adoption of biotechnology and the delivery of needed food five years later, plus a hopeful look at the Ugandan Parliament's approval of a biosafety bill that moves the country a step closer to biotechnology solutions.

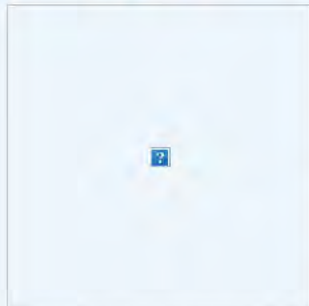
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Please [contact us](#) if you have any questions.

In This Issue

[Stakeholder Spotlight](#)
[Stories Worth Sharing](#)
[What's Trending?](#)
[Calendar highlights](#)

Stakeholder Spotlight: Vandana Shiva



Vandana Shiva is one of the most outspoken anti-GMO, anti-corporate global activist voices.

Shiva makes highly charged and factually disputed claims,

Stories Worth Sharing

[David Zaruk: Europe now basing pesticide and EDC regulations on "remote possibility" of harm](#)

[Gary Baise: Was National Institutes of Health scientist honest by withholding glyphosate safety information?](#)

[Science Moms: Vegetable company should be praised for taking closer look at science and removing Non-GMO labels](#)

[Ex-Defra secretary questions EU neonic restrictions, says Brexit provides chance to help environment by embracing GM crops](#)

[Rog Wood: Organic farming "little more than a clever marketing ploy" lacking scientifically proven benefits](#)

[Information Technology and Innovation Foundation asks U.S. Interior secretary to overturn bans on GM crops, neonics in wildlife refuges](#)

[Kevin Folta: Five years later, Seralini study continues to impede use of sound agricultural technology; keep food from many in need](#)


[Michelle Miller: Dannon making mistake to partner with Non-GMO Project, which "lies to people for profits"](#)


such as Indian farmer suicides are linked to biotechnology crops, to audiences across the globe.


Shiva, who reportedly earns speaking fees in excess of US\$40,000 per event, will be on a tour of various U.S. colleges in October.

Learn more about Shiva [HERE](#).

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Jeremiah Traeger: With passage of biosafety bill, Uganda moving past pseudoscience standing in the way of "life-saving" biotechnologies 

Andrew Porterfield: Natural News wrong with claim Amish farmers have lower cancer rates because they don't use GM crops, pesticides 

Canadian filmmaker Nick Saik explains his plans for "Know GMO" documentary 

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

European Parliament rejects criteria for endocrine-disrupting chemicals, raising objections to exceptions for pesticides

Swiss research linked to Task Force on Systemic Pesticides claims three-fourths of world's honey contains neonics

Uganda Parliament approves biosafety bill after years of delay

Vote on European reauthorization of glyphosate delayed again / Hearing planned this week on "Monsanto Papers" allegations

Calendar highlights

October 9-13	October 9-11	October 10
World Convention on Sustainable Biotechnology (New Zealand)	Protecting Pollinators in Urban Landscapes conference (Michigan)	Wall Street Journal Global Food Forum (New York)
October 11-13	October 11	October 12-13
"Assessing the Security Implications of Genome Editing Technology" workshop (Hanover, Germany)	Health Information Center debate on endocrine disruptors (Pointers, France)	NZBIO Biotechnology/Life Sciences Conference (Wellington, New Zealand)

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

<p>Stakeholder database</p> <p>More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate</p>	<p>Monitoring portal</p> <p>Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.</p>	<p>Bonus Eventus community</p> <p>Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.</p>
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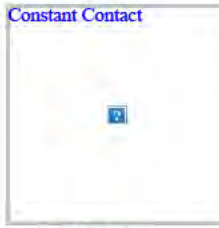
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 Date: Sunday, October 8, 2017 9:04:38 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

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Global biotechnology highlights over the weekend included ongoing reports about Uganda's Parliament approving a long-debated biosafety bill. *Reuters* and Indian news sites reported unapproved GM cotton being sold and cultivated in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.

- Ugandan Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation Elioda Tumwesigye said the newly approved biosafety law provides safeguards to protect consumers. Anti-biotech critics warned that if the country embraces GMOs, it will endanger trade with the European Union and the country would be entrusting its food security to biotech companies. **See more**
- *Reuters* reported unapproved GM cotton is being sold and cultivated in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, and *The Times of India* reported Monsanto's unapproved Bollgard III variety is being sold and cultivated in Maharashtra. A *Financial Express* editorial said the government failed to provide oversight to prevent planting of herbicide-tolerant cotton, which could lead to quicker development of insect resistance. **See more**

Reminder: to access the full text, archives and monitoring dashboard resources you need to log in to the **Bonus Eventus community portal** using your email address and personal password. Please contact us if you need any assistance or support.

For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **[click here](#)**

North America

News: MIT Technology Review reports bags of sliced non-browning Arctic Apples by Okanagan Specialty Fruits will hit U.S. shelves this fall, Okanagan founder Neal Carter explained decision to use a QR code rather than a text GE label, noting they didn't want to put a skull and crossbones on the package

News: The Washington Post reports Australian researchers aim to produce GM banana resistant to banana wilt that threatens world's banana suppliers

News: Boulder Daily Camera reports on open space farmers' call for a "time out" on clock counting down GM crop bans on county-owned land, as plans for the GMO transition program and research center have stalled, sugar beet farmer Paul Schlagel noted growers are reluctant to implement their own changes, should they differ from county plans

Commentary: Kevin Folta says U.S. Right to Know, Organic Consumers Association is misleading and deceitful in attempting to ruin Folta's reputation, link him to Monsanto, calling him a "shill"

Commentary: Keith Kloor writes in Slate article that Folta's libel suit says NYT article misrepresented his relationship with Monsanto, says writer Eric Lipton is accountable if he got the facts wrong, but is not responsible for the Internet's reaction

Commentary: Kevin Folta writes for Medium, examines consequences of Seralini's infamous rat study five years after publication, points to issues in methodology, data presentation and ethics, notes several countries suffering from food insecurity have since adopted restrictive policies on GMOs, in spite of the study being "dead on arrival"

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Andrew Porterfield rebuts Natural News blog that claimed

Ohio's Amish have lower cancer rates because they don't use GM crops or pesticides, points out Amish farmers actually use both, suggests genetics and lower rates of smoking may play bigger roles in Amish cancer rates

More North America items

Africa

News: Science magazine reports on biotech researchers' celebration of passage of Uganda's biosafety bill, opening the door to large-scale field trials and commercial release of GM crops, Uganda's science minister Elioda Tumwesigye addressed concerns by announcing plans for an indigenous crop seed bank

Commentary: Patheos blogger supports use of GMOs as safe, effective, necessary to meet future agricultural demands, laments government restrictions in Uganda that prevent access to GMO bananas, other crops that could feed nation's poor during drought, blames pseudo-science for anti-GMO positions of elected officials

Commentary: Ghana's Graphic Online runs op-ed discussing nation's debate over GMOs, asserting opposing sides on issue entrenched in their stances, questioning whether Ghana can achieve Sustainable Development Goal of ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, promoting sustainable agriculture

Interview: Nigeria's The Guardian talks to country's Minister of Agriculture Audu Ogbe, who cites need for country to adopt GMO crops in spite of public concerns, points out yields of GM cotton in Pakistan 10 times higher than conventional cotton in Nigeria, asserts GM crops needed to feed growing population, fuel ag exports

Commentary: Nigerian news outlet contributor claims entry of Monsanto and promotion of GM crops and glyphosate is one of the most serious threats to Nigeria's food safety, calls for withdrawal of GM crop authorization

More Africa items

Asia

News: Thai news outlet reports on BIOTHAI report on Ag Department's plans to revise Plant Variety Protection Act, highlights concerns that it will allow multinational seed corporations to create monopolies, penalize farmers who replant seeds, and destroy biodiversity and food security

News: Times of India reports farmers say Monsanto's unapproved Bollgard III being illegally sold and cultivated in Maharashtra's Yavatmal district, says farmers were unaware of the seed variety when they purchased the seed

Commentary: Retired director general of Bangladesh Rice Research Institute, Jiban Krishna Biswas, continues series on GMO controversy with focus on Bt eggplant, argues that Bt eggplant has great potential to reduce insecticide use, urges caution to preserve crop diversity

News: Filipino news site reports Department of Agriculture again begins field tests for Bt eggplant after Supreme Court reversed decision that had banned the crop; university study leader says Bt eggplant is healthier, safer alternative to fight pests

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Italian news outlet contributor examines how EU Court of Justice decision in favor of farmer Giorgio Fidenato demonstrates hypocrisy of Italian government and EU institutions, notes importing large amounts of GM feed while prohibiting GM cultivation is not beneficial to Europe's ag sector

News: Le Monde's Stéphane Horel and Stéphane Foucart continue investigation of "Monsanto papers," focusing on retraction of Gilles-Eric Seralini's infamous rat study, highlighting Food and Chemical Toxicology editor Wallace Hayes' consulting contract with Monsanto

News: French news outlet reports on concerns surrounding Canada's approval of GE salmon and signing of CETA agreement, highlights difference in labeling requirements

Commentary: Romanian news source warns against eating breakfast cereals because they contain GMOs, claims they are "extremely toxic" and cause many health problems

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Commentary: Mexican news site columnist says countries rely on six large capitalist companies, which control the seed, prices, technology and innovation, notes Mexico's Senate environmental committee approves forestry development law that will allow plundering of forests

News: Argentine news site reports Monsanto's Intacta RR2 soy variety tests indicate it has superior yields with average increase of 333 kg per hectare

Commentary: Uruguayan news site columnist says GM crops, glyphosate needed to feed millions of people and benefit the environment; says banning them would dramatically increase food prices

Interview : Colombian news site reports Syngenta sustainability manager says GM crops reduce CO2 emissions, reduce agricultural footprint, are resistant to bad weather and soil conditions

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

Commentary: Australian anti-GMO NGO MADGE warns readers about health risks of recently approved GM potato varieties, amplifying study demonstrating negative impact of RNAi on bees, criticizes Food Standards Australia New Zealand's (FSANZ) approval process, urges supporters to voice opposition to retailers

News: Australian farming news outlet reports on farming groups' concerns over Senator Nick Xenophon's decision to quit the Senate and run for a SA lower house seat, casting doubt on efforts to repeal the state's economically stifling GM crop ban

[More Oceania items](#)

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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Oct. 5, 2017
 Date: Thursday, October 5, 2017 9 02:41 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

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Today's global biotechnology highlights include news that the European Parliament passed resolutions rejecting new GM soy and maize imports. A U.S.-based anti-biotechnology researcher issued a new paper claiming that genetically engineered Bt proteins are more toxic than naturally occurring versions.

- The European Parliament approved two resolutions, forwarded by the environment committee, which call on the European Commission to withdraw its draft decision approving Bayer and Dow soybean traits for imports. The resolution questioned the European Food Safety Authority's environmental assessment and called for a moratorium on any crop approvals until controversy over the approval process can be resolved. **See more**
- Researchers Jonathan Latham and Angelika Hilbeck, both active critics of agricultural biotechnology, released a new paper claiming that the cry insecticidal proteins created through genetic engineering in plants are much more toxic than naturally occurring proteins. The researchers called on governments to reassess Bt trait crops in light of this conclusion. Anti-biotechnology movement groups, including GMWatch and Sustainable Pulse, amplified the study. **See more**
- Uganda's *The Sunrise* reported on yesterday's announcement that the Parliament had approved the country's long-delayed biosafety law. The article highlighted several crops under development, including bacterial wilt-resistant bananas and maize varieties that can withstand stem borer and fall armyworm attacks. **See more**
- Responding to a Senate Committee's late-September decision to approve Mexico's Law on General Biodiversity, the Union of Scientists Committed to Society (UCCS) warned against a full Senate vote without more discussion on the measure. The statement claimed that the current proposal could allow transnational companies to patent indigenous crop varieties. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **[click here](#)**

North America

Study: Latham, Hilbeck study claims proteins changed when Bt toxin is inserted into plants, says this necessitates assessment of Bt toxin when used in GM plants

News: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reports Oxitec still waiting to perform GM mosquito trials in Florida 7 years after arriving in state, one year after vote affirming tests; notes residents wary of scientific uncertainty, asks can "scientific data trump political scare tactics"

Announcement: U.S. FDA posts notice in Federal Register of clarification of FDA and EPA jurisdiction over mosquito-related products, guidance for industry and availability, provides instructions for submitting electronic or written comments

News: Reuters reports federal appeals court upholds ruling dismissing lawsuit against Chipotle for falsely advertising it removed GMOs from menu; court said customer could not show she damages from the ads

Announcement: University of Minnesota promotes study that recommends using cooperative governance networks to find common ground, decide when and where to use gene editing techniques for crops in ways acceptable to society

Event: University of Saskatchewan's Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy promotes Oct. 11 public lecture and video conference featuring Adam Malima, chair of Biotechnology Society of Tanzania, discussing whether Africa needs biotechnology

Event: Mike Rowe announces "Farmers for America" film sponsored by leading absence-claim marketers Chipotle, ClifBar and other conventional agriculture critics - to premier Oct. 26-27 in Indianapolis

More North America items

Africa

News: Ugandan news site reports Parliament passes biosafety bill despite opposition by NGOs citing country's strong market for organic products; plant breeder says bill will help Uganda lead Africa in food research

News: Egyptian news outlet reports on Farmers Union leader Hussein Abdulrahman Abu-Saddam's call for ban on entry of GM agricultural and animal products, citing human health risks

More Africa items

Asia

News: The International News reports Pakistan's "TheNetwork" for Consumer Protection launches shoppers guideline on how to buy organic food; group's executive director says organic food not grown from GM seeds, is free from chemical fertilizers and pesticides

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science posts piece by Bangladeshi farmer describing how agriculture in his country has evolved from primitive techniques to use of Bt eggplant, which more than 6,000 farmers now cultivate, allowing them to improve their economic status

More Asia items

Europe

Announcement: EU Parliament adopts resolution in opposition to EU Commission's draft decision granting approval for Dow's new herbicide-tolerant soybean variety, points to health risks of relevant herbicides, argues draft Commission implementing decision is not consistent with Union law

Announcement: EU Parliament adopts resolution asking EU Commission not to approve Bayer's new herbicide-tolerant GM soybean variety, or any herbicide-tolerant GM crop variety until health effects of herbicide residues are fully assessed

News release: Testbiotech reiterates call on EU Commission to stop approval of new GM soybean varieties by Dow and Bayer, following EU Parliament's resolution against them, arguing that herbicides associated with the new GMOs are harmful to human health and have not been sufficiently evaluated by EFSA

Announcement: European Commission posts agenda for Regulatory Committee meeting Oct. 13 to discuss unauthorized GM petunias, update by Spain on measures taken and their results to eliminate teosinte from maize fields, along with possible opinion of committee on draft directive regarding environmental risk assessment of GMOs

News release: European Coalition Via Campesina announces UN Human Rights Council upholds Peasants' Rights Declaration, Portugal has expressed support of the process, calls on EU governments to support rural communities and defend peasants' rights

Campaign: Food sovereignty activists issue call for signatures on UN bill protecting human rights against trans-national corporations, preview Oct. 23-27 events

Commentary: Consumers union for Calabria region of Italy says recent European Court of Justice ruling shows Italian authorities improperly applied precautionary principle against Udine farmers who planted GMO corn seeds, asserts no serious risk to human, animal or environmental health from cultivation of GM maize

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News release: Mexican NGO Union of Scientists Committed to Society (UCCS) warns against passage of General Law of Biodiversity without thorough discussion, arguing it threatens natural resources of indigenous and peasant peoples by opening doors to transnational companies

News: Mexican news outlet reports on launch of cycle of conferences to be held by National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (Conabio), running through December, Conabio coordinator José Sarukhán argued Mexico has 60 native maize varieties, and that importing transgenic maize is unnecessary

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Nurío community chronicler Jose Manuel Torres Marcos' recent statement that transgenic maize has "invaded the region," warning that it drives down prices, creating unfair competition for local farmers, and claiming that transgenic maize production damages the earth

News: Argentinian NGO ECOS Cordoba reports Monsanto will sue municipality of Rio Cuarto, following High Court of Justice ruling, Río Cuarto No Agrochemical Assembly reaffirmed its opposition to the company, which seeks to overturn previous administration's prohibition of experimental seed trials

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

[More Oceania items](#)

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From: Jay Byrne
 To: Wray-Cohen, Diane - FAS
 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Oct. 4, 2017
 Date: Wednesday, October 4, 2017 9:04:36 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology news included an announcement from Uganda's Parliament on the passage of that country's biosafety law. Asian news outlets amplified a University of California-Riverside study on the health benefits of DuPont's Plenish soybean.

- While details are limited, Uganda's Parliamentary Twitter account announced that legislators had passed the Uganda Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill (2012). Initial reporting on the parliamentary session focused on an altercation among MPs, with little early reporting on the biosafety legislation. [See more](#)
- In contrast to U.S. reporting, Asian news outlets amplifying a University of California-Riverside study that claimed that oils made from the genetically modified Plenish soybean may cause liver damage. The university announcement emphasized that fatty liver results were similar across Plenish oil, conventional soybean oil, coconut oil and olive oil. U.S. news outlets had highlighted other results showing that Plenish oil resulted in less insulin resistance. [See more](#)
- Brazil's competition watchdog, Cade, warned that Bayer's purchase of Monsanto should only be approved with restrictions. The agency recommended "structural" solutions, such as divestments. The announcement was reported by *Reuters* and local news outlets. [See more](#)

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, [click here](#).

North America

News: Politico - FDA pushes back on USDA decision to move Codex from public health arm to trade division, arguing oversight from non-science organization undermines its credibility as U.S. science-based enterprise

News: Politico - U.S. Ag Secretary Perdue defends decision to move Codex from food safety arm to new trade division at trade conference, argues countries will no longer be allowed to use Codex as means to keep products out

Event: Conventional on Biological Diversity releases provisional agenda for Dec. 5-8 meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology

News: Des Moines Register reports three protesters sue World Food Prize and state of Iowa for alleged first amendment rights violations, arguing they have the right to protest the 2017 ceremony within sight and sound of participants, the plaintiffs have protested the event in the past, voicing opposition to GMOs

[More North America items](#)

Africa

Announcement: Parliament of Uganda tweets that the National Biosafety Bill passes into law

News: Kenya's The Star reports health secretary dismisses opposition leader's claims that tetanus vaccine administered to women in May laced with anti-pregnancy hormone; Roman Catholic archbishop had asked Kenyan members of church to reject vaccine along with GMO foods, citing "hidden agenda" behind them

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News release: Philippine Rice Research Institute announces plans to construct Department of Agriculture's largest biotechnology center, aimed at enhancing commercial value of rice, abaca, coconut, white and yellow corn, cotton, cassava, sweet potato, yam, tomato and eggplant

Event: News agency for occupied Palestinian territory reports Palestinian Farmers Movement to hold conference of farmers from provinces in late November, part of the Global Peasant Movement that advocates for sustainable agriculture, opposes use of pesticides, chemical fertilizers and GM foods

News: Indian TV station amplifies study published in Nature Scientific Reports Journal that finds DuPont's GM Plenish soybean oil may be harmful for liver, produces essentially identical effects as olive oil; report says research busts "myth" that soybean oil reduces cholesterol levels

News: Asia News International amplifies study by University of California-Riverside researchers finding DuPont's GM Plenish soybean oil induces less obesity and insulin resistance than conventional soybean oil, but effects on diabetes and fatty liver are similar

Commentary: Indonesian news outlet contributor reports on recent UC Riverside study on health impact of GM soybean oil, claims the study has "found the myth" that GM soybean oil is healthier than conventional soybean oil, and that it warns GM soybean oil harms liver function

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: French news outlet reports on recent EU Court of Justice hearing on whether products of directed mutagenesis should be regulated as GMOs, with attorney for the nine anti-GM associations arguing that "everything that is artificial constitutes a GMO," final decision will be issued on Dec. 20

News: Italian news outlet reports EU Court of Justice instructs Advocate-General to give opinion on legal status of new breeding techniques on December 20, with no definitive answer resulting from recent public hearing, which saw several arguments both for and against strict regulation

News: French radio station reports trial set for Volunteer Reaper charged with destroying packages of products containing glyphosate in French garden centers, notes solidarity is being organized for event (Oct. 20)

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News release: Brazil's Administrative Council for Economic Defense announces opinion from superintendent-general on Bayer's purchase of Monsanto, which warns of horizontal concentration in markets for transgenic soybeans and cotton, calls biotech essential input to compete in seed markets; GM crops dominate Brazilian production

News: Reuters reports Brazilian regulatory agency warns Bayer's takeover of Monsanto could hurt competition, urges "structural solutions" as condition for final approval of deal, including ensuring another competitor in biotech development

News release: Embrapa profiles staff researcher on agenda to speak at organization's bee loss symposium (Oct. 16-18), highlights her research affirming GM crops do not threaten bee populations

Event: Brazil government, FAO, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul host seminar examining agroecology policies in Latin America featuring talks by members of small farmers movement, Via Campesina, sessions on pesticide abuse (Oct. 4-6)

Commentary: Bolivian news outlet contributor calls for end to "urban myths" about GMOs, following recent reports of local producers illegally using GM corn seed, points to former anti-GMO activist Mark Lynas' change in opinion after examining the science behind GMOs

News release: Slow Food Mexico announces launch of its Un Mexico Transgenico campaign, demanding transparency from industry about negative impact of GMOs on local communities and ecosystems, as well as mandatory labeling, with goal of creating more consumer awareness

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: Soil & Health Association of New Zealand criticizes Food Standards Australia New Zealand's (FSANZ) approval of six GM potato varieties for human consumption, arguing the approvals were made without sufficient evidence that they are safe to eat

News release: GE Free Northland sounds alarm over Food Standards Australia NZ (FSANZ) decision to approve six US GM potato varieties for sale in New Zealand and Australia, spokesman Martin Robinson argues New Zealand must withdraw from FSANZ and tighten labeling laws

Event: New Zealand's Royal Society Te Aparangi to host public lecture on gene editing on Oct. 11 by Elspeth MacRae, General Manager Manufacturing & Bioproducts at Scion, a Crown Research Institute, she will describe developments in gene editing, improved products, and potential to revolutionize food production

More Oceania items

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 Date: Tuesday, October 3, 2017 9:03:03 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included commentary on the European Court of Justice hearing today to review plant breeding techniques. In the U.S., researchers called for the Fish and Wildlife Service to revisit its ban on GMOs in wildlife refuges.

- The European Court of Justice heard a French case today to review whether plants derived from mutagenesis should be regulated under guidelines for genetically modified crops. Confédération Paysanne brought the case following in-country activism from groups such as the Volunteer Reapers. Commentary in French and Italian news outlets highlighted the potential repercussions of a decision, although they noted that a decision isn't expected until 2018. [See more](#)
- U.S. researchers with the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF) issued an open letter today asking Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to revoke a Fish and Wildlife Service policy phasing out the use of genetically modified crops. Noting that the ban was "arbitrary," the group also said that such a policy should have been subject to public comment process. [See more](#)

Reminder: to access the full text, archives and monitoring dashboard resources you need to log in to the [Bonus Eventus community portal](#) using your email address and personal password. Please contact us if you need any assistance or support.

For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, [click here](#)

North America

News release: Information Technology and Innovation Foundation and group of independent scientists submit letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, calling for reversal of Fish and Wildlife Service's "arbitrary and capricious" policy banning use of GM seeds to feed wildlife, and reversal of neonic ban

News: Reuters reports new opinion poll shows majority of Americans want U.S. government to require nutrition labels on food packaging; Trump administration has delayed introduction of mandatory labeling of GE ingredients in packaged food, FDA has proposed giving manufacturers extra 18 months to comply

News release: University of California-Riverside promotes research by its scientists showing GM soybean oil used in restaurants induces less obesity and insulin resistance than conventional soybean oil, but DuPont's Plenish oil has similar effects on diabetes and fatty liver to those of conventional soybean oil

News release: Calyxt Inc. and S&W Seed Company announce first of two alfalfa product candidates designated as non-regulated article by USDA agency, becomes sixth product developed using Calyxt's proprietary gene editing technology TALEN to be confirmed as non-regulated article

Commentary: Ag Daily runs op-ed by "Farm Babe" Michelle Miller criticizing Dannon's shift to non-GMO sourced feed for dairy cows as bad financial move, worse public relations, pointing out farmers who grow feed corn overwhelmingly prefer GMO crops for their many benefits

Commentary: Regeneration Vermont claims Cabot Creamery, Ben & Jerry's, Vermont's ag agency hide toxic realities of dairy that contaminates food, pollutes water with herbicides including atrazine; says

transition to regenerative organic dairying has begun with more than 200 Vermont farms refusing to plant "chemical-needy GMO corn"

Commentary: AlterNet's executive editor writes about attempts by Google and Facebook to combat "fake news," claims moves have hurt site's search traffic, notes other "progressive" and "radical" sites report similar declines, including Organic Consumers Association

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on call on federal government to adopt biotech to boost ag productivity by Nigeria Biotechnology Society's Vincent Tenebe, BSN's Benjamin Ubi, and Contec Global Agro Limited's Benoy Berry, at recent tour of Contec's tissue culture and microbiological labs

Commentary: NGO Food Sovereignty Ghana praises nation's first president, says visionary leadership such as his needed to demand accountability from government officials ignoring evidence that GMOs wrong for Ghana's agriculture, food production

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Nagpur Today editorial blames government for recent farmer deaths caused by pesticide inhalation, argues that if Bt cotton were effective, extra pesticide applications should not be necessary, calls on local administration to file a police complaint against seed and pesticide companies for misleading farmers

More Asia items

Europe

News: EurActiv reports on farmers' concerns that upcoming Court of Justice ruling on new breeding techniques may be political rather than science-based, notes questions on whether mutagenesis should be considered GMO; Copa-Cogeca's Thor Kofoed voiced fear that the court will make a political decision

News: French news outlet reports on hearing before EU Court of Justice regarding regulation of products of mutagenesis, which Peasant Confederation labels as "hidden GMOs," the court will deliver its opinion by the end of the first quarter of 2018

Commentary: Italian news outlet editorial argues EU Court of Justice ruling on products of new breeding techniques has potential to change the continent's approach to biotech, amplifies concerns about off-target effects, and dismantling of the precautionary principle

Commentary: Anti-biotech Swiss NGO reacts to EU Commission's conference on "Modern Biotechnology in Agriculture," notes consumer groups and IFOAM advocate risk assessment of GE techniques on environment and human health, decision on possible GE legislation to have significant effect on European agriculture

News release: French Foundation for Nature and Man (FNH) welcomes establishment of General States of Food, calls for urgent policy changes, such as a ban on glyphosate, requirement for 50 percent pesticide use reduction by 2025, ban on "hidden GMOs," and application of precautionary principle

News: Independent (Ireland) reports on questions raised by growing demand for GM-free dairy, especially in Germany, for Irish producers, Glanbia Ireland's director of strategy, Sean Molloy noted importance of making sure that the trend is not just a fad, but long-term enough to warrant significant changes required

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Belgian news outlet contributor examines negative impact of increased use of GMOs and associated herbicides on human health and the environment, with focus on North American policies, and impact on South American communities

Commentary: Ecuadorian NGO reacts to Latin American Meeting of Maize held there, reports corn production now covers 90 percent of country's needs, thanks to use of hybrid technology, especially high-yield seed

News: Mexican news outlet reports on letter by foreign researchers and indigenous communities speaking out against transgenics, which they claim threaten biodiversity, following recent Maize Forum in Cuetzalan, reproducing the letter in full

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

[More Oceania items](#)

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Stakeholder database

More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

Events calendar

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 To: [Wray-Cohen, Diane - FAS](#)
 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Oct. 2, 2017
 Date: Monday, October 2, 2017 9:04:22 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included continued commentary on Europe's regulatory approach to new plant breeding techniques (NBTs). The food activist organization Slow Food summarized its recent congress, previewing efforts to be more inclusive of farmers in developing economies.

Consolidated highlights include:

- Organic activists continued to discuss Europe's efforts to regulate NBTs, following the European Commission's high-level conference on modern agricultural techniques last week. Calls for strict guidelines on NBTs were seen from the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements, as well as the Swiss Alliance for Agriculture without Genetic Engineering. **See more**
- Slow Food announced several new initiatives following the conclusion of its Seventh International Congress in Chengdu, China, this weekend. The organization announced that it was refocusing efforts to become more inclusive of farmers in developing regions, among other anti-industrial agriculture campaigns in Africa and worldwide. **See more**
- Consumers International launched its Green Action Week, calling for "Organic Food and Farming for All." Affiliated groups participating in the event include: Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (Kenya and Uganda), Ethiopia's Institute for Sustainable Development, the Philippines' MASIPAG and Brazil's Instituto Brasileiro de Defesa do Consumidor. **See more.**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **[click here](#)**.

North America

News: Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology News reports on UC Riverside study which found that soybean oil from DuPont's Plenish variety causes less obesity and insulin resistance than conventional soybean oil, but doesn't result in fewer incidences of diabetes or fatty liver

News: Iowa agriculture news source Wallaces Farmer amplifies American Soybean Association press release on dicamba drift damage, Iowa Soybean Association emphasizes call for independent, objective research

Commentary: Ohio ag news outlet contributor examines farmers' frustrations over biotech approval delays, noting its importance for decreasing input costs and boosting sustainability, highlights delays in approval of high-oleic soybean varieties, amplifying statements by United Soybean Board's Keith Kemp

[More North America items](#)

Africa

Commentary: Edel-Quinn Agbaegbu of Every Woman Hope Centre writes for Nigerian news outlet, criticizing legal action brought by 17 NGOs against government agencies and Monsanto over GM cotton

and maize approvals, hopes court will make the right decision to support use of technology that protects health and environmental sustainability

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Audu Ogbah's announcement that government will begin arresting those found to be selling fake and sub-standard seeds to farmers, he noted the government does not plan to adopt GM seeds at this time, as Nigerians are uncomfortable with the idea

News: Uganda's Daily Monitor reports ASARECA official challenges African governments to adopt agriculture technologies to help feed continent's growing population, warns successes of ag research haven't been translated into growth of farming, improved productivity

Commentary: Zambian news outlet agribusiness columnist argues that Zambia should fully embrace the non-GMO brand that has been created, calling for entrenchment of that brand in the minds of consumers, highlighting price advantages

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Palestine News Network reports on Palestinian Federation of Agricultural Action Committees' (PCA) meetings to launch Palestinian farmers' movement to form representative body to defend farmers' rights, as part of larger movement opposing industrial ag practices that encourage use of chemicals and GM seeds

News: The Hindu BusinessLine reports Soyabean Processors Association of India (SOPA) will host International Soy Conclave from October 7-8, topics will include pros and cons of biotech soy adoption, and whether it will boost productivity

Campaign: Motion from Slow Food's Seventh International Congress in Chengdu commits to supporting food sovereignty and food biodiversity, blames erosion of biodiversity on industrial ag practices such as GM crops

News release: Slow Food announces closure of its Seventh International Congress in Chengdu, culminating with signing of Declaration of Chengdu, confirming "need to fight for good, clean and fair food"

News: Times of India reports on Karnataka government's new biotech policy for boosting agricultural productivity, with focus on urgent need to address drought conditions in the region, IT-BT minister Priyank Kharge noted biotech will be crucial in developing chemical-free agriculture

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Commentary: Luigi D'Andrea of Swiss Alliance for Agriculture Without Genetic Engineering writes for local news outlet, claims that if new breeding techniques are not regulated as GMOs, there would be no requirements for risk assessment, labeling, or traceability, threatening non-GMO agriculture

News release: International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) EU Vice President for Policy, Jan Plagge emphasized position of organic movement on new breeding techniques prior to high-level conference on modern ag biotech, arguing that all new GE techniques should be regulated as GMOs

News: Italian news outlet reports on Vincenzo Cappellini's open letter to Veneto Region Governor Luca Zaia, in which he argues it is "absurd and unforgivable" that Italian farmers cannot use GM seeds, pointing to health and environmental benefits, the letter is published in full

Campaign: Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) describes its Green Action Week initiative from Oct. 2-8, in coordination with Consumers International (CI), with theme of "Organic food and farming for all"

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Brazil's Universidade de Sao Paulo reports bill in Congress would allow manufacturers to avoid putting yellow triangle with "T" on labels of products, which indicates they contain GMOs, if concentration less than 1 percent of product's composition; professor says no danger to public from GM foods

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: New Zealand news outlet reports on Green Party's achievements over its past 18 years in Parliament, Jeanette Fitzsimons points to Green support of Labor Party, resulting in GMO moratorium following Royal Commission of Inquiry on impacts of GE on New Zealand

More Oceania items

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From: Jay Byrne
 To: Wray-Cohen, Diane - FAS
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Oct. 2, 2017
 Date: Monday, October 2, 2017 4:02:11 PM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

Labeling and marketing campaigns can make consumers believe that organic and non-GMO foods are the safest and most healthy choice. But is that really the case? And are they the answer to solving problems with our food system? Those topics are discussed in the Stories Worth Sharing section of this week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter.

Tactics used by organic marketers are also explored this week. Two articles examine an academic paper recently co-authored by U.S. Right to Know co-founder Gary Ruskin in a pay-for-play journal, while David Zaruk offers a list of 12 lies about pesticides that are spread by organic marketers.

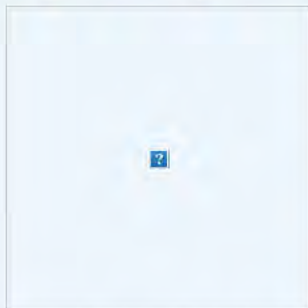
To view items on this newsletter, log in on the [Bonus Eventus Community](#) page. If you still need to create an account, fill out the Request Membership form on the front page of the site. To share articles, click on the Twitter icon.

Please [contact us](#) if you have any questions.

In This Issue

[Stakeholder Spotlight](#)
[Stories Worth Sharing](#)
[What's Trending?](#)
[Calendar highlights](#)

Stakeholder Spotlight: Organic Valley



Organic Valley is one of the largest organic dairy marketers in the world with more than \$1 billion in annual sales.

Organic Valley's 2017 marketing and advertising campaign is labeled "transparency" following on

Stories Worth Sharing

Ed White: Labels lead consumers to believe non-GMO and antibiotic-free foods are better, even if science doesn't show they are

Katherine Rich: Misleading claims in paper co-authored by Gary Ruskin amount to "peak social science silliness" ACSH's take

Jon Entine: Apocalyptic claims about bumblebees drew headlines despite contradicting actual facts

Julie Kelly: USDA report exposes failure to ensure "integrity and safety" of U.S. organic imports

Kavin Senapathy: Neil deGrasse Tyson defends "Food Evolution" documentary as being pro-science, not pro-GMO

Henry Miller: Golden rice the most "elegant and practical" approach to preventing vitamin-A deficiency

Tamar Haspel: Local and organic farms "can't solve" some of the problems with our food system

Amanda Zaluckyj: Organic foods are not safer or more nutritious, so don't spend more for them


Harish Damodaran: Indian farmers' "hunger for technology" evident in planting of unapproved herbicide-tolerant cotton


its 2016 "authenticity"-themed branding initiative.

However, Organic Valley's marketing and advocacy activities may not walk the talk when scrutinized.

Learn more about Organic Valley [HERE](#).

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Michelle Miller: Only flaw in "Food Evolution" documentary is too much air time for GMO opponents "known to not speak the truth" 

David Zaruk: Twelve lies organic marketers spread about pesticides 

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

European Parliament set to vote on criteria for endocrine-disrupting chemicals after committee recommends rejection

Italy joins France in pledge to vote against reauthorization of glyphosate

Uganda Parliament expected to resume debate on biosafety bill this week

European Commission concludes high-level conference on plant breeding innovation

Calendar highlights

October	October 3-4	October 4
Breast Cancer Awareness Month	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Tribal Pesticide Program Council meeting (Iowa)	Plenary vote on EDC criteria by European Parliament (Brussels)
October 5-6	October 9-11	October 10
EU member states and Commission discussion of glyphosate (Brussels)	Protecting Pollinators in Urban Landscapes conference (Michigan)	Wall Street Journal Global Food Forum (New York)

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

<p>Stakeholder database</p> <p>More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate</p>	<p>Monitoring portal</p> <p>Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.</p>	<p>Bonus Eventus community</p> <p>Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.</p>
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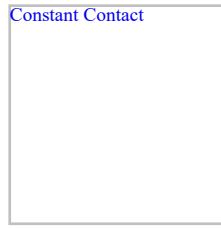
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From: Jay Byrne
 To: Wray-Cohen, Diane - FAS
 Subject: Global Crop Protection Snapshot - Sept. 29 - Oct. 1, 2017
 Date: Sunday, October 1, 2017 9 01:52 PM

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Global Crop Protection Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Weekend monitoring highlights included:

- We continue to see an abundance of European media speculation regarding the upcoming vote on glyphosate reauthorization and localized coverage out of France highlighting farm groups' responses, in addition to campaigning by Global 2000 asking the Austrian government to vote "no" on the proposal **See more**
- Continued news coverage of the European Parliament's decision to withdraw Monsanto's parliamentary access after the company refused to participate in an upcoming hearing to discuss allegations of industry influence over glyphosate assessments. **See more**

Reminder: to access the full text, archives and monitoring dashboard resources you need to log in to the **Bonus Eventus community portal** using your email address and personal password. Please contact us if you need any assistance or support.

For a more extensive compilation of recent crop protection items, **click here**

Africa

News release: French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA) announces successful sequencing of fall armyworm genome, opening up perspectives for new biological control methods, and improving understanding of mechanisms involved in pesticide resistance

News: Reunion TV station reports French farmers oppose government glyphosate ban, citing increased production costs, loss of income; notes island's cane growers use herbicide to clear land, not on crops

Study: South African Department of Water and Sanitation research finds concentrations of triazine herbicides in Hartbeespoort Dam catchment, suggest possible risk to humans and wildlife in light of findings of endocrine and immune disrupting atrazine effects by various researchers

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Times of India reports team of scientists from have determined recent farmer deaths in Yavatmal district due to incorrect spraying practices

News: Times of India reports patients continue to "pour in" to Government Medical College (GMC) Yavatmal due to inhaling toxic pesticides sprayed on cotton, dean notes blood tests will help determine exact reason for toxic effects

News: Times of India reports Yavatmal Government Medical College and Hospital reports inflow of pesticide-hit farmers is starting to decline as agencies raise awareness of pesticide dangers among farmers; a total of 45 farmers have been admitted

Campaign: Alliance for Sustainable & Holistic Agriculture representative launches Change.org petition criticizing federal, state governments for "turning a blind eye" to illegal use of glyphosate, GMO crops, demands ban on sale, use of glyphosate

News: Vietnamese news source reports on high mortality rate of paraquat poisoning victims, notes paraquat is slated for ban starting in 2019 but is still easily procured in the country

News: The Hindu - Seven more farmers die due to improper spraying of pesticide on cotton plants in Yavatmal district; head of government crop loan program blames indiscriminate spraying, lack of protective gear, and GMO cotton seeds

News: India news outlet reports city local entomologist is training farmers to breed natural predators, increase yield while avoiding pesticides

News: Punjabi news source reports EcoSikh NGO is urging religious kitchens to go organic in Punjab to stop pollution of land, water, eradicate poisons in food

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Interview: National Institute for Agricultural Research interviews researcher associated with NutriNet-Santé study about findings suggesting adults who consume 62 percent of diet on organic have a 31 percent lower probability of having a metabolic syndrome compared to those who consume almost no organic food

News: EurActiv reports maize farmers stress need for "protecting science," lack of alternatives amid upcoming member votes on glyphosate, neonic renewals; notes EFSA risk assessment on neonics to be published in November, EU Commission plans to propose further restrictions

Commentary: Barcelona-based news site staff writer amplifies U.S. Right to Know claims that Jon Entine serves as a paid bodyguard for Monsanto, highlights atrazine work for Syngenta and against Tyrone Hayes, work to discredit IARC; piece labeled as part one of "Enemies of Food" series

Commentary: Cambridge technology stakeholder collaboration NGO highlights use of robotics, artificial intelligence in agriculture, suggests advancing technology, ultraprecision of chemical application will eventually require companies to evolve, focus more on specialized selective chemicals

News: Belgian news site reports pilot study finds presence of pesticides in air at school sites in village of Cortil-Wodon, though no health risks for children; SAMI asked to make diagnosis, while Greens group demands immediate measures to protect against risks

Commentary: Le Monde columnist Stephane Foucart cites industry influence of glyphosate EU risk assessment to argue use of industry documents as basis for regulatory reviews is untenable, moving away from practice would help industry avoid inevitable scandals that arise

Commentary: Writing for Atlantico, ag engineer asks if Nicolas Hulot is so conditioned by the militant ecological discourse about glyphosate that he forgets his position goes against the ecological transition he wants to promote

Commentary: Greenpeace International campaigner celebrates start of EU ban of fipronil use on crops, emphasizes fipronil's danger to bees, warns neonics are still on market, pose threats to bees, other pollinators

News: Irish news source reports farmers union rejects pesticide "scare," asserting 99.6 percent of water samples are compliant despite reports that pesticides in water incidences increased

Study: IRSERM research in Environmental Health Perspectives finds prenatal exposure to non-persistent endocrine disruptors including phthalates and several phenols links to behavioral issues in young boys, notes 2,4-D metabolite 2,4-dichlorophenol among substances

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Commentary: Colombian columnist debunks criticism of GMOs as senseless, notes GMOs have been eaten worldwide for 20 years, notes scientific advances make herbicides safer

News: Reuters UK reports Colombian defense minister says Colombia must maintain eradication, substitution of coca crops as long-term policy, says reinstatement of glyphosate spraying has been ruled out, is "off the radar" because of cancer concerns

News: Reuters reports Monsanto seeks to retain its Intacta soybean technology following merger with Bayer, opponents of the merger call on Brazil's anti-monopoly watchdog Cade to block it or force divestments, including of Monsanto's new Intacta seed technology

Commentary: Writing for Brazilian news source, anti-pesticide activist criticizes ANVISA decision to institute 3-year phase out on paraquat vs immediate ban, claims 3-year delay will give Syngenta opportunity to fight the decision

Commentary: Brazil's National Association of Distributors of Agricultural and Veterinary Supplies says recent ANVISA paraquat ban needs clarification, recommends distributors check with state officials to ensure products can be marketed

[More Latin America items](#)

North America

Commentary: Natural News amplifies claims by Univ of Washington associate professor Sanne Knudsen suggesting consequences of exposure to most chemicals on the market are unknown, advocating for rules that protect against "cumulative risk" of pesticides, EDCs and other chemicals

News release: Center for Biological Diversity reports federal judge rules EPA failed to justify withholding more than 140 documents on harm to protected wildlife from Enlist Duo, indicating EPA must be more forthcoming in revealing science underpinning its decisions on pesticides' harms to endangered plants, animals

Commentary: ThinkProgress argues EPA's Scott Pruitt could save pesticide program intended to protect human health and ecosystems - used to identify chlorpyrifos risks - by cutting own expenses, noting Pruitt has spent upwards of \$900,000 of taxpayer dollars on extraneous expenses

Commentary: U.S. law firm amplifies meeting schedule of EPA head Scott Pruitt, suggests decision to reverse chlorpyrifos ban based on financial benefits for Dow rather than "sound science," stresses responsibility of farm owners, labor contractors to protect workers from dangers of pesticide exposure

Commentary: Beyond Pesticides amplifies University of California, Berkeley study highlighting negative effect of climate change on microbial soil organisms, cites claims of pesticide-dependent ag methods weakening microbes, parasites essential to ecological systems, increasing likelihood of extinction

Commentary: Columnist for The Western Producer condemns marketing campaigns touting food raised without antibiotics or genetic modifications; notes claims have no relationship to food safety, human health; fears trend will make food no more healthier, but more expensive

Commentary: Natural News contributor amplifies CBS report claiming Henry Miller led Forbes readers to believe he had written pro-Roundup editorial when it had been drafted by Monsanto, calls Forbes a Monsanto propaganda rag

Commentary: Natural News contributor reports Flemish government decision to ban glyphosate in Belgian brings number of countries to ban the herbicide to five in wake of recent cancer lawsuit

News: Delta Farm Press reports on dicamba technology fallout during harvest season, notes Arkansas State Plant Board's next meeting is Nov. 8, will be open to public; board member says he's expecting huge turnout, lengthy meeting

Campaign: Institute for Responsible Technology's Jeffrey Smith promotes 2017 pesticide/GMO advocacy accomplishments to ask recipients to take survey to help direct programs

Campaign: Organic Consumers Association fundraising email suggests Google efforts to block fake news is helping Monsanto by limiting access to OCA website, other news sources providing information on health risks, corporate corruption

Commentary: Garden Island op-ed by Hawaii activist questions if Hartung Brothers' takeover of Syngenta's Kekaha operations will result in better stewardship, a voluntarily stop use of chlorpyrifos to support health, well-being of community

News release: Missouri Department of Agriculture issues notice of release for stop sale order for dicamba products labeled for ag use, allowing products originally ordered for use Missouri farmers for post-harvest burn down or pastureland

Audio: Monsanto executive Fraley tells NPR affiliate he expects dicamba use to double next year despite drift incidents damaging several million acres in Midwest, says problems with dicamba are easily fixable

[More North America items](#)

Oceania

There were no notable developments in the weekend monitoring of Oceania. Click below for the latest items.

[More Oceania items](#)

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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Sept. 29-Oct. 1, 2017
 Date: Sunday, October 1, 2017 9 01:05 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included an upcoming hearing as a European Union court will decide whether products produced by mutagenesis should be considered GMOs. Russia's Agriculture Ministry is taking steps toward food independence by focusing on seed development. Uganda's Science and Technology Innovation minister said the country likely will pass its biosafety bill this week.

- Anti-biotech NGOs Friends of the Earth and Collective Vigilance GMO asked an EU court to decide whether mutagenesis-produced products should be regulated as GMOs. The hearing begins Tuesday (Oct. 3). [See more](#)
- *Bloomberg* reported the Russian Agriculture Ministry is promoting food independence in part by encouraging seed producers to develop domestic, hybrid seeds that mimic GMOs. However, the hybrids can take as long as 10 years to develop. [See more](#)
- The Cornell Alliance for Science reported Uganda Science Technology and Innovation Minister Elioda Tumwesigye said the country likely will approve its long-debated biosafety bill, creating a process for the country to commercialize GMOs. Ugandan news site *New Vision* urged Parliament to approve the bill to speed the country's research and release of varieties that can cope with global warming. [See more](#)

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, [click here](#)

North America

News: Cornell Alliance for Science reports Uganda is likely to pass its biosafety bill next week, according to Science Technology and Innovation Minister Elioda Tumwesigye, Uganda currently only follows south Africa in number of confined field trials

Campaign: Organic Consumers Association fundraising email suggests Google efforts to block fake news is helping Monsanto by limiting access to OCA website, other news sources providing information on health risks, corporate corruption

Commentary: University of Saskatchewan plant scientist Graham Scoles writes for Western Producer, calls for end to GMO regulations, notes years of research keeps finding the same result - that GMOs are safe for humans and the environment, voices concern that developing countries use valuable resources to develop regulatory systems

News: The Guardian reports backlash from environmental groups on GMO alternative to palm oil causes company to stop production, despite palm oil's negative environmental, social impacts; companies continue working on "sustainable" alternative

Commentary: Kavin Senapathy writes for Forbes, criticizing Smoothie King's Cleaner Blending initiative, noting its commitment to remove artificial flavors, colors and preservatives, hormones and GMOs will have no impact on their products' healthfulness or toxicity, notes the smoothies are very caloric, even without added sugars

Commentary: George Washington University International Affairs master's student examines potential for U.S.-China cooperation to address public distrust and boost food security, highlights impact of ChemChina's acquisition of Syngenta on China's GMO regulations, believes GMOs provide health and

economic benefits

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian news site reports NBMA Director Rufus Ebegba says his agency is prepared to handle any adverse effects from GMOs

News: Ugandan news site reports Ministry of Agriculture official calls for passing Biosafety Bill to speed research, release of varieties that cope with global warming

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science reports on African ag industry stakeholders' push for adoption of innovative technologies to tackle fall armyworm pest, John Awuku Dziwornu of Ghana National Farmers and Fishermen Association promotes use of Bt crop technology, noting it will help reduce chemical use

More Africa items

Asia

News: Xinhua reports China develops new gene-edited rice variety free from cadmium pollution, project leader Yuan Longping noted the technology is a low-cost "major breakthrough"

Commentary: GMWatch amplifies two articles from Indian news outlets regarding pink bollworm's development of resistance to Bt cotton, highlighting argument that the pest's resistance is not confined to Maharashtra, claims refuge systems are ineffective

Commentary: George Washington University International Affairs master's student examines potential for U.S.-China cooperation to address public distrust and boost food security, highlights impact of ChemChina's acquisition of Syngenta on China's GMO regulations, believes GMOs provide health and economic benefits

News: Pakistani news outlet reports on CropLife Asia Executive Director Siang Hee Tan's recent call on regulators to develop better synergies with international counterparts, he also praised Pakistan government's vision and policy-position on technology adoption, especially regarding biotech

More Asia items

Europe

News: U.S. agricultural news site reports Spanish researchers developing GM wheat to produce gluten-free bread

Commentary: French pro-ag news site criticizes recent campaign by 15 NGOs, including Greenpeace, delivering over 110,000 petition signatures to Minister Nicolas Hulot against "new GMOs," notes the move was not covered by anyone, in spite of being sent to "all editorial offices," points to the groups' ignorance

Commentary: Czech news outlet contributor amplifies recent Polish study demonstrating that there is no difference between milk from cows fed GMOs vs non-GMO grain, argues market for GMO-free milk has been created artificially to benefit European farmers, noting consumers end up paying extra for no improvement in quality

News: Daily Mail (U.K.) reports on study published in Plant Biotechnology Journal, in which researchers were successfully able to use CRISPR to switch off 35 out of 45 genes that code for gliadins in wheat, responsible for severe autoimmune reactions in people with celiac disease

News: Bloomberg reports on Russian Agriculture Ministry's goal of promoting food independence by encouraging domestic seed development, Russian firms Ros Agro Plc and Oleg Deripaska's farm unit are

working on hybrid seeds that mimic yield advantages of GMOs, but can take up to a decade to develop

Commentary: Contributor for French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM criticizes EU Commission for refusing to allow European Network of Laboratories (ENGL), charged with detection and identification of GMOs, to evaluate new genetic modification techniques

News: Belgian news outlet reports on EU Green Party's demand that products of new plant breeding techniques be regulated and labeled as GMOs, on eve of high-level conference on modern agricultural biotechnology

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Bolivian agricultural news site reports study shows GM maize is key to increasing food production in Bolivia, notes farmers are using GM seed illegally

News: Argentinian news outlet reports on recent tests by Inta demonstrating that Monsanto's Intacta RR2 soybean technology has yield advantages throughout the country, Monsanto Argentina Manager of Soy Business, Luis Silva noted the results show a clear superiority of Intacta at the national level

News: Reuters reports Monsanto seeks to retain its Intacta soybean technology following merger with Bayer, opponents of the merger call on Brazil's anti-monopoly watchdog Cade to block it or force divestments, including of Monsanto's new Intacta seed technology

News: Bolivian news outlet reports on recent study showing Bolivia's potential to boost corn production from 900,000 to 2.5 million tons if GMOs are adopted, Agricultural Chamber of Small Producers of the East (Cappo) President Isidoro Barrientos noted it isn't possible to produce more without GMOs

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News: Scottish agricultural news site reports Science Media Centre survey finds GE technology "failures" and continued demand for GMO-free food stifles desire to end New Zealand's moratorium on GM crop cultivation

News release: GE Free New Zealand criticizes FSANZ approval for 6 GE potato varieties despite "many studies that show harm from eating GE foods," claims no evidence exists showing the GE potatoes are safe to eat

[More Oceania items](#)

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

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Today's global biotechnology developments included news that Uganda's Parliament will open debate on the country's 2012 draft biosafety law next week. European activists responded to the European Commission's high-level meeting on new plant breeding techniques (NBTs).

- During Uganda's "High-level Conference on Application of Science, Technology and Innovation in Harnessing African Agricultural Transformation," the country's technology minister reported that Parliament was expected to resume debate on a proposed biosafety law next Tuesday (Oct. 3). The conference will conclude tomorrow. **See more**
- The European Network of Scientists for Social and Environmental Responsibility (ENSSER), a coalition of anti-corporate activists, issued a report saying that efforts to classify gene-edited crops as non-GMO were an attempt to undermine the precautionary principle. A coalition of French activists presented a petition calling on France's ecology minister to resist these efforts. **See more**
- News outlets in Pakistan amplified CropLife Asia statements highlighting the importance of agricultural biotechnology to the region and emphasizing the need for outreach to farmers and predictable regulatory processes. The statements were reported within the context of a recent Workshop on Advances in Agricultural Biotechnology and Regulatory Affairs. **See more**
- A coalition of environmental groups in Ecuador announced that it had submitted a fifth claim arguing that the country's seed law was unconstitutional. In the latest lawsuit, the groups argue that the process for introducing the law had violated legislative principles because civil groups were not consulted on the draft law. **See more**

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North America

News: Reuters reports two lawsuits against Syngenta brought by Cargill and Archer Daniels Midland are still pending, following Syngenta's recent \$1.5 billion settlement with farmers, Washburn University School of Law ag law professor Roger McEowen notes the grain handlers' claims are uniquely different

Commentary: Law firm's Food Safety News reports Ag Secretary Perdue proposes moving U.S. Codex office from food safety to trade dept., food safety NGO, former officials say move will threaten food safety standards, U.S. food safety credibility due to trade influence

Commentary: Maryland soybean farmer writes for Global Farmer Network, extending New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady an invitation to her farm to clear up concerns about GMOs raised in his new health book

Commentary: Vegan communications professor writes in Civil Eats that synthetic meat could pave the way to food system without animals, engaging vegans and meat-lovers, removing animal cruelty, diet-related disease, addressing food security, moving towards more environmental farming practices

Commentary: Agrimarketing syndicates July U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance (USFRA) CEO op-ed accusing Non-GMO Project of creating 'fake news' at the grocery store, noting many products carrying the Non-GMO Project verified seal do not have GM versions available on the market

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Ugandan news site reports Parliament could pass country's biosafety bill by the week's end; agriculture minister says any controversy is due to lack of information

News: Cornell Alliance for Science reports on African ag industry stakeholders' push for adoption of innovative technologies to tackle fall armyworm pest, John Awuku Dziwornu of Ghana National Farmers and Fishermen Association promotes use of Bt crop technology, noting it will help reduce chemical use

Announcement: Africa Europe Faith and Justice Network announces it recently participated in JPIC workshop in Benin, secretariat presented on international forces driving land grabs, including G8 New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, another presentation was given on agroecology

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on National Biosafety Management Agency Director-General Rufus Ebegba's dismissal of impression that GMOs are poisonous, blaming silence of scientists for giving anti-GMO sentiment the upper hand, and noting arguments must be based on "scientific evidence not rumours, emotions, sympathy or hearsay"

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Indian news site reports farmers planting more expensive, unapproved GM cotton tolerant to herbicide as Bt cotton's efficacy has dropped

News: Associated Press of Pakistan reports on visit by CropLife Asia Executive Director Tan Siang-Hee, who emphasized need to educate Pakistani farmers about benefits of biotech, Minister for National Food Security and Research, Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan noted use of biotech is under consideration

News: Pakistan news outlet reports on CropLife Asia Executive Director Tan Siang-Hee's recent recommendation that Pakistan introduce biotech to boost farm production beyond self-sufficiency, calling on Minister of National Food Security and Research to introduce biotech regulations

News: Manila Times reports Monsanto exec defends safety, promotes benefits of GM crops at joint media forum, highlighting quality of GM crop yields, crops' need for fewer pesticides

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Campaign: NGO coalition submit petition with 100K+ signatures opposing new GMOs to France environment minister, demand new GMOs fall under existing GMO regulation

Announcement: ENSSER publishes detailed statement presenting arguments for regulation NBT-produced products as GMOs, says NBT proponents want to "move from precaution to proof of harm"

Announcement: EU Parliament's environment committee passes resolution opposing EU Commission's approval of two GM soy, herbicide-tolerant varieties

News: Politico reports EU Parliament committee votes to oppose EU Commission's approval of two GM soy varieties, claiming herbicide-tolerant strains will increase pesticide spraying, gaps in assessment; full Parliament to vote on nonbinding resolutions

News: Italian news outlet reports on recent debate organized by Pro-Test Italy as part of European

Biotech Week 2017, featuring several biotech industry reps and scientists in discussion on various topics, including agriculture, agro-food, ecology, human rights, Greenpeace, research and technology

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Commentary: Ecuadorian green news site reports on recent submission of fifth claim of unconstitutionality of Ecuador's seed law by academics and various NGOs, attorney Victor Rivadeneira argues unconstitutionality on basis of procedural defects, as well as violation of legislative principles

News: Ecuadoran news site reports groups file fifth lawsuit against law allowing biotech research in the country; claims law violates Constitution

News release: Regeneration International, project of Organic Consumers Association, announces its second General Assembly addresses state of the regeneration movement, with focus on how to scale up organic and regenerative agriculture, and how to address global warming, food security and public health

Campaign: Uruguay-based Network of Social Technology Assessment (TECLA) launches its website, providing space to share information on resistance to harmful technologies

Commentary: Blogger for Brazil's Landless Workers Movement (MST) recounts seminar on agroecology organized by National Seminary of the Florestan Fernandes (ENFF), for members of La Via Campesina, highlighting MST member's hope that the event will inspire workers to continue fighting the capital

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

[More Oceania items](#)

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

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Today's global biotechnology developments included Syngenta's announcement that it had agreed to settle a class-action lawsuit with U.S. farmers over its Viptera maize launch.

- Syngenta announced that it had reached a tentative settlement with U.S. farmers over trade disruptions during the company's launch of its Agrisure Viptera and Agrisure Duracade corn traits. The news was widely reported, and several articles noted that the deal did not include Canadian farmers nor did it include lawsuits brought by exporters Cargill and Archer Daniels Midland. [See more](#)
- In an interview with local news outlet *Starr FM*, Ghana Agriculture Minister Afriyie Akoto rejected claims that he had called for cultivation of GM crops in the country. Akoto added that the country already had several improved, non-GMO seed varieties available to local farmers. [See more](#)

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North America

News release: Syngenta announces settlement in litigation concerning launch, approval of company's Agrisure Viptera and Duracade corn traits; says settlement will prevent uncertainty of ongoing litigation

News: Wire services report Syngenta settles tens of thousands of lawsuits by US farmers over its release of Viptera GM corn variety prior to receiving Chinese approval, resulting in rejected shipments, terms of the settlement have not been disclosed

News: Reuters reports on how GM crop technology has contributed to oversupply of corn, leading to falling prices and farmer incomes, highlights Monsanto spokeswoman Trish Jordan's statement that demand growth still justifies corn expansion, disputing argument that crop science advances are backfiring on agricultural technology firms

News: Food & Wine reports on Aarhus University study which found that consumers who purchase organic milk are unlikely to go back to conventional milk, and are more likely to shift all of their purchases to organic, researcher John Thogersen noted "we build an identity around the notion of buying organic products"

News: CBC reports on controversy surrounding lack of labeling requirement on recently approved GE salmon, Sylvain Charlebois of Dalhousie University argues AquaBounty's lack of transparency mirrors mistakes made by Monsanto and others, which he argues are "out of step" with consumer concerns

News release: University of North Carolina announces faculty scientist receives \$25,000 grant from Gates Foundation to improve genomic breeding approaches for the East African banana

Commentary: Boulder county-based agronomist/economist writes opinion piece for local news outlet, criticizes county commissioners' for lack of transparency in attempting to fund research to support their predetermined conclusion that GM crops are not sustainable, noting their real goal is to replace current

systems with organic ag

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Nigeria TV station amplifies National Bio-safety Management Agency director NAN interview comments asserting biotech is key to driving economic growth in the country

News: News Agency of Nigeria reports National Biosafety Management Agency director interview comments ensure agency is prepared to tackle any adverse effects of GMOs, urges citizens not to fear GM products

News: Ugandan news outlet reports on Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation, Elioda Tumwesigye's recent speech at Uganda Biotechnology and Biosafety Consortium (UBBC) meeting, where he encouraged scientists to use the church to educate people about benefits of modern biotech, such as improved nutrition

Commentary: Writing for African Centre for Biodiversity, EcoJustice activist urges Malawi civil NGOs to call on ag ministry to postpone adoption of impending seed policy, alter framework to support seed sovereignty

News: Ghanaian news outlet reports on Ag Minister Afriyie Akoto's recent statement that Ghana does not need GM seeds, noting Ghanaian scientists have developed at least 45 improved seed varieties without use of GM technology, and that claim that he supports introduction of GMOs is a misconception spread by political opponents

News: Cornell Alliance for Science reports on Ugandan president Yoweri Museveni's recent endorsement for urgent need to use biotech so that Uganda is not left behind, noting activists should not be allowed to continue confusing legislators, and that scientists will not be able to solve major crop stressors without it

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Indian news outlet reports on Karnataka state government's launch of new biotech policy, encouraging investments and research in emerging technologies such as synbio, with goal of capturing large share of growing bio-economy market

News: Filipino news outlet reports Monsanto Philippines exec tells local media forum country is on track to become exporter of GM corn

News release: Israeli companies Evogene and Rahan Meristem announce positive results in second year of field trials of Black Sigatoka disease-resistant banana, which goal of using the results to apply gene editing, with end product targeted for non-GMO classification to reduce regulatory barriers and improve market access

News: Pakistan's Express Tribune reports on CropLife Asia Executive Director Siang Hee Tan's recent call for independent, science-based, transparent and predictable regulatory system for Pakistan's farmers to benefit from modern ag technologies and improve sustainability

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: EurActiv reports on biotech industry's call on EU Commission to show leadership regarding regulation of new breeding techniques, some worry that Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis' decision not to make concluding remarks at upcoming conference shows Commission reluctance to take a leading role

News: Chemistry World reports Merkel party path to parliamentary majority through partnership with parties holding opposing views on gene editing may delay policy progress on the technology

News: New Scientist reports on UK-based PBL-Ventures' development of GM wheat that does not produce forms of gluten that negatively impact people with celiac disease, highlights Institute for Sustainable Agriculture in Cordoba, Spain's work to use CRISPR to rid wheat of gliadins

Interview: Italian ag news outlet interviews Institute of Biosciences and Bioresources (Ibbr) researcher, Roberto Defez, who points to scientific consensus on GMO safety; notes many studies allegedly demonstrating harm come from Italian activists and calls for allowing field trials

News: Agenzia ANSA reports Italian GM corn farmer Giorgio Fidenato acquitted of charges he violated GMO ban in 2014; Fidenato seeks same pronouncement for 2015 charges, plans lawsuit for damages from destroyed crops

Commentary: Writing in Publico, activists with Ecologistas en Accion warn that free-trade agreement with Canada could undermine European regulations on GMO labeling and pesticide residues

News release: Greenpeace, IATP analysis warns CETA threatens EU food standards by opening door to Canada's GM salmon, loose GM labeling laws and US GM, antibiotic/hormone-treated foods that could enter EU through Canada

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Swiss news outlet reports on recent testimony by Colombian activist German Velez from Grupo Semillas, before UN International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights expert committee, he claimed Colombia imports and cultivates GMOs without control, leading to loss of biodiversity

Commentary: Writing for the Ecuador rural development project OCARU, activist summarizes food sovereignty demands of Provincial Union of Peasant Organizations of Manabi; says country's seed law could encourage transgenic production

Event: Universidade do Sul de Santa Catarina to host discussion on impacts of consumption of GM, conventional and organic food on society health (Oct. 3)

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Australian science magazine editorial praises Food Evolution documentary following recent screening and panel discussion in Canberra, highlights scientific consensus on GMO safety, points to benefits of GM cotton in reducing Australia's pesticide use, notes anti-GMO sentiment negatively impacts farmers in Africa

More Oceania items

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Global Biotech Snapshot

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Today's global biotechnology developments centered on EU activities, as government and advocacy stakeholders prepared for the high-level meeting Thursday (Sept. 28) on new plant breeding techniques (NBTs).

Background highlights on the event include:

- A booklet accompanying the European Commission's agenda for the meeting highlighted the commission's goal to encourage innovation in Europe while ensuring "safe use" of new agricultural technologies. Scheduled contributors to the conference include representatives of Via Campesina, the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements and Greenpeace. Academic and industry groups will also be represented ([see more](#)).
- In late April, the European Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism issued an explanatory note on NBTs. The report indicated that so-called gene-editing techniques were more precise than both previous genetic modification technologies and conventional plant breeding through mutagenesis ([see more](#)).
- In the past year, several EU member scientific academies have come to similar conclusions. France's High Council on Biotechnology generated significant controversy when it recommended last year that new plant breeding techniques not be regulated under GMO regulations ([see more](#)). The Swiss Academy of Arts and Sciences issued a similar report last summer ([see more](#)). More recently, at an informal meeting Dutch MEPs urged member countries to exempt NBTs from current EU GMO regulations ([see more](#)).

For our complete monitoring coverage on the new plant breeding techniques debate, [click here](#).

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North America

News: Associated Press reports on Oregon Court of Appeals' ruling upholding lower court decision that Josephine County's GM crop ban is preempted by state law, Mary Middleton of Oregonians for Safe Farms and Families conceded defeat, but vowed to keep seeking change at legislative level

News: Capital Press reports on Oregon Court of Appeals ruling upholding lower court's decision to block Josephine County's GM ban, Oregonians for Safe Farms and Families executive director Mary Middleton noted they will not pursue further litigation, but will focus on repealing the pre-emption statute

Commentary: Writing in The Hill, Henry I Miller amplifies Global Farmer Network call for Golden Rice approval, criticizes Greenpeace 'machine' for opposing the technology

Commentary: Kavin Senapathy writes for Forbes, amplifies Neil DeGrasse Tyson's recent comments in response to online criticism of Hulu for showing Food Evolution documentary, in which he noted the film is pro-science but not specifically pro-GMO, pointed out Whole Foods' 2016 revenue was higher than Monsanto's

Commentary: "Farm Babe" Michelle Miller writes for Ag Daily in support of Food Evolution documentary, noting her only criticism is that it may be too balanced, acknowledges importance of presenting the

opposing argument, notes well-funded anti-GMO activists probably don't deserve such a platform

Commentary: Beyond Pesticides amplifies recently released USDA study raising questions about feasibility of electronic disclosures for GMOs, highlighting several challenges raised regarding accessibility, claims GMOs pose risks that are not considered by regulators

More North America items

Africa

Report: African Centre for Biodiversity and Third World Network publish FAQ document on Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) project, questioning whether transgenic drought tolerance traits will really add drought protection, and noting MON 810 is being phased out elsewhere due to resistance, promotes agroecological solutions

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on lawsuit against federal government brought by 17 NGOs, seeking revocation of permits granted for confined field trials of a Monsanto GM maize variety, claiming that National Biotechnology Development Agency violated "fundamental human rights of the general public"

More Africa items

Asia

News: Food Navigator reports on American Embassy ag rep Scott Sindelar's call on India to embrace GM soybean at recent conference, noting it will not be able to meet domestic demand otherwise

News: Korean news outlet reports on concern about spread of GM oilseed rape following discovery of contamination in Gyeongnam, Busan, and Ulsan, highlights government measures to prevent such contamination from reoccurring

News: Pakistan news outlet reports on establishment of Federal Food Safety Authority, which will help facilitate development of technologies related to food security, according to Minister for National Food Security and Research, Sikander Bosan, speaking at recent ag biotech workshop

News: Pakistan Observer reports on Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) President Abdul Basit's recent statement that the "21st century belongs to Biotechnology," pointing to Pakistan's potential to be a biotech leader, but noting cooperation between private sector, scientists, researchers and government is key

News: Pakistan news outlet reports on recent workshop on ag biotech advances at Forman Christian College University, Lahore, FCCU Post Graduate Studies Dean Kauser Abdullah Malik highlighted several of FC College University's achievements in biotech research

News: Indonesian news outlet reports on House of Representatives' proposed amendments to law on Animal, Fish and Plant Quarantine, finding the old law is no longer appropriate given science and technology developments, the strengthened quarantine law will cover GMOs

More Asia items

Europe

Campaign: Greenpeace France and several other NGOs launch petition calling for EU's strict regulation of products of new breeding techniques, pointing to potential health and environmental risks, and lack of labeling requirements should they go unregulated

Event: EU Commission to host September 28 conference on "Modern Biotechnologies in Agriculture - Paving the way for responsible innovation," featured speakers include Vytenis Andriukaitis, Janusz Bujnicki, Tarmo Tamm and Phil Hogan

Interview: EurActiv interviews UN FAO's Deputy Director-General, Daniel Gustafson, he believes that GMOs are not needed to meet global food production needs, but encourages openness to biotech, argues agroecology should be part of long-term agricultural strategy

News: Italian news outlet reports on Pordenone Tribunal's clearing Giorgio Fidenato of any crime, following EU Court of Justice ruling on GMOs, Fidenato will seek compensation for moral and material damages, as five hectares were destroyed, in addition to legal fees

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Announcement: Government of La Pampa, Argentina, announces recent Regional Seminar of Organic Production in city of Lincoln, with goal of presenting organic production as a sustainable, high-value productive strategy, Director General of Productive Planning, Belén Paesani pointed to niche market for GMO and pesticide-free foods

Commentary: Brazilian news outlet contributor examines opposition to GMOs and associated pesticides throughout Latin American, pointing to negative impacts of GM crop production in several countries, highlights recent Brazilian Congress of Agroecology, where participants discussed alternatives for improving agriculture

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News: The Australian reports on booming GM-free corn industry amid increasing interest from South Korea, consumers seek out Australia's "clean-green" brand and labeling confirming that the corn is non-GMO, Un Hwan Yum of South Korean milling company Dong-il noted many Korean consumers view GMOs as "Frankenstein" foods

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included new advocacy activity in Europe, where anti-biotechnology stakeholders are preparing for the European Commission's upcoming meeting on new plant breeding techniques (NBTs).

- German anti-biotechnology group Testbiotech issued a new report today warning that gene-editing technologies were not as safe as traditional crop breeding or mutagenesis, despite efforts to portray NBTs as more precise than previous gene-modification techniques. Testbiotech added that allowing crops developed through NBTs onto the market without regulation would put regional biodiversity at risk; the report appears to target participants in the upcoming European Commission's high-level conference on modern biotechnologies in agriculture, scheduled for Thursday (Sept. 28). [See more](#)
- Ghanaian news outlets reported on the inauguration of Board of Directors for Ghana's National Biosafety Authority. Speaking at the event, Ghana's minister of environment, science, technology and innovation downplayed activist claims about so-called "terminator" seeds and emphasized that the biosafety agency would only commercialize beneficial seed traits. [See more](#)
- Brazil's Luzia de Paula issued a statement promoting a bill that would restrict the use of GM ingredients in school meals served in the country's Federal District. The bill has been in the legislature since 2015 and is still awaiting approval from the Constitution and Justice Commission (CCJ). de Paula had previously promoted the bill in August. [See more](#)
- In the U.S., food certification agency FoodChain ID previewed October's "Non-GMO Month" advocacy. The company highlighted CEO David Carter's availability for media interviews on consumer support for non-GMO verification. [See more](#)

Reminder: to access the full text, archives and monitoring dashboard resources you need to log in to the [Bonus Eventus community portal](#) using your email address and personal password. Please contact us if you need any assistance or support.

For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, [click here](#)

North America

News release: Global ID Group announces FoodChain ID CEO and non-GMO expert David Carter is available for comment during observation of Non-GMO Month in October, FoodChain ID has verified more than 50,000 products for over 2,500 clients in over 100 countries as part of Non-GMO Project's program

Commentary: Center for Science in the Public Interest Biotechnology Director Gregory Jaffe summarizes US GMO food disclosure law, highlighting various options for manufacturers, as well as exemptions under the law, notes the disclosures have nothing to do with food safety

News: American Agriculturist reports on denial of funding for University of Arizona's continued research of a GM corn variety that is 100 percent effective in preventing aflatoxin formation, lead researcher Monica Schmidt noted the trait is extremely important as it could save lives and increase food supply

Commentary: Farmer's Daughter USA Amanda Zaluckyj explains why readers don't need to spend more money buying organic food, notes all food production methods use pesticides, which are strictly regulated by EPA, points to research showing lack of nutritional advantage, notes organic production uses more resources to produce less food

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Ghana News Agency reports on Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Kwabena Frimpong-Boateng's call on National Biosafety Authority Board to engage in public biotech and biosafety education in order to address misconceptions about GMOs, noting Ghana cannot develop without biotech

News: Ghanaian news outlet reports on Environment and Science Minister Kwabena Frimpong Boateng's assurance that introduction of GM crops will help farmers, and that terminator technology will not be allowed, noting any GM crops introduced onto the market will be helpful

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on appointment of pro-GMO activist and Every Woman Hope Centre (EWHC) founder, Edel-Quinn Ijeoma Agbaegbu, as a Biosafety Ambassador at recent National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) conference

Commentary: Edel-Quinn Agbaegbu of Nigerian NGO Every Woman Hope Centre recently presented a paper at National Biosafety Management Agency's (NBMA) Third National Biosafety Conference, argues opposition to biotech and its proper regulation contributes directly to continued growth of poverty and hunger

News: Ugandan news outlet reports on NARO scientists' development of armyworm resistant Bt maize variety, Agriculture state minister Christopher Kibazanga described the news as a great breakthrough for Uganda

Commentary: Zambia Alliance for Agroecology and Biodiversity (ZAAB) writes for local news outlet, warning about planned review of Biotechnology and Biosafety Policy of 2003, which they claim could lead to decreased liability for biotech companies, points to lawsuits against Monsanto in the US regarding glyphosate's toxicity

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Indonesian news outlet reports on plans by 7,000 farmers and entire network of National Committee for Agrarian Reform (KNPA) to assemble at Merdeka Palace within framework of National Farmers Day to demand agrarian reform

News: Asian Age reports on government official's admission to a Parliamentary panel that absence of a mandated labeling system is resulting in uncontrolled circulation of GM foods on the market, Congress leader Renuka Chowdhury lamented that no human health studies on GM foods have been conducted

News: Pakistan Today reports on Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Sikander Bosan's announcement of government plans to establish Federal Food Safety Authority, with goal of facilitating development of food technologies, speaking at recent biotech workshop at Forman Christian College, Lahore

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News release: Testbiotech announces publication of new report on risks of new GE methods such as gene editing, author Christoph Then argues uncontrolled applications threaten biodiversity, consumers' and farmers' rights, and the future of animal and plant breeding

News: Flemish information center for agriculture and horticulture (VILT) reports on farmer Jimmy De Prins' successful cultivation of experimental soybean plots, as part of collaborative project between ILVO, AVEVE and Alpro, AVEVE notes it fits with their strategic choice of non-GMO soybeans

Commentary: "Risk Monger" David Zaruk writes for European Seed, argues that capturing the public's imagination on benefits and goals of biotech will be a more effective way of improving public opinion than continuing to focus on scientific consensus, noting any consensus will always be challenged

More Europe items

Latin America

News release: Brazilian District MP Luzia de Paula introduces bill to prohibit use of transgenic products in school meals in Federal District's public school system, citing health reasons

Commentary: Brazil's Landless Workers Movement (MST) promotes Political Charter of the 16th Agroecology Conference, highlights event celebrating hybrid seeds and criticizing practices that impact rural and urban workers; full charter includes criticism of transgenic crops

News: Argentinian ag news outlet reports on partnership between Porta and Bioceres to develop chymosin, an enzyme used in cheese making, from GM safflower seeds, Bioceres CEO Federico Trucco noted it enables more efficient and stable production

Commentary: Argentinian news outlet editorial amplifies ETC Group researcher Silvia Ribeiro's recent speech at "Mother Earth Intercontinental Meeting, a single health," highlighting her claims about dangers of agroindustry concentration and novel risks to humans and the environment posed by gene editing

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian farming news outlet reports on Western Australia farmer Bill Crabtree's recent comments regarding review of Australia's Gene Technology Scheme (GTS), he noted Australian farmers are being denied access to valuable technologies because of onerous and expensive regulatory hurdles

More Oceania items

More Bonus Eventus Resources

Stakeholder database

More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

Events calendar

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From: Jay Byrne
 To: Wray-Cohen, Diane - FAS
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Sept. 25, 2017
 Date: Monday, September 25, 2017 4:04:39 PM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

As European regulators move closer to making decisions on the future of glyphosate and neonicotinoids, this week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter features discussion of how the wrong policies can have real consequences. There's also an examination of the EU's governance of GMOs, coinciding with the observance of European Biotech Week.

Other articles take a closer look at issues in U.S. oversight of organic imports, delays in approving biotechnology in Uganda and former *Reuters* reporter Carey Gillam's upcoming book.

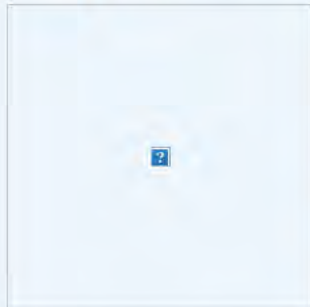
To view items on this newsletter, log in on the [Bonus Eventus Community](#) page. To create an account, fill out the Request Membership form on the front page of the site. To share articles, click on the Twitter icon.

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In This Issue

[Stakeholder Spotlight](#)
[Stories Worth Sharing](#)
[What's Trending?](#)
[Calendar highlights](#)

Stakeholder Spotlight: Carey Gillam



Former journalist turned activist for the organic industry-funded group U.S. Right to Know, Carey Gillam has [written a book](#) alleging a conspiracy of undue industry influence between global government regulatory bodies, scientific and medical professional associations and independent university

■ Stories Worth Sharing

[Daniel Guéguen: If European leaders fail to follow EFSA guidance on glyphosate, it creates "unnecessary disorder and bad governance"](#)

[Hank Campbell: Lax oversight of U.S. organic imports has not caused health problems because organic foods have no advantages](#)

[Colin Bettles: "Food Evolution" documentary reveals "intellectual dishonesty, logical manipulations and dark arts" used to block GMOs](#)

[Michael Raine: Carey Gillam should no longer be called a journalist, but she could be called "dead wrong"](#)

[Isaac Ongu: Ugandan MPs should "instill confidence in the masses about the safety of GMOs"](#)

[Dennis Eriksson and Roberto Defez: Does EU want to be governed by science or prejudice when it comes to GMOs?](#)

[Lawsuit seeks release of U.S. NIEHS documents related to participation in International Agency for Research on Cancer glyphosate review](#)

[Gary Truitt: Dicamba ban would be "unfortunate overreaction," need for technology to control resistant weeds is evident](#)

[Survey commissioned by Bayer finds most U.K. farmers believe costs would rise, yields would fall if EU bans neonics](#)

academics.

Titled "Whitewash: The Story of a Weed Killer, Cancer, and the Corruption of Science," it is due for release on Oct. 10. Articles interviewing Gillam and previewing the book have already begun.

Learn more about Gillam and her activism [HERE](#).

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Annette Maggi: "What's not to love" about Arctic apples that taste great and reduce food waste? [P](#)

John Batchelor Show interviews Henry Miller about repercussions of European neonic and glyphosate regulations [P](#)

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

Task Force on Systemic Pesticides releases update to 2014 neonic assessment, makes new push for Canadian ban

French farmers demonstrate on Champs-Elysees over government's opposition to glyphosate reauthorization

Arkansas regulators move toward banning dicamba despite opposition from farmers

California appeals court overturns approval of two Valent dinotefuran products, reversing lower court's ruling

Calendar highlights

September 25-27	September 25-28	September 26-28
17th Euro Biotechnology Congress (Berlin)	Agricultural Bioscience International Conference 2017 (Winnipeg, Canada)	Women in Agribusiness Summit (Minneapolis)
September 26-27	September 27	September 28
Embrapa Symposium on Agriculture and the Environment (Jaguariuna, Brazil)	European Confederation of Maize Production conference (Brussels)	European Conference on Modern Biotechnologies in Agriculture (Brussels)

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

<p>Stakeholder database</p> <p>More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate</p>	<p>Monitoring portal</p> <p>Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.</p>	<p>Bonus Eventus community</p> <p>Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.</p>
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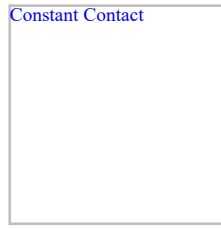
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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Sept. 22-24, 2017
 Date: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:02:42 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included Biotechnology Week events, discussions on biotech's impact on trade agreements and Peru's Environment Ministry presenting a report on the country's GMO moratorium.

- Global Biotech Week began Sept. 20 as Canada's Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, Navdeep Bains, said biotechnology is central to Canada's environmental and economic transformation. **See more on Global Biotechnology Week** European Biotechnology Week begins this week, including a meeting in Milan, "Who's Afraid of GMOs?" and a "Run for Biotech" event in Brussels Oct. 1. **See more on European Biotechnology Week**
- A Friends of the Earth blog noted its trade analyst said renegotiations of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) could open loopholes that could restrict the European Union's ability to regulate neonicotinoids and GM labeling. An Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy official said the NAFTA renegotiations lack transparency and noted one trade group wants the treaty to address differing standards on pesticides, organic agriculture and agricultural biotechnology. **See more**
- A report from Peru's Environment Ministry noted advantages and disadvantages of introducing GM crops into the country. A biotech specialist noted a baseline survey would examine income farmers could receive from some GM crop varieties. The report also cautioned there is a risk that GM crop introduction could alter Peru's diverse environment. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**

North America

News: New York news site reports GM moth trial in Ontario County raises hopes it will control diamondback moth, while organic farmers fear environmental impact, loss of organic certification

News: Western Producer reports on Kevin Folta's libel lawsuit against New York Times for reporting that he was a paid Monsanto operative misrepresenting safety, purpose and efficacy of GMOs, Folta argues the article has damaged his reputation as a scientist, NYT stated they will defend the lawsuit "vigorously"

News: CNN Money reports consumer preferences for healthier products and food without GMOs hurt General Mills' cereal, yogurt sales

Commentary: Friends of the Earth blog provides excerpts from appearance on Progressive Radio Network program by senior trade analyst, who claims renegotiation of NAFTA could provide loopholes for neonics and GMO labeling

Commentary: Food and nutrition expert Annette Maggi writes for Huffington Post, asks "what's not to love?" about biotech and Arctic Apples, notes the apples are perfectly safe and will help reduce food waste, believes they may help improve consumer opinions of the technology

News: Maine news site reports restaurant to feature Impossible veggie burger, synthetic meat made with GM ingredients

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Nigerian news site reports National Biosafety Management Agency director says decisions on biotech health and environmental safety must be science-based, urges scientists to communicate biotech benefits to consumers

News release: Ugandan Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation announces Sept. 22 conference to showcase science's potential impact on the country, including integrating biotech into agriculture to improve food security

News: Illinois news outlet reports on Cornell Alliance for Science's Leadership Course for Farmers 2017 in Rock Island, Alliance director Sarah Evanega noted importance of farmers being able to advocate for biotechnology with scientific backing, Ugandan farmer Kaleb Kamure Titia noted opposition to GMOs harms farmers in his area

Report: Report in South African publication Farmer's Weekly, "Commercial GM crops: 20 years of success," examines the genetic modification process and its application throughout the world, written by Biosafety South Africa executive manager Hennie Groenewald

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Indian news outlet reports on installation by artist Dayananda depicting traditional rice planting methods, Dayananda claims Green Revolution pesticides destroyed the soil and that GM seeds have led to disappearance of traditional rice varieties and planting methods

Report: Report in Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture provides overview of GM crop governance in Malaysia, with focus on issues and challenges, noting GM research activities in Malaysia are still in the early stages

News: FAO reports meeting in Malaysia focuses on biotech in sustainable food systems, features videos featuring examples of biotech meeting smallholders' needs

News: Indian news outlet reports on USDA Minister Counselor for Agricultural Affairs, Scott Sindelar's statement at recent US Soybean Export Council (USSEC) conference, in which he encouraged India to increase soybean production to meet demand, including embracing GMOs and allowing foreign imports

Report: Feed the Future South Asia Eggplant Improvement Project report summaries Bt eggplant development in India, the Philippines and Bangladesh, highlighting roadblocks encountered in the former two, and success in the latter

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: French news outlet reports on controversy surrounding CETA deal, highlighting French media coverage over concerns about GE salmon, GMOs and pesticides in general and hormones

Report: Wageningen publishes book entitled "Towards a new regulatory framework for GM crops in the European Union," examining wide range of scientific, ethical, social and legal issues and challenges, exploring what needs to be done to ensure sustainable development of biotechnology in the EU

News release: CRIIGEN announces victories in lawsuits against the press, giving the group wins in seven defamation cases against Seralini, notes upcoming lawsuit on Oct. 19 for forgery to damage

Seralini's reputation

News: Russia Today questions whether Greenpeace crusade has descended into hypocrisy, notes Nobel laureates note organization's campaigns against GMOs are counterproductive regarding climate change efforts

News: Euronews reports on food safety concerns raised as CETA deal comes into force, Greenpeace's Saskia Richartz argued CETA could force EU to weaken standards on hormones and animal cloning, and noted difficulty in detection of GMOs in shipments due to lack of traceability and labeling requirements in Canada

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Commentary: Colombian news site columnist says GM crops spread "like a plague" despite 37 countries banning them; says increasingly large sector questions biotech use due to damage to environment and economics for peasants

News: Argentinian news outlet reports on recent Farming Dialog organized by Bayer CropScience in Monheim, Germany, where Bayer's Liam Condon warned that emotionalism, populism and political polarization are threatening acceptance of modern science

Commentary: Brazilian news site reports Landless Workers Movement commemorates Agroecology Day by re-enacting event in which it claims leader opposing biotechnology was murdered by agribusinesses

News: Argentinian news outlet reports on recent conversation with Monsanto's Robb Fraley on gene editing, which Fraley describes as a more accurate tool than that used with transgenic plants, believes it will enable production of better, more nutritious food

News: Bolivian news site reports government, ag chamber resume talks on using GM seeds; chamber leader argues Bolivian farmers losing competitiveness because they can't use GM seed

News: Brazilian news site reports Landless Workers Movement, other groups support replacing biotech crops using agroecology during Sept. 23 Agroecology Day, look forward to "poison-free" agriculture

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

Commentary: Australian agricultural publication reporter says "Food Evolution" documentary exposes anti-GM movement's intellectual dishonesty, manipulations, pseudo-science

News: Australian farming news outlet reports on recent speech by Bayer's Liam Condon in Monheim, Germany, in which he announced plans to take lessons from Monsanto's past issues with public confidence, including launch of a new website with explanatory information and safety data on all its products

[More Oceania items](#)

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Events calendar

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included new statements on the EU's regulatory approach to new plant breeding techniques (NBTs). Activist commentary on the provisional implementation of the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) continued.

- Greenpeace France called on supporters to sign a petition asking the French government to maintain strict GMO regulations on so-called new plant breeding techniques (NBTs), noting that the European Commission is hosting a Sept. 28 meeting on the issue. Writing in *The Parliament Magazine*, German MEP Norbert Lins called for Europe to rethink ideological opposition to plant breeding innovation and pursue a more pragmatic approach to the technology. **See more**
- Media outlets in the EU continued to report on today's provisional implementation of CETA. A coalition of NGOs, including Friends of the Earth and Corporate Europe Observatory, issued a report claiming that the agreement puts European food standards and environmental protections at risk. **See more**
- In Nigeria, controversy continued over the National Biosafety Management Agency's announcement that a shipment of GM maize had been stopped from entering the country. *The Authority* reported on criticism from the Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF); similarly, in *Punch*, the coordinator of the Centre for Renewable Energy Nigeria warned that the announcement indicated there were likely illegal GM products already on the market. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Michael Stebbins of Biotechnology Innovation Organization reminds readers only nine GMO crops on U.S. market today, with GMO apples becoming available in some markets Oct. 1; only GMO crops available as whole produce are sweet corn, summer squash, papayas and potatoes

Campaign: Seattle-based NGO and Washington state Indian tribe issue joint statement in support of Genetically Engineered Salmon Labeling Act, include form letter for citizens to send to U.S. Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., urging her to support Senate Bill 1529

Commentary: Class Action examines Bayer-Monsanto merger, details company backgrounds, highlighting development of glyphosate marred by safety concerns, neonics linked to bee deaths, dicamba blamed for damaging non-target crops, suggests history indicates reasons to fear merger

Campaign: Alliance for Natural Health USA notes USDA report on digital codes notes significant deficiencies, urges readers to contact Congress to urge them to support clear GM labeling system

Interview: Successful Farming magazine runs interview with Bayer global R&D head highlighting company's efforts to keep neonics on the market, develop gene-editing techniques, create new modes of action for herbicides and respond to climate change

Commentary: Farm Bureau media specialist gives guide on keeping social media interaction positive even when the other side goes negative, emphasizing factual information, acknowledging when other side has a point

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Zimbabwean farmer Ruramiso Mashumba writes for Global Farmer Network, describing her efforts to advocate for women in farming, she notes Zimbabwean farmers are ready to embrace GMOs, pointing to many benefits such as pest-resistance, drought-tolerance and higher yields

News: Nigerian newspaper reports Health of Mother Earth Foundation calls for extra vigilance on part of National Biosafety Management Agency and security agencies in face of alleged importation of GM maize into country; group says there may be other undetected arrivals of unauthorized GM foods into Nigeria

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) Director-General Rufus Ebegba's assurance that the agency will ensure that import of unsafe GMOs will not be allowed, calling on the public to trust in government leadership

Commentary: Centre for Renewable Energy Nigeria coordinator writes in Nigerian news site op-ed that the unauthorized GM maize shipment stopped by the NBMA shows "we can be sure" other GMOs made it into the country; quotes Russian official saying GMOs can "cause tumors, cancer"

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on lawsuit filed by 17 NGOs against National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA), seeking revocation of confined field trials of Monsanto's GM maize variety, and an injunction preventing any activity pursuant to permits granted by NBMA

Interview: Agriculturalist Isaac Ongu interviews Ugandan science reporter Christopher Bendana for Genetic Literacy Project, Bendana emphasizes importance of reporting the facts, voices confidence in the science behind biotech

Commentary: Ag communications expert Isaac Ongu writes for Ugandan news outlet, amplifying recent column by Dr. Ian Clark in support of passage of Uganda's biosafety bill, places partial blame on government for lack of proper information about GMOs in the public

More Africa items

Asia

News: Xinhua reports Kenyan education official calls for increased funding of science, technology development in Africa, notes how biotechnology transforming business practices around world, could improve lives of continent's poor; ISAAA's Africa director calls on ag scientists to engage public about innovations

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Roberto Defez of Italian National Research Council and Dennis Eriksson of Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences write for EurActiv, calling for end to prejudice against GMOs in the EU, following EU Court of Justice ruling in favor of Giorgio Fidenato

Campaign: Greenpeace France urges supporters to sign petition calling on French government to commit to strict regulations of new breeding techniques, ahead of Sep 28 EU Commission conference on products of new breeding techniques

News: Le Monde reports EU ag sector worries about CETA, believes Canadians have advantage with lower cost products, notes treaty bans beef that uses hormones, GM feed, there is no effective way to

enforce the measure

News: Agence-France Presse reports CETA took effect despite NGO objections; Greenpeace maintains Canada has lower health, labeling standards than EU and relies on GM crops, pesticides; Juncker says treaty will prosper both parties

News: BBC reports United Kingdom, United States reach deal to make it easier for researchers to travel, collaborate, share facilities, with possible strategic areas of collaboration including GM research, could allow greater freedom in research because biotech and privacy regulation less restrictive outside EU

Campaign: European Coordination Via Campesina issues policy brief detailing goals for a draft declaration on rights of peasants, with goal of having it recognized by the UN, regarding seed rights, Via Campesina wants States to promote and support peasant seed banks, prohibit GMOs and limit use of industrial seeds

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Brazilian organic news outlet reports on Institute of Consumer Protection's (Idec) campaign against elimination of "T" symbol on food products containing GMOs, Idec nutritionist Mariana Garcia disputes claim that the symbol serves as a warning of danger, emphasizes importance of consumer choice

News: Brazil agricultural news site reports Senate Committee determines transgenic food should continue to use "T" symbol, should allow non-GMO labels when GM products completely absent

News: Mexican news site reports agricultural professor says GM grains rejected due to stigma rather than actual safety concerns, notes transgenics have been used for many years; says it's unlikely the crops absorb glyphosate through roots

News: Mexican news site reports Mexico uses non-GMO corn to produce tortillas, flour; says the country is self-sufficient in that area and does not use GM corn

News: Mexico News Daily reports on recent National Autonomous University of México (UNAM) study which found GM maize in just over 90 percent of tortillas, Elena Álvarez-Buylla Rocas argues that Mexico produces enough maize for human consumption, and that US imports should only be used for animal feed

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

[More Oceania items](#)

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included a statement from Greenpeace Netherlands criticizing the pending implementation of the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). In Germany, a group of activists issued an open letter warning about new plant breeding techniques (NBTs).

- Greenpeace Netherlands issued a statement criticizing the Sept. 21 implementation of a free trade agreement with Canada, warning that the deal would put European food safety standards at risk. The group highlighted Canada's approval of GE salmon and recent news that over five tons of the fish had been sold in the country. News reports in *EURACTIV* and *Russia Today* amplified the statement. [See more](#)
- German Working Group on Peasant Agriculture (AbL), Bioland, BÖLW, BUND, Demeter, GeN and IG seed released an open letter directed at the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, calling for the agency to ensure that new plant breeding techniques are regulated under current guidelines for GMOs. The groups noted that a Netherlands delegation to the EU had recently re-opened the question of how to classify foods and crops developed using techniques such as CRISPR. [See more](#)
- News outlets in India reported that the country's environment minister told *The Hindu* that his agency was unlikely to make a swift decision on approving GM mustard for commercialization. In his statement, Minister Harsh Vardhan said there were strong arguments on "both sides" of the case. [See more](#)

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North America

News: [Wired looks at development of Impossible Burger, plant-based product that smells, tastes and "bleeds" like ground beef, uses GE yeast; inventor says producing burger uses 1/20th of land, quarter of water needed to raise livestock for conventional meat patty](#)

Event: [New Hampshire news source previews speech by Caitlin Shetterly, author of "Modified: GMOs and the Threat to Our Food, Our Land, Our Future," on Sept. 26, in York, Maine; author claims GMO corn caused debilitating illnesses that she and her young son suffered](#)

News: [Capital Press reports speaker at Oregon Organic Coalition's annual awards luncheon says organic producers need to get more involved in debate, legislation affecting organic systems, asserts issues such as genetic engineering and pesticide drift drive wedge between organic and conventional producers](#)

Commentary: [Food Beast contributor examines Michigan State University's most recent Food Literacy and Engagement Poll, which found that 30 percent of Americans, mostly millennials, believe that non-GMO foods don't contain genes, worries about future of food literacy, believes documentaries like Food Evolution are helpful](#)

Commentary: [Genetic Literacy Project's Andrew Porterfield examines Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's reticence in funding University of Arizona researcher Monica Schmidt's research on using RNAi technology to eliminate aflatoxin in corn, due to concern about opposition to GMOs](#)

[More North America items](#)

Africa

Commentary: African Centre for Biodiversity members recount recent participation in workshop held in Morogoro, Tanzania, highlighting visit to Makutupora Viticulture Research and Training Institute to see GM maize developed by WEMA project, they promote investment in agroecology and traditional seeds over "inappropriate" GMOs

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: The Hindu reports on Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan's recent indication that decision on GM mustard is unlikely to come soon, noting compelling arguments from both sides, and that any government decision must be for the common good, highlights concerns about lack of human health studies

News: Times of India reports on Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan's recent statement that the ministry is not in a hurry to make a decision on GM mustard, noting arguments both for and against its commercial release are "equally strong," and must be thoroughly evaluated

News: DNA India reports on pilot study on using biofortified crops developed by India Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to tackle malnutrition in four districts of Maharashtra, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh, Women and Child Development ministry will evaluate crops' use in nutrition schemes based on results

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News release: German Working Group on Peasant Agriculture (AbL), Bioland, BÖLW, BUND, Demeter, GeN and IG seed write letter to Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, calling for regulation of new breeding techniques as GMOs, and for application of precautionary principle

Commentary: Greenpeace Netherlands trade campaigner warns supporters about negative impact of CETA deal on EU food safety standards, noting it will enable North American corporations to weaken EU standards on GMOs, points out that recently approved GE salmon is currently on the Canadian market without labeling

News: EurActiv reports on opposition to CETA deal, of which 90 percent will go into force on September 21, highlights Greenpeace's claims that it will allow North American corporations to weaken EU standards on GMOs and growth hormones, as well as continued opposition from some member states

Commentary: EuropaBio's recent newsletter focuses heavily on debate surrounding new breeding techniques, features guest opinion by KeyGene CEO Arjen van Tunen, who emphasizes importance of legal certainty to support innovation with regards to NBTs, noting number of off-target effects is fewer than with conventional breeding

Commentary: Universiteit Utrecht news outlet contributor wonders why people remain skeptical about GMOs when they are a viable solution for addressing world hunger, highlighting research of plant pathologist Dr Ronnie de Jonge, and many benefits of biotech such as increased nutrition and resistance to diseases and pests

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News release: Brazilian consumer rights group IDEC voices opposition to Senate Committee on Agriculture and Agrarian Reform's approval of bill to change GMO labeling requirements, calling the

move "an affront to consumer rights," IDEC attorney Igor Britto alleges Senators hid the intention to vote from the public

News: Brazilian news outlet reports on controversy surrounding bill to weaken GMO labeling standards, Brazilian Institute of Consumer Protection (Idec) attorney Igor Britto objected to lack of transparency in recent Senate committee vote, noting it ignored widespread public opposition

News: Argentinian news outlet reports on Bayer chief of commercial operations, Marc Reichardt's statement that merger with Monsanto will not result in relaxation of claim to royalties for GM seeds in Argentina, in light of recent controversy surrounding Intacta soybeans, he noted the company must consider whether to invest in countries without return

Commentary: Doctoral student in Development Sociology at Cornell University writes for Upside Down World, examining challenges of agrarian reform facing Ecuador's new president, Lenin Moreno, highlights importance of food sovereignty, and concerns that recently passed seed law will open the door to GMOs

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

[More Oceania items](#)

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More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included news that the Brazilian Senate moved forward on a proposal to update the country's GMO labeling guidelines. In the U.S., a coalition of farming groups launched a new awareness campaign to explain the benefits of agricultural technologies.

- The Brazilian Senate Committee on Agriculture and Agricultural Reform passed a bill that would replace the current GM labeling "T" icon with a text description and exempt products with less than 1 percent GMO ingredients from the labeling requirements. The proposal now moves to the Committee on Social Affairs and the Committee on the Environment. **[See more](#)**
- Farming organizations, including Western Sugar Cooperative and Amalgamated Sugar, launched a new website and campaign to educate consumers about the benefits of GMO farming. In a news release, the group emphasized that food marketing should emphasize science-based benefits rather than prey on consumer fears. **[See more](#)**

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North America

[News release: A Fresh Look announces self-titled campaign to promote health benefits of GMO farming methods, illustrating reduced use of chemicals and other resources, A Fresh Look Chair John McCreeedy highlighted goal of providing consumers with accurate information](#)

[Campaign: A Fresh Look's website seeks to address confusion surrounding GMOs, highlights several environmentally friendly practices that GMOs enable farmers to engage in, points consumers to information on various issues surrounding GMOs](#)

[News: Food Dive amplifies Food Business News report that quotes Grocery Manufacturers Association official saying SmartLabel gradually gaining consumer acceptance, notes USDA's mandated study on GMO labeling law showed technical problems, inadequate grocery store infrastructure, lack of consumer awareness](#)

[News: Scientific American subscription feature article says scientists trying new ways to convince skeptical public to accept CRISPR technology, gene drives](#)

[Commentary: Delta Farm Press columnist discusses Nabisco's announcement that its Triscuit crackers are Non-GMO Project Verified, points out "fearmongers" have convinced many consumers that GMO crops are "evil plot" by agribusiness corporations, warns activists' PR has been better than ag's PR](#)

[News: Fox Business reports Tom Brady criticizes big food companies and GMOs in his new self-help book, referring to GMOs as a "chemistry experiment" that doesn't sound like something he'd want to eat](#)

[Commentary: Alternet contributor criticizes big companies such as Nestle for marketing high-calorie junk food, especially in developing nations, notes junk food replaces subsistence ag crops with sugar](#)

cane and GMO corn and soybeans, the latter she claims drenches poor communities with toxic pesticides

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: [Nigerian Tribune reports Pod-Borer Resistant cowpea now in confined field trial has potential to resist pest that damages up to 80 percent of harvest, experts say new variety would help reduce amount of chemicals farmers use to protect cowpeas](#)

News: [The Guardian Nigeria reports on interception of shipments containing GM maize in Lagos, Director General of National Biosafety Management Agency, Dr. Rufus E. Ebegba, highlighted ongoing investigation of the incident, noting illegal importation of GMO produce attracts a five-year jail term or a fine of N5.5million](#)

Commentary: [Kondwani Hara of Malawi's Center for Social Concerns writes for local news outlet, urging caution in adopting GM cotton, pointing to allegedly poor outcomes in India and South Africa, claims it poses many economic and ecological risks](#)

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

Commentary: [Bangladeshi news outlet editorial calls for end to Bt eggplant cultivation, opposing government plans to supply farmers with free Bt eggplant seeds, claims farmers growing it incur losses due to poor harvest, warns about high rate of Indian farmer suicides, blaming Monsanto's Bt cotton](#)

News: [Third World Network's Biosafety Information Service amplifies scoping study done by African Centre for Biodiversity on Water Efficient Maize for Africa project in five African countries, warns WEMA project could be used to facilitate expansion of GM crops into Africa](#)

Interview: [Far Eastern Agriculture interviews FAO's Regional Programme Leader, Asia and Pacific, Xiangjun Yao, who describes ways in which biotech can contribute to food security and increased agricultural sustainability, emphasizes FAO's stance that new technologies should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis](#)

Commentary: [Italian sustainability consultancy publishes piece by Navdanya International director arguing policies of large seed and pesticide corporations are hurting the environment, harming human health; asserts regulatory agencies avoid risk testing for product as a whole or in combination with others to suggest they do not test effectively](#)

News: [Publication by American Chamber of Commerce in Taipei reports on growing organic trend as consumers seek healthier products free from artificial ingredients, highlights opposition to ban on GMOs in school lunches by food importers and manufacturers, citing scientific evidence of GMO safety](#)

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: [Italian news outlet reports deputies Serena Pellegrino and Antonio Placido will submit question to Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry regarding what policies and procedures exist to implement a ban on GMO cultivation in Italy, the query notes recent EU Court of Justice ruling is based on a law that has since been overcome](#)

Event: [Italy's Corriere della sera reports G7 agriculture ministers to meet Oct. 14 in Bergamo, meeting will focus on themes of sustainable agriculture, relationship between agricultural production and protection of landscape, activist Vandana Shiva among speakers](#)

Commentary: [Italian news outlet editorial reacts to recent EU Court of Justice ruling on GMOs, criticizes farmers association Coldiretti for spreading myth that GMOs are harmful to human health, pointing to](#)

scientific consensus on GMO safety, notes the Vatican has recognized GMOs as part of the solution to world hunger

News: EU Observer reports on concerns surrounding Bayer-Monsanto deal, Angela Wigger of Radboud University in the Netherlands sees no reason why the EU won't grant approval, noting the companies are "pushing at an open door," highlights opposition from SumOfUs and Friends of the Earth

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Brazilian ag news group reports on Senate Committee on Agriculture and Agrarian Reform's approval of proposed changes to GMO labeling that would eliminate the "T" symbol, replacing it with text descriptions, if passed by Committee on Social Affairs (CAS) and the Committee on the Environment (CMA), it will move to Federal Senate

News: Brazil's Senate Agency reports on Committee on Agriculture and Agrarian Reform's (CRA) approval of bill to change GMO labeling requirements, replacing "T" symbol with text, Senator Cidinho Santos argued the symbol devalued Brazilian-produced food, the bill must now be approved by Commissions on Social Affairs and Environment

News: Brazilian news outlet reports on Federal Senate's Agriculture and Agrarian Reform Commission's passage of bill revising GMO labeling requirements, replacing "T" symbol with text descriptions, Senator Cidinho Santos emphasized GMOs' history of safe use, noted the new disclosure will be more clear for consumers

News: Peruvian news outlet reports on release of GMO moratorium in Junín for 10 years, beginning on September 21, highlights Environment Ministry's previous remarks that the Junín region has great biodiversity in potatoes and maize, whose species have transgenic varieties in the market

News: Colombian news outlet reports on bill before Congress of the Republic to require labeling on foods and beverages with high caloric content and low nutritional value, the bill will also require clarification if any of the ingredients contain GMOs

News: Mexican news outlet Proceso reports on Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems study which found traces of transgenic maize in 90.4 percent of tortillas consumed in Mexico, highlights authors' concerns about glyphosate residues, and call on government to support agroecology and peasant ag to meet production needs

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

Commentary: Attorney for Australian law firm Russell Kennedy writes for Lexology, examining concerns about impact of three mega agribusiness mergers on research and development, points to research indicating that pooling of resources will result in research being more effective and targeted

[More Oceania items](#)

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included the announcement of a new lawsuit from NGOs in Nigeria, as well as a new report on GM maize presence in Mexico.

- A coalition of advocacy groups in Nigeria, including Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) and Women Environmental Programme, filed a lawsuit accusing the Nigerian government of violating the country's National Biosafety Management Act when it approved a Bt cotton variety for commercial use. The groups argue that officials did not conduct appropriate public listening sessions and issued the permits during a holiday. [See more](#)
- Researchers with the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) released a new report finding that over 90 percent of the corn in processed tortillas contains genetically modified gene sequences. Lead researcher Elena Álvarez-Buylla Roces claimed that the findings were particularly alarming given the current moratorium on GM corn cultivation in the country. Researchers also warned of the potential presence of glyphosate residues. [See more](#)

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North America

Campaign: Council of Biotechnology Information official writes GMO Answers post for Medium promoting GMO Answers' annual "Get to Know GMOs Month," including online video contest asking entrants to submit creative ways of using biotech to help solve some of world's most pressing food challenge

News: Minnesota news source for lawyers reports jurors hearing testimony in lawsuit brought by state's corn growers against Syngenta to decide blame for \$400 million in lost sales, whether company's commercialization of GM seed without Chinese approval, Mother Nature or market forces

Commentary: Zen Honeycutt of Moms Across America announces recipients of MAA's Healthy Communities Award; highlights former sponsors, Vandana Shiva, Robert F. Kennedy, Pam Larry and activist organic marketers

[More North America items](#)

Africa

Commentary: Dr. Ian Clarke writes for Ugandan news outlet, following his recent visit to an agricultural show in North Dakota, he calls for passage of biotechnology and biosafety bill, highlighting successful adoption of GM crops in the US to boost yields and protect crops from fall armyworm

News: The Guardian Nigeria reports on lawsuit brought by Health of Mother Earth Foundation and other groups challenging National Biosafety Management Agency (NABMA) and other government agencies' approval of permit for Monsanto GM cotton variety, alleging non-compliance with National Biosafety Management Agency Act

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on Institute for Agricultural Research's assessment that Nigeria could generate N48 billion from its Pod Borer Resistant GM Cowpea variety, researcher Mohammed Ishiyaku noted it will reduce need for insecticide inputs, protecting human health and the environment

News: Xinhua reports on Nigeria's recent National Biosafety Conference, where Minister of State for Environment Ibrahim Jibril noted the country will adopt any safe technology to boost food security, and Director-General of National Biosafety Management Agency, Rufus Ebegba assured the public of safety measures in place, in light of recent unapproved imports

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

Report: USDA Foreign Agricultural Service GAIN report highlights Government of Japan's announcement of details for a GE salmon monitoring plan, as AquAdvantage GE salmon is not approved for commercial sale in Japan, monitoring scope will include salmon and its processed products

Commentary: Indian journalist and activist Bharat Dogra writes for Economic & Political Weekly against GM mustard, describes Parliamentary report criticizing influence of pro-GMO lobby on government as a "wake-up call" to the government for need to improve protections for health, environment and agriculture

Interview: India's Down to Earth magazine talks to official from International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics who says media, policy-makers need to be more aware of advantages of biotech in crop improvement, scientists must educate public that biotech means more than GM crops

News: The Hindu reports on recent seed innovation conference involving academic institutions from India, UK and Germany, Prabhakar Rao, Trustee of Sri Sri Institute of Agricultural Sciences and Technology Trust, claimed GM and hybrid seeds under irrigation are reaching a plateau, called for investment in rain-fed agriculture instead

News: Malaysian news outlet reports on Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) Minister Datuk Seri Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar's announcement of new module on environment education for students, which will include instruction on application of traditional and modern biotech, and on how GMOs are safe for use in Malaysia

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Commentary: Contributor for French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM amplifies recent report presented to Prime Minister Edouard Philippe on impact of CETA on environment, climate and health, highlights concerns about impact on biotech regulations and the precautionary principle

News: Russia Today reports on Italian farmers' opposition to recent EU Court of Justice decision favoring GM crop farmer Giorgio Fidenato, Vice President of the Association of Agronomist and Forest Doctors, Mauro Uniformi, claims there has been no proper and in-depth research of consequences

Announcement: Italian news site announces upcoming September 28 live streaming program on farmer Giorgio Fidenato's recent victory over Italian government's GM crop cultivation ban, and on the "terrible story" of golden rice

News: Italian news outlet reports on Coldiretti's recent criticism of EU Court of Justice ruling in favor of Giorgio Fidenato, Coldiretti Emilia Romagna president Mauro Tonello claimed GMOs not only threaten the environment but also the Italian ag model, which he described as "the greenest of Europe"

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Interview: Argentinian news outlet interviews ETC Group's Silvia Ribeiro, she warns about dangers of big ag mergers, genomic editing and pesticide use associated with GMOs

News: Mexican news outlet reports on recent study by National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) researchers which found that 90.4 percent of tortillas consumed in Mexico contain traces of GM maize and glyphosate, lead researcher Elena Álvarez-Buylla Roces called for government support of peasant agriculture

Commentary: Mexican news outlet contributor amplifies study published in Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems which found that 82 percent of maize-derived foods and 90.4 percent of tortillas contain US GM maize, highlighting researcher Elena Álvarez-Buylla Roces' concerns about health risks of glyphosate

Event: Healdsburg SHED, a market, café and events space in Healdsburg, California will host reception for "Food Sovereignty, No to GMO Project" Curated by Mexican artist Francisco Toledo on October 4

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News: Australian food industry news site reports on CSIRO and Nuseed Pty Ltd's application to Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) requesting permission to allow GM omega-3 fatty acid rich canola onto the market, FSANZ has determined the canola is safe, and will accept comments through October 26

News: New Zealand news outlet reports on recent discussion with Otago trained bioethicist Josephine Johnston, on sidelines of Royal Society forum on gene editing, she examines several ethical issues with the technology, believes New Zealand could play an important role in effective and ethical application of the technology

[More Oceania items](#)

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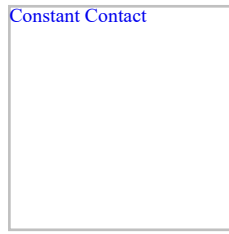
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 Date: Monday, September 18, 2017 4:32:24 PM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

Are GMOs to blame for a spike in food allergies? Were the European Union's restrictions on neonics a good idea? Why can't African and Asian countries gain access to new farming technology? Why won't Netflix show the "Food Evolution" documentary? Are GMOs bad - or actually good - for bees? All of these questions and more are explored in this week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter.

There are also articles about new endocrine disruption claims, a fishy partnership between a Colorado county government and a pro-organic NGO, plus a podcast on how activists are using risk claims about glyphosate to create roadblocks to GM crops.

To view items on this newsletter, log in on the [Bonus Eventus Community](#) page. To create an account, fill out the Request Membership form on the front page of the site. To share articles, click on the Twitter icon.

Please [contact us](#) if you have any questions.

In This Issue

[Stakeholder Spotlight](#)
[Stories Worth Sharing](#)
[What's Trending?](#)
[Calendar highlights](#)

Stakeholder Spotlight: The Organic Center



New claims of organic superiority over conventional agriculture appeared last week from a joint project by The Organic Center (TOC) and Northeastern University.

TOC claims to be an independent, non-profit research organization; however, it is housed,

Stories Worth Sharing

[Andrew Porterfield: Biotechnology not to blame for rise in food allergies – common allergens such as peanuts don't come in GM varieties](#)

[Henry Miller: Joint Research Centre assessment shows why European neonic restrictions were "regrettable"](#)

[Isaac Ongu: HarvestPlus, other NGOs blocking access to nutrient-rich GM crops in Africa and Asia](#)

[Hank Campbell: As key National Organic Program official steps down, will USDA put a check on organic marketing?](#)

[Michelle Miller: Don't be "stung" by the myth that GMOs harm bees](#)

[Colin Stevens: France's belief in "shoddy science" on glyphosate raises concerns about future EU policy debates](#)

[Ruramiso Mashumba: Benefits of GMO technology should be "obvious" to farmers in Zimbabwe](#)

[Geoffrey Kabat: Scottish professor advises to resist claims about endocrine disruption](#)

[Paul Danish: Colorado county's courting of pro-organic Rodale Institute to support GM crop ban raises questions](#)

administered and funded by the Organic Trade Association - an industry trade group representing multibillion dollar organic marketing interests.

This raises questions about undisclosed organic marketing industry funding of university researchers similar to prior reports in *The New York Times* that exposed papers by former TOC research director Charles Benbrook at Washington State University were 100 percent industry-funded without disclosure.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about The Organic Center.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

[Jackson Fysh: Petition calls on Netflix to show "Food Evolution" documentary](#)

[Talking Biotech podcast: How activists are using glyphosate cancer claims to limit use of GM crops](#)

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

[French medical research institute study concludes mixtures of endocrine disruptors carry risk of "cocktail effect" on fetuses](#)

[Monsanto CEO will not attend European Parliament hearing examining company's influence over glyphosate research](#)

[In Italian case, EU court rules that nations cannot ban GM crops without scientific proof of risk](#)

[Organic Consumers Association, Rodale Institute promote new "regenerative organic" certification](#)

Calendar highlights

September 18-19	September 21-22	September 21-24
Sustainable Foods Summit Latin America	Challenges to Providing Safe Drinking Water in the Midwest: A Symposium	17th European Skeptics Congress
September 21-22	September 21	September 25 - October 1
AfricaBio Conference	David Suzuki Foundation forum on systemic pesticides	European Biotech Week

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

<p>Stakeholder database</p> <p>More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate</p>	<p>Monitoring portal</p> <p>Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.</p>	<p>Bonus Eventus community</p> <p>Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.</p>
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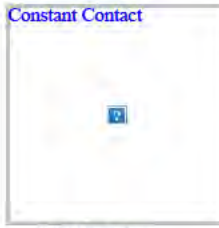
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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included a Health of Mother Earth Foundation official criticizing Nigeria's National Biosafety Management Agency after it discovered an unapproved GM maize import. The Kenyan government approved GM banana trials.

- HOMEF founder Nnimmo Bassey blamed the Nigerian government's attitude on GMOs after the NBMA caught an unauthorized GM maize shipment being imported. Bassey said the government's belief that GMOs are safe encouraged the importers, and he said it's an indication other shipments have made it to store shelves. NBMA Director Rufus Ebegba debunked the allegations. [See more](#)
- Kenya's National Biosafety Authority approved field trials for a Uganda-based project testing GM bananas designed to resist bacteria wilt. Some farmers in East Africa report up to 100 percent losses due to the disease. [See more](#)

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, [click here](#).

North America

Commentary: Joan Conrow of Cornell Alliance for Science promotes Realizing Increased Photosynthetic Efficiency (RIPE) project, which recently received a funding boost from Bill & Melinda Gates foundation, highlighting recent success in field trials

Video: The Institute for Responsible Technology posts YouTube video with its founder, Jeffrey Smith, and a pediatrician, Michelle Perro, M.D., asserting people have improved their health by switching to organic and non-GMO diets

Audio: For its 100th episode, Kevin Folta's Talking Biotech podcast features interview of Folta himself, who describes his current lab research at University of Florida, and how activists have re-shaped his career as a science communicator

Commentary: Acton Institute senior editor Rev. Ben Johnson amplifies recent PLOS One study on economic and human life costs of delayed biotech adoption in African nations, calls on people of faith to "tear down economic, or ideological, barriers that prevent the spread of lifesaving agricultural techniques"

Commentary: Boulder Daily Camera responds to county's rebuttal, reiterates concern with County Commission recruiting Rodale Institute, which has well-known political agenda, to guarantee outcome of GMO study; notes Colorado State helped draft RFP and then bid on it as Rodale's partner; states county now will put beet, corn farmers out of business with no way to replace them

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Nigerian news outlet reports Health of Mother Earth Foundation director Nnimmo Bassey blames recent illegal shipment of 25,750 metric tons of GM maize on federal government's attitude towards GM foods, and voiced concern that this incident may just be a fraction of other undetected shipments of unauthorized foods

Commentary: Public policy advocate writes for Kenyan news site, says approval of GM maize trials contradicts national policy, claims GM crops in US led to cross-pollination, biodiversity loss, and chronic illnesses - including cancer

Commentary: Global Farmer Network posts op-ed by female farmer from Zimbabwe who says women embracing agriculture, new technology, including genetic modification; she calls GMO maize that resists stalk borer essential to future of nation's farming, asserts GMOs could improve yields, drought resistance

News: Switzerland-based international news site reports African farmers having trouble dealing with fall armyworm as many pesticides are ineffective against the pest; notes South African farmers can use Bt maize, but that is not an option in many countries where it is banned

News: Kenyan news site reports Kenya approves field trials for Uganda-based GM banana project to protect against bacterial wilt; Biosafety Authority also approves GM maize trials

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

Commentary: Writer for Indian news magazine extolls "sustainable cotton" movement emphasizing use of cotton seed native to India; blames Bt cotton for being resource-intensive, and leading farmers into debt trap and suicide

News: China Daily reports Chinese scientists seek to educate public on GMOs, notes anti-GMO documentaries mislead consumers in China

News: Filipino business news outlet reports on Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) Biotechnology Information, Education and Communication Committee member/Diocesan priest Fr. Emmanuel Alparce's recent statement in support of golden rice following Makabayan bloc's resolution for an investigation, calling on House to trust the science

News: Hindustan Times reports Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan told Supreme Court that the ministry has not granted approval for GM mustard, as it is still studying the issue, highlights recent anti-GM rally, and opposition to GM mustard from Coalition for a GM-Free India, Alliance for Sustainable & Holistic Agriculture and others

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: Agence France-Presse reports farm and environmental groups, scientists send letter asking Minister of Ecological Transition Nicolas Hulot to require food derived from gene editing and mutagenesis to adhere to GMO regulations

Commentary: Italian news site columnist criticizes EU court's decision in Fidenato case, says it is "key pillar" for defending Italy's health and environment, claims Monsanto influenced the decision

News: Italy's Il Foglio reports on European Court of Justice's ruling in favor of Giorgio Fidenato, finding that member states may not ban GMOs without evidence of health or environmental risk, or on basis of the precautionary principle, reports he will now be able to cultivate MON 810

Interview: Veneto politician responds to European Court of Justice decision on GM maize, says concern over cultivation is misplaced given country-wide opt out

Announcement: EU Parliament adopts resolution against approval of products containing Dow's new herbicide tolerant soybean variety, arguing risk assessment data are insufficient, calls on Commission not to approve the soybean's entry onto the market, and to conduct thorough review of health risks associated with the herbicides in question

Commentary: Former Italian senator says in Huffington Post that the EU court decision on Fidenato case underscores Italy's need to base political decisions on science; notes court says precautionary principle cannot be used to ban GMOs without scientific basis

News release: Italian farmer's group urges constructive debate on GMOs in Italy; notes MON 810 variety is banned in Italy and other EU countries, so EU court decision does not impact the country, notes the fact the country imports GM feed opens up questions

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Rachel Wynberg of University of Rio, has ties to BioWatch and Earthlore Foundation, writes for The Conversation, emphasizing importance of traditional seeds for Brazilian Ag, claims GM hybrid seeds harm biodiversity and the environment, and drive small farmers into debt

News: Brazilian news source amplifies analysis presented during Latin American Congress of Agroecology that finds half of meats and derivatives analyzed contained transgenic ingredients not listed on labels, asserts more pesticides used to produce transgenic plants than conventional, insists risks to human health, environment ignored

News release: Brazilian Ag Ministry's Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa) touts public-private partnership to facilitate transfer of state-of-the-art technologies for cotton agribusiness; objective of first stage to develop variety of GM cotton resistant to boll weevil

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: Food Standards Australia New Zealand calls for submissions on application seeking to permit food from GM canola line that produces an omega-3 fatty acid in seed; applicant says new canola line could provide alternate source of DHA for food manufacturers in range of products

More Oceania items

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments again centered on European activism, with continued activist and industry response to the European Court of Justice decision on Giorgio Fidenato's planting of GM maize. In the U.S., organic activists in partnership with Patagonia Inc. launched a new certification for "regenerative" sourced goods.

- European stakeholders continued to respond to the European Court of Justice's decision preventing member states from blocking GM crop cultivation through so-called emergency declarations. Italian politicians associated with Fratelli d'Italia and Movimento 5 Stelle criticized the decision while noting that the verdict has little practical application in light of Italy's "opt out" on GM crop cultivation. Greenpeace, Confagricoltura Fvg and the U.S.-based American Soybean Association also weighed in on the verdict. **See more**
- U.S. advocacy group Rodale Institute, in cooperation with groups such as the clothing maker Patagonia Inc. and the Organic Consumers Association, announced a new organic "plus" certification program to highlight agronomic practices intended to mitigate climate change impacts. The new certification, called "Regenerative Organic," will prohibit the use of GM crops, synthetic inputs and hydroponic systems in addition to other requirements. The groups invited stakeholder comments on the certification standards. **See more**
- In France, activists coordinating with the Faucheurs Volontaires issued an open letter calling on Ecology Minister Nicolas Hulot to reject efforts to exclude gene editing and similar techniques from current GMO regulations. The groups criticized a position paper from the country's High Council on Biotechnology arguing for the exclusion. **See more**

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North America

Campaign: Rodale Institute announces Regenerative Organic Certification, cooperative effort aimed at setting new standard for regenerative organic agriculture, lists soil health among "three pillars" of campaign, which allows for no synthetic inputs, GMOs or gene editing

Commentary: Patagonia Inc. CEO Rose Marcario promotes apparel company's partnership with Rodale Institute to create Regenerative Organic Certification, says it aims to provide detailed guidance for producers to establish regenerative organic framework that builds soil health; solicits public comments on certification requirements

Commentary: Organic Consumers Association's Ronnie Cummins promotes Rodale Institute's draft standards for new Regenerative Organic Certification, argues USDA certified organic doesn't go far enough, says term "sustainable" co-opted by companies using GM crop-based dairy

News: Popular Science reports on threats to bananas by bacterial wilt and a new strain of Panama disease, highlights several efforts to save the Cavendish variety and others, including IITA biotechnologist Leena Tripathi's work to develop a GM variety resistant to bacterial wilt and nematodes

News: Politico Pro reports 30 organic and natural food companies write to USDA secretary to outline

their priorities in upcoming GMO labeling regulation, including call for requirement that all products containing ingredients derived from biotech be disclosed, demand consumer privacy be protected in any electronic labeling method

Commentary: American Soybean Association President Ron Moore applauds European Court of Justice ruling that member state governments can't ban cultivation of GE crops without scientific evidence of risk to human health, says group hopes reversal of "precautionary principle" will become EU's norm

Commentary: Colorado news source columnist criticizes Boulder County commissioners for using pro-organic Rodale Institute to support ban on GMO crops from county's open space, alleging collusion between commissioners and Colorado State University in bidding process rigged to benefit Rodale

More North America items

Africa

News: Burkina Faso news outlet reports on recent workshop held by National Biosafety Agency to increase public awareness about GMOs, where Director General Chantal Zoungrana noted the cotton industry is ready to return to Bt cotton

News: Nigerian newspaper reports doctors' group calls for absolute ban on tobacco advertising, sponsorship of sports, along with strengthening National Biosafety Management Agency to monitor all activities related to GMO technology in Nigeria to forestall "unintended adverse consequences"

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on 30th annual International Conference of the Biotechnology Society of Nigeria (BSN) in Niger State, where Gov. Alhaji Abubakar Sani Bello called on researchers to translate their work into products that will help Nigeria's sustainable development

News: Nigerian news outlet reports National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) raises alarm over unauthorized GM maize imports, Director General Rufus Ebegba noted NBMA has put necessary machineries in motion to track the importers, urging the public not to panic

News: Zimbabwean news outlet reports on government's draft GM food and feed labeling regulations to improve consumer choice, announced by Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development Deputy Minister Godfrey Gandawa at recent commissioning event for a GMO testing lab and electronic permit issuing system

More Africa items

Asia

News: China Daily reports on Chinese Academy of Sciences' Institute of Hydrobiology researchers' development of fast-growing GE Crown Carp, researcher Wang Yaping highlighted extensive safety measures in place to protect human health and the environment, but voiced concern that it may encounter similar roadblocks as GE salmon in the US and Canada

More Asia items

Europe

News: Italian news source reports Confagricoltura Friuli-Venezia Giulia responds to European Court of Justice decision, calling for public research on GMOs, setting of standards based on precise rules of co-existence, openness to independent research, citing tangible benefits of GMOs to farmers, consumers

Interview: Italian news outlet interviews GM maize farmer Giorgio Fidenato following EU Court of Justice ruling in his favor, he notes that while Italy may continue to ban GMOs under new EU law, the verdict authorizes him to ask for reparations from Italy, he also highlights importance of GM crops to sustainably boost food production

Commentary: U.K. anti-GMO group GMWatch cites new study from Brazil finding frequently occurring,

significant levels of resistance in fall armyworm to insecticidal protein used in GM Bt corn, claims study shows GM technology already redundant, even as GMO proponents tout GM Bt corn as solution to Africa's fall armyworm pest problem

News release: Greenpeace Italy issues statement in response to European Court of Justice ruling against Italy's ban of MON 810 GM maize cultivation, argues the ruling refers to a legal framework which has now passed, due to EU's 2015 directive, Greenpeace's Federica Ferrario praised Italy's adherence to the precautionary principle

News release: Brothers of Italy National Alliance releases official's statement regarding EU court decision in Fidenato case, says EU must not sell out its authority and credibility regarding food, says Italy must protect its national interests in agricultural excellence

News release: Italy's 5 Star Movement criticizes EU Court of Justice ruling that dismisses precautionary principle use without scientific evidence, says ruling tramples on member states' defense for environment and health against trade agreements; one MP worries ruling will open Italy for cisgenesis, gene editing

Campaign: French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM posts letter to Minister for Ecological Transition, Nicolas Hulot, signed by several organizations, scientists and concerned citizens, asking him to take action to ensure that products of new breeding techniques are regulated as GMOs, highlighting health and environmental risks

Commentary: French farmer and ag worker union notes Netherlands proposal would allow gene-edited food to bypass assessment, labeling, claims they would have same health and environmental risks, blames GMOs for "multiplication of health scandals"

News: Dutch news outlet reports on State Secretary Sharon Dijksma's (Infrastructure and Environment) proposal to exclude forms of biotech that don't lead to detectable GM end products from GMO regulation, highlights upcoming conference on application of modern biotech in agriculture

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Report: The Wilson Center issues report, "Ecosystems of Innovation: The Case of Biotechnology in Argentina," that discusses biotech's dynamic growth in country, offers policy recommendations to continue its role as regional leader in field

News: Brazilian news outlet reports on how former Paraná governor Roberto Requião's 2003 decree prohibiting transport of GM exports via Port of Paranaguá forced Paraguay to reconfigure its export logistics, eventually to its economic benefit using inland waterways

News: Ecuadoran news site reports National Institute of Agricultural Research announces workshop on research protocol for GMOs; ag minister points out GMOs have expanded throughout the world, making the workshop useful to those

Interview: Argentinian news outlet interviews University of Buenos Aires Food Sovereignty Chair Miryam Gorban, who speaks out against negative health effects of the modern food system, pointing to dangers of GM soy and associated pesticides, endocrine disrupting chemicals, and animal hormones and antibiotics

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Autonomous University of Aguascalientes' (UAA) 12th Congress of Natural Sciences, where biotech researcher Jose Ruben Morones Ramirez highlighted importance of biotech for development of smart drugs, and UNAM biotech professor Agustin Lopez Munguia's called for its application to boost food production

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included a European Court of Justice decision preventing countries such as Italy from using emergency powers to ban GM crops approved by the EU.

- The European Court of Justice weighed in on Italian farmer Giorgio Fidenato's appeal after the Italian government prosecuted him for planting a GM maize variety despite the country's 2013 cultivation ban. A statement from the court criticized the use of the so-called emergency powers in situations where scientific evidence had not pointed to potential harm. Several Italian NGOs weighed in on the decision. [See more](#)
- In a feature-length article, *Xinhua* reported on Kenyan scientists' efforts to commercialize genetically modified maize varieties. The newspaper noted Kenya's battles with fall armyworm and other pests. [See more.](#)

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North America

News: St. Louis NPR affiliate reports on Bayer CropScience's head of research and development, Adrian Percy's recent speech at Ag Innovation Showcase; notes priorities after Monsanto merger include addressing pollinator decline and meeting high demand for herbicides to control resistant weeds

News: Colorado newspaper's series on "Women in Agriculture" profiles local women involved in ag activism, including farmer who advocates for sugar beet growers, talks to people about advantages of GMOs; Western Sugar Cooperative says sugar beet growers have documented 25 environmental benefits of GE beets

News: Food & Environment Reporting Network profiles Italian seed scholar who brought durum wheat seeds back from Syrian seed bank in 2010, which could pose challenge to plant-patenting system in Europe or United States; European scientists comparing performance, resilience of diverse versus single-seed populations

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Andrew Porterfield rebuts claims GMOs responsible for spike in food allergies in United States, points out GM versions don't exist for foods that cause food allergies most frequently, such as peanuts, milk and eggs; research shows no single biotech-based protein in food found to cause allergic reaction

News: Toronto news source reports play "Seeds" debuting in Halifax, Nova Scotia, tells real-life story of Saskatchewan farmer Percy Schmeiser's legal fight against Monsanto after he was accused of planting company's GM canola seeds on his farm; dialogue taken verbatim from interviews with people involved, court transcripts

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Xinhua reports on Kenyan scientists' recent application to National Biosafety Authority for permission to release the first GM maize variety, African Agricultural Technology Foundation's Gospel Omanywa noted most Kenyan farmers are ready for the pest and disease resistant GM maize variety

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Hindu Business Line reports Indian seed company develops alternative genetic trait to resist pink bollworm, which previously developed resistance to Bt cotton in both single-gene and two-gene traits; researchers say they developed new trait by combining two existing genes

Interview: GRACE Communications Foundation interviews Indian farmer and La Via Campesina activist Kannaiyan Subramanian, he highlights struggles of sustainable farming in India, speaks out against agribusiness mega-mergers, claims expensive inputs such as Bt seeds and agrochemicals push farmers into debt, leading to high suicide rates

News release: U.S. government's Feed the Future initiative blogs about USAID efforts to boost incomes for Bangladesh's farmers, including support for government's release of four varieties of GE eggplant now being grown by 8,000 farmers; government plans to release five more varieties of GE eggplant in coming years

News: Vietnam News Agency reports Ministry of Finance proposes cuts in some fees and charges, including for issuance of biosafety certificates for use of GM products as food and animal feed

More Asia items

Europe

News release: Court of Justice of the European Union rules Member States may not adopt emergency measures on GM food and feed without evidence of serious risk to health or the environment, notes the precautionary principle may not be used to modify provisions on GMOs, as they have already undergone scientific assessments

News: Italian media report on EU Court of Justice ruling in case against farmer Giorgio Fidenato, finding that EU member states cannot take emergency measures on GMOs without existence of serious health or environmental risks

Commentary: Italian news outlet contributor examines current GMO regulations in the EU and in Italy, points to scientific consensus on GMO safety and highlights several benefits of biotech, calls for "critical, analytical and non-prejudicial attitude not only to GMOs but to all modern technological innovations"

News release: Associazione Luca Coscioni praises EU Court of Justice ruling against Italy's GMO ban, member Giorgio Fidenato will speak at the association's upcoming 14th Congress beginning on September 30

News release: Italian autonomous region's website reports comment of regional think tank in response to EU Court of Justice ruling on GMOs; NGO says judicial battles "anachronistic" because scenario has changed, GM maize cultivation prohibited in Italy

News release: Italian farmers association Coldiretti announces results of investigation which found that eight out of ten Italians are opposed to GMOs, following EU Court of Justice ruling in case against an Italian farmer, Coldiretti's Roberto Moncalvo noted GMOs not only threaten the environment but also the Made in Italy model

Report: USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service releases annual GAIN Report about ag biotechnology in Germany, which finds widespread public rejection of GE plants, no commercial GE crop production and almost no GMO foods on market; German seed companies Bayer, BASF, KWS have moved R&D operations to United States

Commentary: German news outlet contributor examines debate surrounding ethics of new gene editing techniques, highlighting researchers' call for broad debate, believes there is no place for biopolitics in the election campaign, points to "anti-scientific strangulation of the left and the gene-free populism from the right" regarding GMOs

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Study: Study in World Development questions long-term sustainability of GM soybean production in Argentina, finding significant negative environmental impacts, as well as reduced direct labor absorption in agriculture

Commentary: Third World Network amplifies study in World Development which questions sustainability of GM soy cultivation in Argentina, highlights findings that GM soybeans have significant harmful impact on the environment, and that production leads to loss of farm labor jobs, potentially worsening poverty

News: Brazilian news outlet reports on Agroecology and the Media Research study which found that media gives 95 percent of its space to agribusiness and five percent to sustainable techniques such as agroecology, presenting them as "alternatives" or "exotic"

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News: New Zealand news outlet reports on chocolate expert Luke Owen Smith's opinion that new ruby chocolate is not really chocolate, and that it probably won't taste very good, he claims it is probably made from a GM strain of cacao that is poor quality and used in mass-produced, cheap industrial chocolate

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments highlighted upcoming events in Europe, where several decisions on biotechnology issues are pending this week.

- European news outlets previewed a Thursday (Sept. 14) Appeal Committee review on soybean traits for import and processing. German anti-biotechnology group Testbiotech warned that safety assessments for the Dow and Bayer events were "fake" and didn't reflect real-world conditions. [See more](#)
- Italian news sites previewed a European Court of Justice verdict expected Wednesday (Sept. 13) in criminal proceedings against farmer Giorgio Fidenato, who had sown a GM maize variety despite a government ban on the crop. Fidenato had defended the cultivation, arguing that the government had declared the ban despite no evidence of risk. [See more](#)
- Indonesian news outlets reported on the government's announced plan to streamline GM trait approvals, noting official statements linking the new policy to its food security goals. [See more](#)

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North America

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project contributor promotes petition calling on Netflix to carry Food Evolution documentary, noting it has carried other, one-sided food documentaries such as "GMO OMG," "What the Health" and "Food Inc.," adds that Hulu has picked up exclusive rights

Commentary: AGDAILY runs "Farm Babe" column explaining U.S. honeybee population is at a 20-year high, adds that activist claims blaming GMOs in bee deaths "couldn't be further from the truth"

News: Food Dive amplifies Food Navigator report about NMPF's "Peel Back the Label" campaign aimed at fighting "deceptive food labeling" from Dean Foods, Dannon, other dairy brands that tout Non-GMO Project certification; article's "Insight" portion predicts debate over GMO safety to continue, intensify

Commentary: Dallas lifestyle site runs column by dietitian defining organic food as having no synthetic fertilizers or pesticides, and no genetic engineering, admitting organic food is not necessarily healthier, but acknowledging that debate continues

Commentary: GMO Answers' Commodity Crop Series posts profile on cotton, reports cotton production has doubled since 1950 due largely to improved varieties resistant to insects, herbicides

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Malawi news outlet reports on tour by Women's Parliamentary Caucus and National Commission for Science and Technology (NCST) to bring biotech initiative to rural farmers, farmers told them they

are ready to embrace biotech to boost crop production

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Isaac Ongu examines ways in which anti-GMO activists are blocking accessibility to biofortified crops such as golden rice and GM super bananas, promoting efforts to address hidden hunger by HarvestPlus and others

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on Epidemiological Society of Nigeria's recent assessment that tobacco use, alcohol consumption, poor diet and sedentary lifestyle contribute to worsening rate of non-communicable diseases, the society also noted GMOs have potential to meet food security challenges, but must be well-regulated

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indonesian news outlet reports on University of Lampung ag expert Bustanul Arifin's call on government to adopt biotech crops, noting it will help decrease rate of land conversion, Indonesian Biotechnology Information Center Director Bambang Purwantara noted lack of policies for regulation and implementation hinders biotech development

News: Indonesian news outlet reports on recent speech by PG Economics Director Graham Brookes in Jakarta, where he highlighted several environmental and economic benefits of GM crops, agricultural observer Bustanul Arifin believes government caution in adopting biotech is due to previous failure with hybrid rice technology

News: Indonesian news outlet reports on government's preparation of GMO development road map, Assistant Deputy of Infrastructure and Food Faculty of Agricultural Economy, Ignatia Maria Honggowati highlighted goal of tailoring GM seed development to domestic needs

News: Indian news outlet reports on organic activist and Kheti Virasat Mission founder/director Umendra Dutt's upcoming visit to Jalandhar to give his views on the environment, highlights his work to promote organic ag and warn people about negative effects of GMOs

News: Iranian news outlet reports on pros and cons of GMOs, highlighting debate over health and environmental risks, Ahmadreza Mehrabian of Shahid Beheshti University argues the technology should not be rejected outright, pointing to many benefits

Announcement: French NGO GoodPlanet Foundation announces release of Volume 3 of "The Lords of the Earth" comic book, "Seeds of Hope," set in India and detailing negative impact of GMOs and pesticides, with a preface by Vandana Shiva, and adapted in French by Gilles-Eric Seralini

More Asia items

Europe

News release: Testbiotech claims risk assessments by Bayer and Dow on application submitted for soybeans genetically engineered to be resistant to three different classes of herbicides are fake, arguing that real risks have not been assessed at all

News release: EU Green Party criticizes contradiction and hypocrisy in EU's GMO policy, voicing opposition to proposed approval of Dow's new GM soybean variety for import, highlights health and environmental risks of glufosinate-ammonium and 2,4-D, to which the soybean is resistant, hopes Commission will block its approval

Report: USDA Foreign Agricultural Service issues GAIN Report warning change in voting behavior among EU Member States may lead to GE crops not being approved, noting pro-GE majority among states could be threatened by Brexit, possible results of German federal elections in September 2017

News: Italian news outlet reports EU Court of Justice opinion in Giorgio Fidenato case is expected Wednesday, Sept. 13, regarding charges against him for planting GM maize, highlights Advocate General

Bobek's argument that member states can only ban GMOs if they can demonstrate serious risk to humans and the environment

News: Italian news outlet reports on Dutch proposal to exclude products of new breeding techniques from GMO regulations for safety, labeling and traceability, highlights Italian Ag Ministry's allocation of 21 million for research on new breeding techniques

News: EU Observer reports on upcoming events, highlighting expected European Court of Justice ruling on new GMO techniques

Commentary: MP for Maine-et-Loire, France, Matthieu Orphelin, amplifies recent independent report on CETA trade agreement, pointing to "serious problems" for food, agriculture and the environment, warns that products of new breeding techniques could be assimilated in France, as Canada has decided not to regulate them as GMOs

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Announcement: Alliance for Food Sovereignty of the Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean issues declaration following its second Assembly recently held in Guatemala, promotes agroecology and protecting traditional seed biodiversity, speaks out against modern ag practices such as agrochemical use

News: Uruguayan news outlet reports on Rural Association's (ARU) recent statement of concern regarding lack of competitiveness in the ag sector, pointing to biosafety cabinet's failure to approve GM events in spite of scientific evaluation, accusing it of violating producer rights regarding "availability of up-to-date and high-impact technology"

Commentary: Oaxacan news outlet contributor voices concern about high level of transgenic maize in Mexico, claiming glyphosate and Bt toxin pose risks to human health

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

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From: Jay Byrne
 To: Wray-Cohen, Diane - FAS
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Sept. 12, 2017
 Date: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 9:47:53 AM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

The Non-GMO Project, as Julie Gunlock put it in her recent piece in *The Federalist*, is "capitalizing on manufactured ignorance. The topic is also explored in two other pieces in this week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter - from Kavin Senapathy in *Forbes* and "Farm Babe" Michelle Miller in *AGDAILY*. These three women argue that a combination of ignorance and lies confuses customers into spending more for food that isn't any safer.

There's also a call from Ruth Kava of the American Council on Science and Health - echoed by Michael J. Ssali in a [Daily Monitor op-ed](#) - for biotechnology to be allowed to address nutritional issues in Uganda, along with other pieces on unrealistic demands and conspiracy theories from environmentalists.

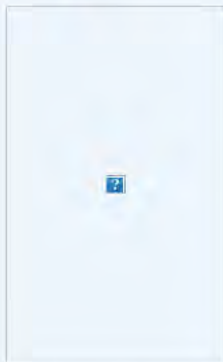
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Please [contact us](#) if you have any questions.

In This Issue

[Stakeholder Spotlight](#)
[Stories Worth Sharing](#)
[What's Trending?](#)
[Calendar highlights](#)

Stakeholder Spotlight: MASIPAG



MASIPAG, a Philippine NGO promoting agroecology and organic farming, recently held its [annual conference](#) highlighting its opposition to GMOs (including [Golden Rice](#)) and modern crop protection products.

Stories Worth Sharing

[Julie Gunlock: Consumers paying high price for "meaningless and unnecessary food labels" while Non-GMO Project profits](#)

[Kavin Senapathy: Nabisco should stop "pandering to ignorance and fear" with Non-GMO Project label on Triscuits](#)

[Michelle Miller: While organic food companies spend millions of dollars annually "lying to you," Non-GMO Project sells an agenda](#)

[Geoffrey Kabat: "Solid evidence is lacking" to support claim that endocrine disruptors are to blame for sperm count decline](#)

[Ruth Kava: Genetically engineered bananas could help "wipe out" Vitamin A deficiency in Uganda](#)

[Ted Nordhaus: Anti-GMO activists offer solutions that are "demonstrably not up to the task" of solving environmental issues](#)

[Alison Van Eenennaam: "GMOs Revealed" series dismisses opinions of "entire worlds' scientific societies," sides with conspiracy theories](#)

[Andrew Porterfield: Activists equating organic to "pesticide-free" causes false perceptions among consumers](#)

[Joseph Perrone: We should recognize glyphosate's safety until evidence emerges to the contrary](#)

In 2013, the group worked with Greenpeace and others to organize the criminal destruction of Golden Rice field trials, and it has promoted misleading health risk claims linked to GMOs, pesticides and other conventional agriculture practices.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about MASIPAG, which is largely funded by European and U.S. organic-promoting interest groups.

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PROFILES**

FAO set to host Asia-Pacific regional meeting on using agricultural biotechnology to feed the hungry

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What's Trending?

European Food Safety Authority assessment finds glyphosate is not an endocrine disruptor

University of California-Davis study claims folic acid intake could reduce autism risk associated with pesticides

Minnesota court set to hear farmers' class-action lawsuit over Viptera corn seed

New Zealand farmers object to water quality proposals from Green, Labour parties

Monsanto seeks to block Arkansas dicamba ban it calls "unwarranted and misinformed"

Calendar highlights

September 11-13	September 12-14	September 12-14
FAO Regional Meeting on Agricultural Biotechnologies in Asia-Pacific	6th Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative Annual Meeting	Royal Entomological Society's Ento '17
September 14-17	September 14	September 16-24
International Water Festival	European Commission's Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed meeting on GM food and feed	Week of Peasant Seeds

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

<p>Stakeholder database</p> <p>More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate</p>	<p>Monitoring portal</p> <p>Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.</p>	<p>Bonus Eventus community</p> <p>Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.</p>
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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Sept. 11, 2017
 Date: Monday, September 11, 2017 9:06:01 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included news out of Europe that Dutch officials had proposed exempting certain crops developed through new techniques from EU GMO regulations. In Asia, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) opened a regional conference on biotechnology in agriculture.

- European media outlets reported that officials from The Netherlands proposed amending the European Union's rule on GMOs to exclude products developed from new plant breeding techniques (NBTs). The comments were made during an informal meeting held earlier this month. La Via Campesina's European chapter issued a news release criticizing the proposal, arguing that it would allow the biotechnology industry to "seize the existing agrodiversity." **See more**
- The UN Food and Agricultural Organization issued a statement on its regional meeting this week in Kuala Lumpur to review biotechnology in agriculture. FAO urged developing countries to move away from the debate on genetically modified crops and instead consider the benefits of other DNA-based technologies. The report highlighted techniques such as biopesticides and artificial insemination in livestock. **See more**
- Paraguay's ConBIO announced it was reviewing plans to streamline the country's regulation of new genetically modified products. ConBIO coordinator Cristina Soerensen noted that there were overlapping steps that contributed to commercialization delays. **See more**
- On Wednesday (Sept. 13), European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker is expected to highlight the new European Industrial Strategy during his State of the European Union speech. In anticipation of the event, EuropaBIO issued a statement urging reforms to European policies to ensure innovation among the medical and agricultural industries. Among other issues, the group called for the European Union to ensure swift GM crop assessments and to remove the "opt out" ability for member states. **See more**

Reminder: to access the full text, archives and monitoring dashboard resources you need to log in to the **Bonus Eventus community portal** using your email address and personal password. Please contact us if you need any assistance or support.

For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **[click here](#)**

North America

News: Food Navigator reports on USDA study identifying significant but not insurmountable challenges in digital GMO disclosure, while Center for Food Safety reiterated its demands for on-package labels, Grocery Manufacturers Association argued that education campaigns will make digital disclosure successful

News: AP reports test lawsuit goes to trial Sept. 11 in Minneapolis against Syngenta for introducing GE Viptera corn variety before China approved it for imports; plaintiffs say Syngenta's move damaged important export market for U.S. corn; test case meant to provide guidance for resolving complex litigation

Event: Morning Ag Clips reports Vandana Shiva to attend regional seed swap Oct. 17 during three-day visit and lecture tour at University of North Carolina-Asheville; report notes Shiva campaigns for sovereign seed and secure food systems

Interview: Global Plant Council interviews Dr. Staffan Eklof of Swedish Board of Agriculture (SBA), he describes SBA's role in regulating GM plants, explains that plants are only regulated as GMOs if foreign DNA is present, highlighting SBA's decision not to regulate products of CRISPR as GMOs

[More North America items](#)

Africa

Commentary: Swiss GMO-Free Alliance amplifies claims that Monsanto heavily influenced Malawi's recently passed seed regulation, voicing concern about negative impact on farmers' rights and corporate influence over government regulations

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News release: UN's FAO emphasizes need to improve access to biotech for smallholder farmers in developing countries to help boost food and nutrition security and to fight poverty, highlights Assistant Director General Kundhavi Kadiresan's statement at recent regional meeting

Commentary: GMWatch describes recent removal of Maharashtra's state ag commissioner, Sunil Kendrekar, from his post as " a sad indictment of those in power in India," highlighting Kendrekar's criticism of Monsanto's Bt cotton due to resistance of the pink bollworm

News: Indian news outlet reports on Environment Ministry's "ease of business" policy to expedite decision-making, highlights large decision ahead regarding approval for commercialization of GM mustard, and opposition from farmers who question its necessity

Commentary: Coalition for a GM-Free India responds to recent report by National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) in favor of GM mustard, makes negative claims in response to NAAS arguments regarding yield, environmental pollution and biosafety, lists several unanswered questions

News: Filipino news outlet reports on sugar industry stakeholders' passage of 21 resolutions at recent meeting in Negros Occidental to ensure industry survival, including lobby for enforcement of anti-GMO Ordinance to fight high fructose corn syrup

News: Indonesian news outlet reports on Coordinating Ministry of Economic Affairs' preparation of road map for accelerated biotech product development, with goal of implementation in 2018, scope will include economic benefits, development of GM seeds, and environmental analysis of GM seed products

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News release: European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC) calls on all EU governments to reject the Netherlands' proposal to exempt products of new breeding techniques from GMO regulations, claiming sanitary and environmental hazards remain the same

News: EurActiv reports on the Netherlands' argument that new plant breeding techniques should not be regulated like GMOs, calling for early discussion of the issue prior to EU court ruling, highlights European Coordination Via Campesina's statement opposing the Dutch proposal

News: Politico Pro EU reports on EuropaBio's analysis of EU Commission's biotech goals, prior to President Jean-Claude Juncker's State of the Union Speech, calling for prioritization of "ambitious" innovation policies, simplification of regulations and investment in innovation

News release: EuropaBio announces evaluation of EU's progress in creating an innovation friendly environment, prior to President Juncker's State of the Union Speech, calls for "holistic and balanced approach for biotech innovation," and effective implementation of the existing GMO authorization system

Commentary: Blogger for French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM criticizes composition of upcoming Estates General of Food workshops, noting that no environmental or pro-organic organizations are included

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Paraguayan news outlet reports on National Commission of Agriculture and Forestry Biosecurity's (Conbio) efforts to eliminate steps in the biotech approval process which overlap and lead to delays, and recent biosafety workshop organized by Chamber of Fertilizers and Phytosanitary (Cafyf)

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Mayan beekeepers' opposition to GM soy cultivation, reports decline in bee populations is due to deforestation to make way for GM crops, highlights ongoing legal battle to keep GM soy out of the Yucatan Peninsula, and controversy surrounding consultation process

Commentary: Brazilian news outlet contributor amplifies recent report demonstrating sharp rise in congenital malformations over the last two decades in Parana, and linking the increase to use of pesticides on GM crops, argues that agroecology is a viable alternative for producing enough food

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News: Irish Farmers Journal reports on Australia's challenge of separating GM from non-GM crops, as some provinces ban GM crop cultivation as well as transport, increasing costs, Europe's non-GMO stance is critical for Australia's non-GM canola market

Commentary: Columnist for Australian food industry news source reflects on 2017 Australian Organic Market Report showing personal health concerns driving growing demand for organic food in nation; writer says she understands consumers' preference for food free of pesticide residues and GMOs but argues all food contains chemicals

[More Oceania items](#)

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 To: Wray-Cohen, Diane - FAS
 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Sept. 8-10, 2017
 Date: Sunday, September 10, 2017 9:05:00 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included reports on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's survey on QR codes and news that Monsanto plans to sell its Bt cotton seed business in India.

- News sites reported the USDA released its report on QR codes. Findings included that although most shoppers have smart phones, the digital codes would present problems for consumers, including technological and accessibility issues. **See more**
- *Reuters* and other media sites reported Monsanto plans to sell its small, branded cotton seed business in India to local firm Tierra Agrotech Private Ltd., although Mahyco Monsanto Biotech will continue selling GM seed. Indian newspaper *The Hindu* reported that experts say the sale is part of the company's merger with Bayer. **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**.

North America

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project posts Andrew Porterfield piece debunking myth of organic farming as pesticide free, compares claims of glyphosate, 2,4-D toxicity to negative health, environmental effects of organic fungicide copper sulfate

News: AdWeek amplifies Organic Valley campaign to promote company image as quirky, transparent and 'walking the walk' while upping criticisms of 'corporate' agriculture greenwashing and use of GMOs, antibiotics, hormones and pesticides

News: UC-Davis professor Alison Van Eenennaam criticizes "GMOs Revealed" fearmongering, says series dismisses scientific societies' published opinions with conspiracy theories, gut feelings and anecdotes; explains fallacies on glyphosate promoted by the anti-biotech series

News: Travel and food news source profiles Mexican man who advocates for preserving native heirloom varieties of corn from extinction, applauds recent Mexican court decision that bans Monsanto from planting GMO corn in country, warns GMO corn enters country's food system anyway through U.S. imports

Commentary: ACSH's Ruth Kava argues introduction of GE "Super Banana" could help address problem of vitamin A deficiency in Uganda, predicts scare-mongers will target GE banana as they have GM Golden Rice, insists genetic engineering of food crops has potential to save lives in developing countries

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Michael J. Ssali says in Daily Monitor op-ed that Ugandan farmers pay the price for legislature's delay in passing biosafety bill, notes crops suffering from drought, pests

News release: Food Sovereignty Ghana responds to National Seed Trade Association of Ghana President Thomas Havor's recent statement of support for GMOs, claims they are unsafe for humans and fail to

boost yields or reduce pesticide use, promotes agroecology

News: Ghanaian news site reports seed association backs government plans to commercialize GM crops, says it will benefit farmers and consumers; civil society groups claim GMOs will have negative socio-economic and health impacts

News: Cote D'ivoire news site reports AGRF conference focuses on armyworm plaguing farmers in 28 African nations, emphasize urgent response using pesticides, GMOs to fight the pest

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Tehran Times reports Iranian Environment Department will develop regulations, investigate "negative impacts of GMOs" on environment, health

News: The Wire contributor says there is no consensus on India government's farm policy, including GM mustard; notes Maneka Ghandi claims neonics kill bees

News: Vietnamese news outlet reports on success of recent GM maize field trials, Son La Plant Protection and Cultivation Department Director Duong Gia Dinh called for expanding and encouraging GM maize production

News: The Times of India reports agricultural scientists report GM oilseeds crucial to grow Indian farms, farmer income; point out Indians consume imported GM oil with no ill effects

Commentary: Filipino NGO reports resolution filed in House of Representatives in effort to stop re-introduction of GM Golden Rice in country, recaps 2013 incident in which GM rice field trial destroyed by opponents, notes it opposed new field trials and renewed push for Golden Rice to be used for food, feed and processing

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Commentary: Inf'OGM's Charlotte Krinke notes U.S. government deems local authorities incompetent to pass laws banning GM seeds, so it prohibits local bans with its own seed law; but says agribusinesses have too much input into the federal laws

Commentary: Contributor for French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM criticizes European Food Safety Authority's assessment of allergenicity in GMOs, pointing out flaws in the pepsin test, criticizes Monsanto's involvement in developing the testing protocol

News: Czech Republic news source reports opinion poll finds only 19 percent of Czechs interested in GM foods, compared to 29 percent interested in organic food; poll shows 77 percent of Czechs believe GM foods should be labeled, although 56 percent admit they never check that label information

News release: Textile manufacturer requests GOTS to investigate allegations of GM contamination in organic cotton in India; EU calls it fraud, saying it is incompatible with consumer views of organic cotton

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Brazilian news source reports national ag department partners with cotton farmers to develop Bt cotton resistant to cotton boll weevil; officials expect it will take 10 years to have resistant cotton available to producers

News: Mexican news site reports Metropolitan Autonomous University professor says no evidence supports claim that GMOs damage health; notes plants undergo horizontal gene transfer in nature

News: Mexican news site reports artist Francisco Toledo chastised Mexican President Enrique Pena

Nieto for ignoring letter that asked him to oppose GM maize; says GMOs and pesticides cause illness, GM maize contaminates native corn

News: Uruguayan news site reports Montevideo government prepares to pass law requiring GM foods to be labeled locally

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian news site contributor says CRISPr offers many potential benefits in agriculture, industry, and medical fields

More Oceania items

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From: Jay Byrne
 To: Wray-Cohen, Diane - FAS
 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Sept. 7, 2017
 Date: Thursday, September 7, 2017 9 04:29 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology development included a U.S. government study on the use of digital disclosures for GMO ingredients. In Australia, stakeholders issued final calls for comments on the National Gene Technology Scheme.

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released results from a Deloitte study that examined the use of digital disclosures, such as QR codes, for GMO ingredients. Activist group Center for Food Safety claimed victory for the study's release and noted that the report highlighted concerns about customers' ability to access the information. Just Label It!, a Green America campaign, called for USDA to reject the use of digital disclosures. **See more**
- Western Australia's Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development reminded consumers that the comment period on the National Gene Technology Scheme will close on Sept. 15. In its newsletter, anti-biotechnology group MADGE urged its supporters to submit comments, and it posted its own submission on its website. **See more.**
- In the Philippines, a coalition of lawmakers called on the federal government to review the potential effects of Golden Rice commercialization on farmers. The Makabayan Bloc pointed to farmer and scientist concerns about GM crop safety for consumer health and the environment. **See more.**

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North America

News release: Center for Food Safety claims victory after USDA publishes study on feasibility of electronic disclosure for labeling of GE foods, 12 days after NGO sued agency for withholding it; CFS legal director says study confirms that digital disclosure discriminatory, burdensome compared to on-package labels

News release: Just Label It announces over 70,000 Americans signed its call-to-action demanding stringent GMO labeling standards, rejecting digital disclosure and proposal to exclude sugars, oils, and new forms of GE; demanding ingredient-by-ingredient labeling and timely implementation of the law

News: Agri-Pulse reports a USDA-contracted study found that consumers face numerous challenges using devices to access information about GMO foods, despite widespread availability of smartphones, noting necessity of an extensive educational campaign and recommending user-friendly scanner apps

News: Maui news site reports 66 people sign up for public testimony at Maui committee meeting to protest A&B plan involving GM crop trials

Commentary: Ted Nordhaus of Breakthrough Institute writes for USA Today, criticizing environmental groups such as Friends of the Earth's opposition to Impossible Burger, noting there is no evidence that it isn't safe, highlights several ways in which anti-GMO activism hinders sustainable development

Commentary: Independent Women's Forum's Julie Gunlock writes in The Federalist, notes former GMO execs lead Non-GMO Project, which claims GMOs and Roundup cause health issues; says they haven't had change of heart, but are seizing on market opportunity

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project contributor examines challenges in bridging gap between pro- and anti-GMO movements, highlighting recent backlash against Food Evolution documentary from activist groups, which he notes cannot cite scientific evidence to back up their claims

Campaign: NGO coalition letter calls on Ben & Jerry's CEO to commit to 3-year organic transition, arguing ice cream maker's industrial system contaminates water, ice cream with pesticides, promotes global warming with GMO monocultures

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Malawi news outlet reports on National Commission for Science and Technology (NCST) finance and administration director Pongolani Msakambewa's recent call for Malawi to embrace biotech to achieve food security, speaking at recent Parliamentary Women's Caucus sensitization meeting on biotech and biosafety

News: Malawi news site reports Parliamentary Women's Caucus supports GM crop field trials in effort to increase food production, avoid food crisis; worries persist that GM crops cause cancer

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Philippines' Business Mirror reports bloc of federal lawmakers want inquiry into impact of development of Golden Rice on human health, environment, local farmers, claiming scientists worldwide have serious concerns about safety of GE food and say vitamin A benefits "baseless"

News: Filipino news source reports golden rice could solve nation's problem with vitamin A deficiency, notes other GMO crops on market, points out food derived from those crops has undergone extensive testing, lists guidelines imposed on crops and quotes pro-biotech groups and WHO defending their safety

Commentary: FAO's Kundhavi Kadiresan writes for Indian environment news site, prior to FAO's high-level regional meetings on using biotech to achieve sustainable food systems and better nutrition, highlights successful biotech applications in India and Thailand for boosting food production

Commentary: Indian farmer writing for Global Farming Network says golden rice must be approved to prevent blindness caused by vitamin-A deficiency in India, other developing countries, notes Philippines on verge of approving commercialization of golden rice, asserts nothing to fear from GMO rice

News: Cambodian news site reports Cambodian government denies reports of GM crops being cultivated in the country, says it would impact export market

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Report: Finnish Green Party-affiliated science and technology group's GMO discussion paper cites potential of GMO technology to help world food production, claims current usage benefits commercial interests at risk of sustainable development, notes lack of health risks linked to GMO products, lists recommendations to ensure responsible use

Study: Study in PLOS ONE compares acceptability of transgenesis and cisgenesis in Europe, when such techniques enable reduction in pesticide treatments, finds wider acceptability of vertical gene transfer as a means of reducing phytosanitary treatments, compared to horizontal transfer

News: Turkish news outlet reports on Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (ETH Zurich) researchers' development of GM rice variety rich in iron, zinc and beta carotene, lead researcher Navreet Bhullar noted the rice will be tested in a natural environment next year

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Commentary: Brazilian newspaper runs op-ed by nutrologist arguing transgenic foods damage human health, environment, pointing out Brazil second-largest producer of transgenics worldwide, citing risk of their use impoverishing healthy food production

Commentary: Ecuadorian news outlet contributor criticizes inconsistent regulations of transgenics, noting bans on the technology are based on technical ignorance, calls for a scientific approach rather than a political and ideological one

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

Commentary: MADGE publishes comments on Australia's review of the National Gene Technology Scheme; among other claims, says GM crop manufacturers distort scientific conversation through funding and "trolling"

News release: Government of Western Australia reminds public they have until Sept. 15 to make submissions to review of National Gene Technology Scheme, notes there will be further opportunities for stakeholders to contribute to review

News: New Zealand news site reports organic certifier BioGro NZ launches non-GMO certification program, notes company executive cites "associated risks" with genetic modification to stress need for non-GMO options

[More Oceania items](#)

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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Sept. 6, 2017
 Date: Thursday, September 7, 2017 9:35:47 AM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included media and stakeholder response to a U.S. campaign criticizing "fear" focused food marketing. In India, scientists criticized advocacy groups' misleading statements on efforts to cultivate GM mustard.

- U.S. media outlets continued to respond to the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) campaign "Peel Back the Label," which targets free-from claims on food products. The group had singled out non-GMO claims in particular. *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* amplified the NMPF criticism of dairy company Dannon over its non-GMO claims, and an *Agweek* columnist noted parallels with health claims such as "no added fats." [See more](#)
- India's National Academy of Agriculture Sciences issued a report today countering NGO misstatements about a GM mustard currently under regulatory review. The report noted that advocacy claims about foreign involvement and herbicide tolerance "willfully" distorted the facts. [See more](#)
- Commentary on a U.S. field trial of genetically modified diamondback moths continued today, with both supportive stakeholders and activists weighing in. On the Cornell Alliance for Science blog, science advocates Joan Conrow and Mark Lynas summarized the effort. In statements made to *Epoch Times*, Center for Food Safety activists warned of a lack of transparency and potential environmental impacts from the field trials. [See more](#)

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North America

News: Oregon's Capital Press reports USDA clears gene-edited variety of camelina for use without undergoing regulatory process for biotech crops, because cultivar doesn't pose plant pest risk; Center for Food Safety warns USDA didn't study cultivar's potential to cross-pollinate with conventional camelina

News: Epoch Times reports on launch GM moth field trials in upstate New York, referring to "Frankenbugs" in headline, highlights opposition from GeneWatch and Center for Food Safety, CFS criticized Oxitec for lack of transparency, and worries that some moths may survive to breed in the wild

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[More North America items](#)

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[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Indian news site highlights release of National Academy of Agriculture Sciences report refuting anti-GM activist claims critical of GM mustard as "fallacious" distortions of scientific data, notes report citing interest, value of GM technology

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Commentary: Third World Network amplifies report by GenØk-Centre for Biosafety which calls for broadening of the debate on development of cisgenic plants, praises the report for recognition of the complex socio-ecological, legal, and political dimensions of the technology

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: U.K. fashion news site reports on German organic fashion brand Cotonea's call on Global Organic Textile Standard International Working Group to investigate allegations that GOTS-certified cotton from India contains GMOs

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[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

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[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

Event: Brisbane Organic Growers Inc. announces meeting (Sept. 7) to feature Purdue University plant pathologist Don Huber; says Huber's 55 years of research has focused on effects of ag systems, notes significant environmental impacts of GE crops

[More Oceania items](#)

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 Date: Wednesday, September 6, 2017 9:01:05 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

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Today's global biotechnology developments included media and stakeholder response to a U.S. campaign criticizing "fear" focused food marketing. In India, scientists criticized advocacy groups' misleading statements on efforts to cultivate GM mustard.

- U.S. media outlets continued to respond to the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) campaign "Peel Back the Label," which targets free-from claims on food products. The group had singled out non-GMO claims in particular. *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* amplified the NMPF criticism of dairy company Dannon over its non-GMO claims, and an *Agweek* columnist noted parallels with health claims such as "no added fats." [See more](#)
- India's National Academy of Agriculture Sciences issued a report today countering NGO misstatements about a GM mustard currently under regulatory review. The report noted that advocacy claims about foreign involvement and herbicide tolerance "willfully" distorted the facts. [See more](#)
- Commentary on a U.S. field trial of genetically modified diamondback moths continued today, with both supportive stakeholders and activists weighing in. On the Cornell Alliance for Science blog, science advocates Joan Conrow and Mark Lynas summarized the effort. In statements made to *Epoch Times*, Center for Food Safety activists warned of a lack of transparency and potential environmental impacts from the field trials. [See more](#)

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Recent global biotechnology developments include news that Uruguay's capital city may revise its GMO labeling law to ensure greater visibility. In the U.S., Oxitec and Cornell University launched a field trial of genetically engineered moths.

- The municipality of Montevideo has proposed to amend its GMO labeling requirements, which came into force in 2015. Montevideo's Department of Social Development proposed to adjust its required "T" label on transgenic foods in order to make it more obvious for consumers. **See more**
- Oxitec announced that it had begun its field trial of a genetically engineered diamondback moth. The engineered insect is designed to prevent the pest species from reproducing, and it could be key to controlling the moth in areas where it has demonstrated pesticide tolerance. **See more.**
- In India, Maharashtra's state agriculture commissioner has generated controversy, stating that Bt cotton has become susceptible to pink bollworm and calling for prices on Bollgard II varieties to be regulated by the government. Barring price controls, he called for rescinding approval of the trait. **See more.**

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North America

Commentary: Mark Lynas writes for Cornell Alliance for Science blog, describing recently launched field trials of GM moths with goal of reducing the pest population, highlights Cornell entomologist Tony Shelton's vision of incorporating GE into integrated pest management systems

Commentary: Scientific American contributor highlights many advancements in biotech, pointing to approval of GE salmon, and development of nitrogen fixing cereal crops for farmers in developing countries without access to fertilizers, hopes EU will approve regulations on new breeding techniques that are favorable to science

Commentary: Marian Tupy of Cato Institute's Center for Global Liberty and Prosperity writes for Reason, criticizes Europe's anti-GMO stance, noting it hinders agricultural development in Africa which could help reduce hunger, highlights recent PLOS One study on consequences of delays in biotech crop adoption

News: Politico Pro reports major food associations pushing White House to synchronize deadlines for changes to Nutrition Facts Panel, GMO labeling requirements; groups say coordination would save manufacturers \$1.7 billion, meet administration's goal to reduce regulatory burdens

Campaign: Moms Across America urges readers to spread awareness by passing out "Roundup alternatives" flyer to neighbors, encouraging people to buy organic food

Commentary: March Against Monsanto blogger criticizes Oxitec's planned release of GM moths in New York state, highlighting funding by Bill Gates, amplifies objections raised by Northeast Organic Farming

Association of New York (NOFANY)

News: Politico Pro reports University of Florida plant sciences professor Kevin Folta files federal libel suit against The New York Times and its reporter, claiming 2015 article misrepresented his relationship with Monsanto, asserting he has never taken money from any biotech company for research or salary

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: South African news source amplifies Stanford study finding little evidence that organic foods are better for health than non-organic foods; lead researcher says the study found only scant evidence conventional foods pose greater health risks than organic though organic foods were 30 percent less likely to be contaminated by pesticides

News: TVC News Nigeria reports its correspondent, Lara Afolayan won best reporter TV Broadcast category, as well as overall best science reporter in Open Forum on Agriculture Biotechnology Awards

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on criticism of International Institute of Tropical Agriculture's (IITA) application for confined field trials of GM cassava, highlighting opposition from Health of Mother Earth Foundation, Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa and Nigerians against GMO, government noted no permits have been granted

News: Ghanaian news outlet reports on seed producers' support of GM technology, Seed Producers Association of Ghana President Patrick Osofo Apullah pointed to success of GM cowpea, which he noted boosts production and reduces hazards and financial burdens of chemical use on farmers

Commentary: Arthur Makara of Science Foundation for Livelihoods and Development writes open letter to Uganda's president in support of the Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill, voices concern about certain Cabinet Members' opposition to the bill, notes biotech will enable more sustainable production of commodities like tea

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project contributor summarizes recent biosafety forum in Kampala organized by Uganda's national council for science and technology, highlighting statements by Brazil's Paulo Paes De Andrade, who explained how scientists worked together to fight anti-GMO propaganda, calls for passage of Uganda's biosafety bill

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Indian news outlet reports on Andhra Pradesh chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's opposition to GM mustard commercialization, citing risks to human health, the environment and the economy, in recent letter to Union environment minister Harsh Vardhan

Commentary: University of Missouri professor writes for Brink News, promotes Vandana Shiva's seed bank network in India as well as Earth University, claims a second Green Revolution would be unsuccessful and push Indian farmers further into debt

Commentary: Indian news outlet contributor argues Environment Ministry is in need of stability and direction with several pending policy decisions, noting one decision facing new Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan is commercialization of GM mustard

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News release: GeneWatch UK releases new report based on Freedom of Information request information, claims Oxitec's GE mosquito has proven to be ineffective at reducing populations in the Cayman Islands, and that large numbers of biting females have been released

News: Oxford Times reports on launch of Oxitec's field trials of GE moths in upstate New York, Cornell University's Tony Shelton noted the moth will provide a new mode of action for controlling the pest without harming beneficial species

Commentary: Contributor for French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM criticizes EU's Comitology process, highlighting lack of transparency in member states' votes on GMOs, promotes draft amendments seeking to require that the Commission not adopt measures for which a favorable qualified majority cannot be reached

News release: Testbiotech criticizes European Food Safety Authority's response to its recent letter as "insufficient," reiterating claims that Monsanto secretly funded EFSA's Jose Tarazona's participation in recent conference, warns a professional investigation may be necessary to determine if any laws have been violated

News: France 3 reports on upcoming criminal court appearance of 14 Volunteer Reapers charged with destroying test plots of herbicide-tolerant oilseed rape produced via mutagenesis, following complaint by Dijon - Céréales Cooperative, which will submit a letter to the public prosecutor requesting appearance of all 67 reapers involved

Commentary: Editor of French corporate social responsibility site amplifies two studies, one published in Geographical Review and the other by University of California, which argue that GM crops are unsuitable for climate change, argues GM crops can only thrive in ideal conditions, promotes agroecology

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Uruguayan news outlet reports on Department of Social Development of the Municipality of Montevideo's proposal to amend legislation on GMO labeling, to require labeling of products containing more than one percent of GM material

News: Uruguayan news source reports draft decree by city government in capital of Montevideo will require special labels for foods that contain more than 1 percent of genetically modified material; work underway on design for label symbol for foods containing GMOs

News: Uruguayan news outlet reports on Intendencia of Montevideo's (IMM) plans to change requirements for labeling of transgenic products, making the "T" black in color to improve visibility for consumers

News release: Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation announces partnership with industry groups to develop transgenic cotton resistant to cotton boll weevil, has been working to introduce Bt genes to cotton plants in hopes of having seed of cotton resistant to boll weevil available to producers in 10 years

Commentary: Silvia Ribeiro of ETC Group writes for Mexican news outlet, emphasizes importance of protecting Mexican maize varieties from contamination by transgenic maize, criticizes industry for not wanting Mexican courts to listen to independent experts, and for seeking a lift of the suspension

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News: Australian Broadcasting Corporation reports on Palisa Anderson's organic Thai vegetable farm, she laments Thailand's lifting of the GMO bill, noting many vegetables there are "tainted," making it difficult to find non-GMO vegetables

[More Oceania items](#)

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From: Jay Byrne
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 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Sept. 4, 2017
 Date: Monday, September 4, 2017 9:17:15 PM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

This week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter features a series of articles that aim to clear up misinformation on food and agriculture issues: a trend toward confusing and misleading food labels, misperceptions about the safety and superiority of organic farming and oft-cited false information about the state of the world's bee population.

There's also information about Golden Rice field trials in the Philippines, Uganda's effort to pass a biosafety bill and scientists' views on the safety of glyphosate - even as France announced it could vote against reauthorization of the herbicide.

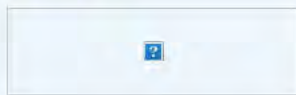
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In This Issue

[Stakeholder Spotlight](#)
[Stories Worth Sharing](#)
[What's Trending?](#)
[Calendar highlights](#)

Stakeholder Spotlight: Regeneration Vermont



Created two years ago by Food & Water Watch and the Organic Consumers Association, Regeneration Vermont has recently become active in a prominent [campaign against Ben & Jerry's](#).

The NGO has helped organize local protests raising concern about minute levels of glyphosate found in Organic Consumers Association testing of Ben & Jerry's ice cream products,

Stories Worth Sharing

[Jon Entine and Andrew Porterfield: Industry GMO research validated by university- and government-funded studies with same findings](#)

[Howard Minigh: Neonic regulations should be based on "real-world science," particularly as bee population keeps rising](#)

[Josh Bloom: Study linking organic farm chemical to asthma should eliminate misconceptions about organic farming](#)

[Isaac Ongu: "Poor pay the price" for delays in passing Uganda biosafety bill](#)

[Brandon McFadden: "Gluten-free" water the latest example of absurdity in labeling what isn't in food products](#)

[Steven Novella: Greenpeace, other NGOs to blame for misinforming public on genetically modified foods](#)

[Richard Starr: French government's lists of endocrine-disrupting chemicals lack credibility, mislead public](#)

[Tim Durham: Labels fool consumers as "implied benefits" of organic foods are actually non-existent](#)

[New Zealand EPA chief scientist: No credible risk of glyphosate causing cancer](#)

attempting to pressure the company into adopting fully organic practices.

Learn more about Regeneration Vermont by clicking [HERE](#).

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University of Guelph professor: Reviews by Health Canada, other regulators show 40-year safety record 

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What's Trending?

Field trials on Golden Rice to move forward in Philippines

National Milk Producers Federation "Peel Back the Label" campaign seeks to expose deceptive food labeling

Dozens of Democrats demand assurances from U.S. EPA that independent science will be considered in review of neonics

France threatens to vote against EU reauthorization of glyphosate

NGO Food & Water Watch sues U.S. Department of Agriculture in bid to block funding of Maryland farm it accuses of causing water pollution

Calendar highlights

September 4-6	September 4-8	September 4-15
International Organisation for Biological and Integrated Control working group "'GMOs in integrated plant production"	African Green Revolution Forum	Conference of the Parties: Thirteenth Session (China)
September 5-6	September 5-7	September 5-8
British Science Festival, including presentations on neonics and bees	European Organic Congress (Estonia)	Western Apicultural Society annual conference (California)

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

<p>Stakeholder database</p> <p>More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate</p>	<p>Monitoring portal</p> <p>Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.</p>	<p>Bonus Eventus community</p> <p>Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.</p>
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Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included a South Korean government agency saying it would stop attempting to commercialize GM crops as part of an agreement with civic groups. GE salmon developer AquaBounty is monitoring the Center for Food Safety's lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Agriculture regarding electronic coding in lieu of GMO labels.

- South Korea's Rural Development Agency announced that after months of meetings with regional civic groups, it would halt efforts to commercialize GM food. As part of the agreement, the RDA also will close its National Center for GM Crops. **See more.**
- Seafood industry news site *Undercurrent News* reported AquaBounty is keeping a close eye on the Center for Food Safety's lawsuit against the USDA for failing to meet a deadline for a study on QR code use to disclose GM ingredients in food. The Grocery Manufacturers Association also argued that labeling should apply to refined oil and sweeteners to ensure transparency. **See more.**

Due to the Labor Day holiday, your next Global Biotech Snapshot will be sent on Tuesday, Sept. 5. Please check the monitoring portal for updates in the meantime.

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North America

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Jon Entine and Andrew Porterfield examine whether industry funding of research produces biased findings; anti-GMO activists dismiss research supporting GMO safety consensus over funding, relationship with corporation, but organic food industry funds research by Benbrook, Seralini

News: The Washington Post reports FDA still has given no guidance on definition of "natural" in food labeling, prompting lawsuits from consumers, including one against dairy giant Sargento because its "natural" cheeses come from cows given GM feed; plaintiff argues products made from their milk can't be labeled "natural"

News: Food Navigator reports NMPF campaign alerts consumers to deceptive marketing; Dannon, Dean Foods say they are meeting consumer demand with non-GMO commitments and labeling; NMPF president responds we should "address fears, not perpetuate them"

Commentary: Mississippi newspaper runs op-ed by guest columnist blaming lack of GMO labeling for problem of obesity among state's African-American population, equating processed foods with added preservatives to GMOs

Commentary: Techdirt contributor amplifies recent Mother Jones article on biotech industry efforts to pass "ag-gag" seed-preemption laws to prevent cities and counties from restricting GMOs, argues that biotech companies don't really care about farmers

Commentary: Collective Evolution writer argues Monsanto-Bayer merger includes plan to take over cannabis industry by buying out producers, criticizes Monsanto for developing GMOs, warns combined company could create monopoly on marijuana seeds

Commentary: In second part of 2-part series, Rabble blogger suggests ways to fight "corporate propaganda," says most Canadians oppose GMOs but supermarket shelves stocked with GM food, claims corporations induce scientists to support their viewpoints

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Daily Nation reports scientists call on Kenyan government to allow farmers to grow GM maize, argue delay in approval costing country billions, causing hardship for farmers as conventional maize crops ruined by drought, diseases, pests such as corn borer and fall army worm

Campaign: African Centre for Biodiversity writes open letter questioning secrecy surrounding Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) project, calling on governments of Kenya, Uganda, South Africa, Tanzania and Mozambique to answer specific questions, claims WEMA's real goal is to facilitate spread of GM maize

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

Commentary: Pakistani news outlet contributor examines potential solutions to the country's diminishing ag economy, points to success of GM crops in China, India and Bangladesh, laments that GM technology in Pakistan is limited to only cotton

News: Times of India reports on reassignment of Maharashtra state Ag Commissioner Sunil Kendrekar after only three months, likely due to his implementation of policies unfavorable to seed and fertilizer lobbies, such as his ban of Bt cotton, which he claims no longer effectively controls pink bollworm

Commentary: Indian news outlet contributor criticizes parliamentary panel's continued questioning of GMO safety and demands for more study, detailing extensive research showing safety of Bt cotton, argues they cannot distinguish facts from alternative facts

News: Brazil-based edition of Le Monde Diplomatique reports NGOs attempt to keep major seed manufacturers from bringing GM seed to Africa, notes NGOs accuse companies of "ecological crime"

News: Filipino food news site reports Agriculture Department sets rules for GM research, says it ensures safety in Golden Rice and other GM crop development -

News: The Manila Times reports IRRI developing rice resistant to climate-change, readies for human testing on Golden Rice, asks Philippines to invest in science education

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: Feed Navigator reports European Food Safety Authority is unable to conclude safety of feed material produced by fermentation with E. coli, for certain animals and for meat consumers

News: Sputnik reports on American science writer Jon Cohen's take on CRISPR developments, he highlights several potential applications in medicine, but voices concern about potential off-target effects, points to debate over how the technology should be regulated

Commentary: French NGO Inf'OGM criticizes "biased" parliamentary office's report recommending decision making regarding biotechnology be based upon scientific knowledge rather than opinion, and based upon national academies' recommendations

Commentary: French news site says there is no way to assess the dangers presented by GE salmon that is allowed on the market in Canada, says industry refuses to release data so it's impossible to assess possible health, environmental impacts

News: Polish GMO blogger promotes book on GM food that questions if GMOs are as bad as some politicians and celebrities claim; notes Kenya approves trials for GM maize, cotton; reports India will not rush GM mustard commercialization

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Commentary: Bolivian news outlet contributor amplifies activist Silvia Ribeiro's claims about dangers of glyphosate use on GM crops, pointing to litigation against Monsanto in the US over allegations that it causes cancer

Commentary: Mexican organic NGO profiles seed bank and agroecological cooperative that seek to preserve country's traditional seeds to preserve food independence

Video: Argentinian NGO posts interview on YouTube with ETC Group's Silvia Ribeiro about new gene editing techniques; Ribeiro warns potential damage evident "not only in natural and agricultural ecosystems, but also its potential use as a weapon of war"

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

Commentary: Care2 contributor cites new study showing Australians feel more confident, knowledgeable in science than ever before, notes less than half of Australians feel safe eating GM food but admits no scientific basis for belief GMO food unsafe for consumption

News: Australian business news site reports growing national demand and export market means organic producers cannot keep up with demand; notes health is biggest reason consumers buy organic food, but "science is out on whether going organic makes any difference"

[More Oceania items](#)

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 Date: Thursday, August 31, 2017 9:05:23 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included notable coverage of a Bogota, Colombia, screening of the science documentary "Food Evolution." In the U.S., a dairy industry group called for grocery makers to stop using "deceptive" front-of-package labeling claims.

- The debut of "Food Evolution" in Bogota generated coverage and response in Colombia news outlets. An *Agencia EFE* report on the film's opening featured comments from representatives of Agro-Bio and highlighted an expert panel scheduled for after the screening. The news outlet also interviewed U.S. plant researcher Kevin Folta, one of the panelists. **See more**
- The National Milk Producers Federation launched a new campaign criticizing food manufacturers' use of fear-based front-of-package labeling claims. The group highlighted the use of "non-GMO" labeling claims as an example of the "deceptive" practice. **See more.**

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North America

News release: National Milk Producers Federation launches "Peel Back the Label," new campaign to expose deceptive front-of-package food labeling, highlight need for responsible food marketing, focusing on fear-based marketing claims about GMOs, including "GMO-free"

News: Agweek reports dairy farmers launch campaign against deceptive, fear-based food labeling practices

News: Food Navigator reports, despite lawsuit claims, USDA still studying feasibility of using QR codes to disclose GM ingredients, agency suggests QR codes will not harm consumers' ability to identify GM food

Commentary: U.S. Right to Know profiles pro-GMO writer Kavin Senapathy, discusses why Forbes deleted articles she co-wrote with Henry Miller, links her to Genetic Literacy Project, which it calls "agricultural industry front group" and notes her work with March Against Myths of Modification

Campaign: Organic Consumers Association issues email blast asking supporters to post on Twitter urging late-night TV hosts Stephen Colbert and Jimmy Fallon to end support for Ben & Jerry's ice cream; calls on Ben & Jerry's to commit to 100 percent organic supply chain

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Xinhua reports Kenyan farmers hoping biotech cotton can revive sector that has seen decline in production because of uncontrolled African bollworm problem; government and Monsanto developing GM cotton variety resistant to the pest, but Kenya will have to lift ban on GMOs before farmers can

cultivate it

News: Zimbabwe news source reports keynote speaker at recent scientific meeting sparks fresh debate on GMOs by openly claiming they are safe for human consumption; biochemist Christopher Chetsanga counters claims anti-GMO health claims, but government minister defends Zimbabwe's anti-GMO policies

News: Namibian Economist reports National Commission on Research, Science and Technology establishing Biotechnology and Genetically Modified Organism testing laboratory to facilitate full implementation of nation's Biosafety Framework; labs will provide testing services for GMOs

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Isaac Ongu emphasizes importance of passing Uganda's biosafety bill, noting farmers are being denied access to pest-resistant maize technology that could save crops from fall armyworm attack, highlights points of agreement between anti-GMO activists and GMO proponents regarding the bill

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Mint reports Indian farmers claim superior yields by growing traditional mustard varieties using new method of cultivation known as system of mustard intensification; Indian officials still considering whether to allow transgenic technology to improve mustard yields, would become nation's first transgenic food crop

Commentary: Indian environmental news outlet contributor highlights decline in India's biodiversity and challenges in protecting it, criticizes recent Economic Survey's support of GMOs to boost food production, arguing they are not serious about conserving biodiversity

News: Vietnamese news site reports Ministry of Finance announces reduction in fees for appraising GMO biosafety certification

News: Filipino food news site reports IRRI research finds Golden Rice is as safe and nutritious as conventional rice, but has added beta carotene to fight malnutrition

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: Times Higher Education reports on its recent survey, in which Nobel Laureates warned against rise of populism and political polarization as major threats to science, one laureate noted "blatant disregard for scientific opinion" on use of GM crops to feed the hungry was "disgusting"

News: Belgian news outlet reports on concerns surrounding mega agribusiness mergers, with focus on Bayer-Monsanto deal, highlights opposition in the US and from African Centre for Biodiversity, as well as competition concerns in Europe

News: Swiss NGO reports Bayer-Monsanto acquisition likely will not be completed in 2017 as EU Commission announces plans for further investigation

Commentary: GMWatch amplifies Potato Business article on company developing non-GMO blight-resistant potatoes, says "conventional breeding has outstripped GM"

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Agencia EFE reports on Kevin Folta's recent presentation at a screening of Food Evolution in Bogota, where he noted legislation and consumer acceptance are the greatest challenges in bringing biotech crops to farmers, he pointed out environmental benefits, and noted they are safe for humans

Commentary: Colombian news outlet contributor examines GMO debate, highlights critical stance presented in Netflix's "Okja," as well as arguments presented in "Food Evolution," points to scientific consensus on GMO safety, notes that for future applications, "our imagination is the limit"

News: Agencia EFE reports on upcoming screening of Food Evolution documentary in Bogota, Colombia, Agricultural Biotechnology Association (Agro-Bio) noted the film addresses the controversy surrounding GMOs, which is frequently fueled by fear, an expert panel will follow the screening, including Kevin Folta

Commentary: Brazilian anti-capitalist news outlet criticizes "illegitimate government" of Michel Temer for seeking to end GMO labeling requirements, promotes #DeOlhoNoT Twitter campaign against the measure, amplifies recent statements from Greenpeace and Consumer Defense Institute (IDEC)

Campaign: Greenpeace Brazil urges supporters to join its #DeOlhoNoT Twitter campaign in opposition to a provisional measure that would eliminate mandatory GMO labeling, echos Consumer Protection Institute's (IDEC) statement that such a move would be a setback for consumer rights

News: Argentine news site reports Agroindustry Ministry meets with industry officials to discuss changes to regulatory framework governing cotton seed

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

[More Oceania items](#)

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included news that the Philippine Department of Agriculture had approved a field trial for Golden Rice. In Brazil, a consumer advocacy group launched a Twitter campaign to protest a draft law that would adjust the country's requirements for GMO labeling.

- News outlets in the Philippines announced that the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) would begin field trials of a beta carotene-enriched Golden Rice. In discussing the trials, PhilRice leaders noted that the field trials would demonstrate the environmental safety of the crop. **See more.**
- In Brazil, the Instituto Brasileiro de Defesa do Consumidor (IDEC) launched a Twitter campaign along with Greenpeace and other NGOs. Under the #DeOlhoNoT campaign, the groups urged the government not to loosen GMO labeling regulations in the country. **See more.**
- U.S. news outlets and activists continued to respond to the recent close of a comment period on GMO labeling. Agriculture news outlets amplified a Center for Food Safety lawsuit calling for the release of a required survey on digital GMO ingredient disclosures. The American Farm Bureau Federation released the comments it had submitted on the proposed labeling law. **See more.**

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North America

News: Agri-Pulse reports on stakeholders' responses to questions on GMO labeling by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, highlighting some areas of agreement between Grocery Manufacturers Association and Organic Trade Association

Commentary: Food Dive contributor examines Center for Food Safety's lawsuit against USDA for failing to release study on electronic disclosure methods for GMO labeling, believes the study is an important milestone for the federal GMO labeling law, arguing it is just as vital to those who support use of QR codes

Interview: Sustainable Brands talks to USFRA's Randy Krotz about need to use technology in food production; he says farmers who don't use GMOs see impacts on sustainability, including more tillage that causes loss of soil, more cultivation and herbicide applications to control weeds, more use of insecticides

Audio: American Farm Bureau Federation submits comments to USDA with recommendations for its GMO labeling standard, AFBF congressional relations director Andrew Walmsley emphasized importance of not confusing consumers about safety of biotech crops, noting the labeling is purely a marketing standard

News release: Cornucopia Institute announces release of its short video, "Sick Cows/Sick People-The Grassfed Antidote," encouraging viewers to seek out USDA organic and 100% grass-fed labeled beef,

noting it will be free from GMOs, pesticides, hormones and antibiotics

News: St. Louis Public Radio reports new political lobby group formed to oppose big agriculture in Missouri; issues include water pollution, restricting CAFOs and opposition to Bayer-Monsanto merger

[More North America items](#)

Africa

Commentary: African Agricultural Technology Foundation blogger recounts recent conversation with former president of Africa Cotton Producers Association (APROCA), Francois Traore, who explains why farmers in Burkina Faso wish they could return to Bt cotton, highlighting yield advantages

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science fellow Nkechi Isaac examines potential food shortages in Nigeria if fall armyworm pest is left unchecked, highlights Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology (OFAB), Nigeria Chapter coordinator Rose Gidado's statement that adopting biotech maize varieties will provide a lasting solution

News: Tanzanian news source reports International Institute for Tropical Agriculture says scientists identify first genetic markers associated with resistance to Cassava Brown Streak Disease and Cassava Mosaic Disease in Namikonga and Albert varieties of cassava; markers may assist in pre-emptive breeding

Commentary: NewsDay Zimbabwe runs op-ed by retired president of International Fund for Agricultural Development who argues smallholder farms, not industries that extract minerals, will fuel Africa's economic growth, promotes African Green Revolution Forum to be held Sept. 4 through 8 in Cote d'Ivoire

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Filipino radio station reports Golden Rice has potential to help fight vitamin A deficiency that affects millions in nation, can cause weakening of immune system, blurred vision, blindness, death

News release: Philippine Rice Research Institute promotes science behind Golden Rice research, says GM grain aims to help millions of children, pregnant and nursing mothers suffering from vitamin A deficiency, asserts Golden Rice no different from ordinary rice aside from beta carotene that provides vitamin A

News: The Philippines' BusinessWorld reports PhilRice touting field trials for GM Golden Rice will show benefits of delivering vitamin A through staple grain being developed as potential solution to address vitamin A deficiency; health and environmental groups cite uncertainty of releasing GM products into field

News: ISAAA Crop Biotech Update reports Myanmar's permanent secretary for Ministry of Agriculture calls for biotech crop regulation to be based on sound science, highlights how introduction of biotech cotton to Myanmar benefited resource-poor cotton farmers

Commentary: Pakistan news outlet contributor calls for shift toward organic, conservational ag practices to meet the country's growing food needs, pointing to health risks of GMOs and associated pesticides

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Commentary: German anti-GMO organization VLOG reports on Brazil's development of GM sugarcane, highlights potential contamination of conventional cane sugar during processing

Commentary: Editor of Irish farming news site considers debate over whether Ireland should go GMO-

free, says it's about consumer demand and whether it's viable for Irish farmers to meet that demand, concludes it could be significant opportunity for livestock and tillage farmers, government must ensure they benefit from going GM-free

News: French news outlet reports on group of Volunteer Reapers gathered in support of Martine Pivart and Marie Nicolas, summoned before gendarmerie of Quimper for participating in vandalizing GM soybeans imported from South America, the two refused to respond to the gendarmes or to give DNA samples

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Brazilian news outlet reports on Brazilian Institute of Consumer Protection's (Idec) twitter campaign, in partnership with Greenpeace and other groups, aimed at convincing President Michel Temer not to sign a decree to remove mandatory GMO labeling, over 94,000 signatures have been collecting in support of keeping the label

News: Brazilian news outlet reports on twitter campaign promoted by Brazilian Institute of Consumer Protection (Idec), in partnership with Greenpeace and other organizations, urging supporters to tweet using hashtag #DeOlhoNoT to ask President Michel Temer not to sign a decree to remove mandatory GMO labeling

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Campeche Secretary of Rural Development, Armando Toledo Jamit's recent statement that Mennonites are not planting GM soybeans, noting allegations brought by Yucatan's Secretary of Urban Development and Environment must be supported by documents and names

News: Argentinian news outlet reports on President Mauricio Macri's agreement for regulation of the Biotech Law, adding tax benefits for companies, Production Minister Francisco Cabrera noted biotech impacts the agricultural, food, pharmaceutical and productivity sectors

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: Agricultural Biotechnology Council of Australia (ABCA) announces launch of third edition of "The Official Australian Reference Guide to Agricultural Biotechnology and GM Crops" at recent AusBiotech AusAg & Foodtech Summit

More Oceania items

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 Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 9:03:00 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

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Today's global biotechnology developments included new media coverage of a Nigerian activist campaign criticizing GM cassava, as well as commentary on a U.S. federal GM labeling law.

- Nigerian news outlets *Vanguard* and *The Guardian* reported on an NGO campaign launched by the Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) and others who criticized the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture over its application to field trial a GM cassava variety. The activists warned that corporations planned to take "total control" over Nigeria's agriculture. [See more](#)
- Media outlets continued to review the status of the U.S. government's GM labeling guidelines, including an activist lawsuit claiming that the rule-making procedures for the law had been violated. *Food Dive*, reporting on New York's delay of a calorie labeling law, indicated that states were considering whether to move forward on laws such as the Vermont GM labeling law in the absence of federal activity. *Food Navigator* summarized industry responses to a U.S. Department of Agriculture request for comment on the law. [See more](#)

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North America

[News: Law360 reports on Center for Food Safety's lawsuit against USDA for failing to publicly release a study on digital disclosure options for GM foods, which will likely delay implementation of the 2016 GMO labeling law](#)

[News: Food Dive reports New York officials agree to delay city's menu labeling law for restaurants and food retailers until May 2018; if USDA misses deadline on GMO labeling law by July 2018, Vermont and other jurisdictions may start enforcing own laws but could face pushback from U.S. Justice Department](#)

[News: Food & Wine magazine reports on development of GM moths to help save cabbage and other crops threatened by diamondback moths, University of Georgia vegetable entomologist David Riley explains that they have to deal with the pest year-round, and that they become resistant to insecticides](#)

[Commentary: ACSH's Hank Campbell discusses advent of GMO insulin in 1970s, notes controversy regarding its development, introduction of Humulin in 1982, suggests activists promoted belief that the research was risky; compares to GM food debates today](#)

[Commentary: On his NeuroLogica Blog, Dr. Steven Novella discusses problem of misinformation among public about GMOs, blaming 20-year anti-GMO campaign by organic food lobby and Greenpeace for creating largest gap \(51 percent\) of any topic covered between what scientists and public believe about GMOs](#)

[Commentary: The Conversation runs piece by University of Florida food economics professor using example of "gluten-free" water to show absurdity of trend in labeling products to indicate what's absent from them, predicting new federal GMO labeling law taking effect in 2018 will signal to consumers that bio-engineered foods are bad](#)

[More North America items](#)

Africa

Video: KTN News Kenya posts YouTube video from site of GM maize field trials, with officials saying the GM maize achieved yields about 40 percent higher than conventional maize while demonstrating resistance to insect pests, including armyworms

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on allegations by coalition of 87 groups, including Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF), Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) and Nigerians against GMOs, that International Institute of Tropical Agriculture seeks to push GM cassava on the Nigerian market, threatening agriculture and food safety

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Philippine Daily Inquirer reports on Philippine Rice Research Institute's (PhilRice) application for field trial and biosafety permit for food, feed and processing of golden rice, following recent confined field trial confirming its safety, government assured consumers that it will be similarly priced as ordinary rice

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News release: UN's FAO promotes partnership with African Orphan Crops Consortium to sequence genomes of 101 under-utilized African crops, make information public, train African plant scientists to improve nutritional value and yields of those crops, as well as make them better able to withstand effects of climate change

Commentary: CEO of Italian agro-food multinational, Sipcarn-Oxon, Giovanni Affaba, examines financial trends in ag commodities, points to paradox in Europe's prohibition of GM crop cultivation while importing GM feed from elsewhere, opposes large agribusiness mergers, believes seed and chemical sectors should be kept separate

Campaign: La Via Campesina and GRAIN translate April 2015 infographic into Vietnamese urging farmers to fight seed laws, "join forces with other farmers" and "build alliances with other movements"

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Argentinian news outlet reports on National Council for Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET) scientists' recent progress in developing a disease-resistant potato variety, study director Rita María Ulloa noted environmental benefit of reduced fungicide use

News: Argentinian news outlet reports on CEMA University's recent workshop on potential and challenges facing Argentina's seed industry, Daniel Lema explained how genetics contribute to Total Factor Productivity (TFP), in which production increases over use of conventional inputs, Miguel Rapela discussed advances in CRISPR

News: Brazilian news source reports Parana indigenous community creates agroecological system of 600 hectares that's 100 percent free of transgenics, pesticides, seen as area of resistance in region characterized by monoculture farming; Creole Seed and Native Seed Trade Fair aims to recover traditional seeds sacred to Guarani people

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

[More Oceania items](#)

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 Date: Monday, August 28, 2017 9:04:25 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included a U.S. activist group filing a lawsuit demanding the federal government proceed with a rule-making process on GM food labeling. India's Niti Aayog report outlining an agricultural development road map prompted discussion on the country's experience with GM crops.

- Center for Food Safety announced that it was suing the Trump administration for ignoring the rule-making process required in order to implement a federal GM labeling standard. Specifically, the group claims that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has ignored a Congressional mandate to obtain public comments on a proposed digital labeling scheme. **See more**
- Indian activists criticized the recent Niti Aayog economic survey, which outlined the country's agricultural agenda for the next three years. *Down to Earth* magazine claimed that the report overstated Indian farmers' enthusiasm for Bt cotton and pointed to recent problems with pink bollworm attacks. *Mint* reported that a parliamentary panel asked the environment ministry to assess whether Bt cotton had been an economic success in the region. **See more**
- *Agence France-Presse* and other French media outlets previewed the Aug. 30 premiere of "Histoires de la plaine," a new documentary claiming that agricultural pesticides and GM seeds damaged the livelihoods and health of rural village residents. **See more**

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North America

News release: Center for Food Safety files lawsuit against Trump administration for failing to complete mandated study on "electronic and digital disclosures," such as QR codes, for GM foods, which USDA was required to complete with a public comment period by July 2017, reiterates opposition to electronic labeling

Commentary: Professor and Director of Food Studies Initiatives at The New School, Fabio Parasecoli, writes for Huffington Post, amplifies S. Margot Finn's new book on class anxiety and America's food revolution, highlights her argument that ideologies against GMOs and pesticides tend to be held by the "liberal elite"

News: Business Insider reports Glowing Plant Kickstarter campaign raised nearly \$500,000 to create GE glow-in-the-dark plant, quotes CEO of Taxa Biotechnologies, which was behind effort, saying idea too ambitious for what's currently possible with synthetic biology; GM scented moss developed from effort now on market

News: Portland Press Herald reports proposed introduction of GE chestnut tree to replace North American species devastated by chestnut blight may cause controversy, still must be approved by USDA, EPA, FDA; supporters say they must prove wheat gene engineered into tree has no unintended consequences

More North America items

Africa

Video: ISAAA's AfriCenter posts YouTube video showing Kenyan farmers visiting a GMO maize crops field site for the first time; farmer interviewed says seeing the GMO maize make him wish government would help farmers by lifting its ban on GMO crops so they can benefit from technology

Letter to the editor: Times of Swaziland runs letter from agriculture consultant rebutting its article about "dangers" of proposed GMO cotton, saying most arguments against GM technology misleading or false, arguing GM deployed to save costs, not to increase yields dramatically

News: Zimbabwe's Daily News reports scientist says government's anti-GMO policy lacks scientific basis, is erroneous; he urges government to embrace GM crops, as South Africa and Botswana have done, to improve harvests, reduce crop production costs, but agriculture minister insists government's position against GMOs clear

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on recent statement by Health of Mother Earth Foundation and 87 other civil society groups in opposition to Institute for Tropical Agriculture's (IITA) application for field trials of a GM cassava variety, HOMEF Director Ninmmo Basseyy claimed it would endanger Nigerian agriculture

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Indian textile industry news outlet reports on recent report by parliamentary panel accusing government agencies of portraying "a rosy picture" of Bt cotton's performance, and arguing that claims about increased yield need further examination

News: Indian news outlet reports on parliamentary panel's request that Environment Ministry conduct a study on whether or not Bt cotton is a success, amid debate on allowing GM crop commercialization, the panel believes government data tries to "portray a rosy picture" about Bt cotton production

News: Indian environmental news outlet reports on NITI Aayog's three-year action plan for agriculture, their report argues that Indian farmers have "enthusiastically embraced" GM seeds, while agricultural experts argue farmers are rejecting Bt cotton due to insect resistance

Report: Third World Network report examines potential impact of developments in gene sequencing and synthetic biology on biopiracy, hopes that rich countries will not derail discussion on ensuring that synbio will not undermine 25 years of efforts to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity's access and benefit-sharing provisions

News: Korea JoongAng Daily reports public calling for stricter regulation of GM products among reports many ramen products made with GM ingredients; government concludes ingredients passed inspection, safe to use, but opponents cite possible side effects, call for stricter labeling rules

News: Chinese news outlet reports Tianjin authorities sent back over 350 tons of GM alfalfa from the US, due to a non-GMO customs declaration, commercialized GM alfalfa planting is not yet authorized in China

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: France's Midi Libre reports news release from anti-GMO Reapers group that uprooted sunflower seedlings in field trial in Belarga commune; group calls on EU to end French exception allowing plants derived from new mutagenesis technique to avoid regulation

Commentary: French news outlet contributor writes positive review of "Stories of the Plain" documentary by Christine Seghezzi, which depicts devastation of an Argentinian village allegedly caused

by use of GM soybeans and associated pesticides

News: French news outlet reports on AquaBounty's GE salmon, highlighting its parent company Intrexon

Commentary: GMWatch's Claire Robinson responds to recent blog post accusing the NGO of siding with industry on animal testing, argues that biotech and pesticide companies like Monsanto seek to prevent animal testing of their products, notes that while animal testing is not ideal, it can be a buffer "between us and a slow-poisoning catastrophe"

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News release: Brazilian Senate announces rejection of proposal to increase social controls over transgenics by Commission on Science, Technology, Innovation, Communication and Information Technology (CCT), on the grounds that it removes autonomy from National Technical Biosafety Commission (CTNBio)

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Los Chenes Collective attorney Jorge Fernández's accusations that entrepreneurs and Mennonites are continuing to illegally plant GM soybeans and devastate forests, arguing that no one wants to stop them, claiming consultation process with Mayan communities is a "mere simulation"

Commentary: Paraguayan news outlet contributor summarizes first part of "GMOs Revealed" documentary series, highlights claims about weed resistance and negative health effects of glyphosate, as well as criticism of industry ties to US government regulatory agencies

News: Paraguay's Ultima Hora reports 70 technicians from Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock take part in training and updating session on technologies for cotton production, including management of GMO cultivation

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News release: GE-Free New Zealand praises growing political consensus against open release of GMOs in the country, highlighting findings of Science Media Centre's 2017 survey on political party views on GMOs

News: Huffington Post Australia reports on results of Australian National University's "Australian Beliefs and Attitudes Towards Science Survey," which found that nearly two thirds of respondents believe that produce treated with pesticides is unsafe, but were less concerned about GMOs

[More Oceania items](#)

More Bonus Eventus Resources

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More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

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From: [Jay Byrne](#)
 To: [Wray-Cohen, Diane - FAS](#)
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Aug. 28, 2017
 Date: Monday, August 28, 2017 4 02:42 PM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

JoAnn Allumbaugh boiled down the Organic Consumers Association's latest attack on glyphosate to its essence: "Eat This and Die." In her piece for the Pork Network, Allumbaugh explains the well-worn scare-mongering tactic and urges readers not to buy into the alarmist headlines it brings. Our stakeholder profile for the week explores a similar tactic by the marketing group Only Organic, which is attempting to scare up business by convincing parents their children's school lunches are dangerous if they aren't organic.

Other pieces on this week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter respond to the "GMOs Revealed" video series, explore new research on neonicotinoids and describe how biotechnology could engineer a response to armyworm issues in Africa.

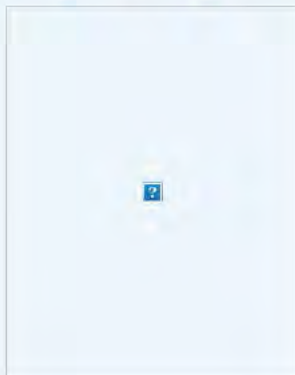
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Please [contact us](#) if you have any questions.

In This Issue

[Stakeholder Spotlight](#)
[Stories Worth Sharing](#)
[What's Trending?](#)
[Calendar highlights](#)

Stakeholder Spotlight: Gary Hirshberg



It's back to school season and marketers, like Gary Hirshberg, are back sending messages to parents about the foods that should be in their children's lunches.

Stories Worth Sharing

[JoAnn Allumbaugh: Reject "Eat This and Die" scare tactics like anti-glyphosate campaign against Ben & Jerry's](#)

[Utah Public Radio highlights Kevin Folta-led effort to build consumer trust through better science communication](#)

[Tim Barker: "GMOs Revealed" web series features arguments from anti-GMO's fringe elements](#)

[Tom Allen-Stevens: Farmers should "stick up for" neonics amid promotion of study that discounted favorable and neutral findings](#)

[Angela Logomasini: New York Times' attempt at exposé on U.S. chlorpyrifos regulation only exposed "foolish reporting"](#)

[Richard Morrison: "Food Evolution" documentary shows the "very real problems" GM crops are helping to solve](#)

[University of Sussex researchers find foraging resources from neonic-treated oilseed rape "potentially offset" impact of pesticides](#)


[Alex Berezow: No conspiracy to debunking of endocrine disruptor research – it just was "not very well done"](#)

[Isaac Ongu: Re-emergence of fall armyworms underscores "critical need" for African countries to adopt GM crops](#)

This week, the message from the Hirshberg-led lobby group Only Organic was conventional foods may result in lower IQs and other serious health risks for children.

Learn more about Stonyfield Organic CEO Gary Hirshberg [HERE](#).

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Swiss Federal Institute of Technology study demonstrates possibility of combining essential micronutrients into rice plant to address hunger 

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

NGO Global 2000 issues update on tests finding glyphosate in popular German and Austrian beers

European Commission starts in-depth investigation into Bayer's proposed purchase of Monsanto; ruling expected by Jan. 8

Judge considers removing plaintiffs' attorneys from glyphosate case after they released classified Monsanto documents

U.S. EPA schedules series of 10 conference calls to gather input on rewrite of Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule

Calendar highlights

August 31 - September 1	September 4-8	September 4-15
EU SynBioS Symposium: Engineering Biology for a Better Future	African Green Revolution Forum	Conference of the Parties: Thirteenth Session (China)

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

<p>Stakeholder database</p> <p>More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate</p>	<p>Monitoring portal</p> <p>Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.</p>	<p>Bonus Eventus community</p> <p>Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.</p>
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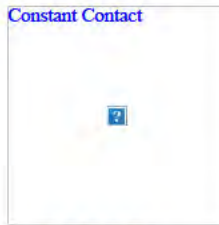
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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included an Indian parliamentary panel asking the environment ministry to delay the introduction of GM mustard.

- Media reported an Indian parliamentary panel criticized the environment ministry's assessment process for GMOs, calling it susceptible to manipulation. The panel also called on the ministry not to introduce GM mustard until it evaluates the crop's impacts on the environment human health. [See more](#)
- Nigerian NGO Health of Mother Earth Foundation and other groups urged the Nigerian government to reject field trials for GM cassava, claiming it will be the end of food safety in the country. A HOMEF news release also said the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa, a pan-African civil society platform, asked the government to ban Monsanto's "second-generation gene-silencing genetically modified (GM) maize." [See more](#)

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, [click here](#).

North America

[Commentary: Michigan State University researchers write for The Conversation, say Americans disconnected from farms find biotech food confusing, even wealthier consumers not sure whom to believe in GM crop debates](#)

[Commentary: Alternet contributor accuses Cornell University of acting like a PR firm for GMOs, pesticides and junk food, pointing to professors that have authored pro-GMO papers, and claiming Cornell Alliance for Science is a "PR front for the agrichemical industry"](#)

[Commentary: Charles Benbrook blog amplifies William Moseley's agroecology comments, says GMOs will never promote global food security because they are not made for poor farmers around the world](#)

[Commentary: Libertarian think tank blogger praises "Food Evolution" documentary, notes NGO's long history of standing up for "unfairly maligned" techniques of recombinant DNA engineering, scientists who practice it, cites millions fed with GM crops worldwide, calls for more informed discussion of kind spurred by film](#)

[More North America items](#)

Africa

[News release: Health of Mother Earth Foundation urges government to reject field trial application for GM cassava, claims it will harm human health, calls for banning Monsanto's second-generation, gene-edited maize](#)

[News: Xinhua reports researcher for Water Efficient Maize for Africa Kenya claims biotech maize resistant to stem borer could enhance yields, boost country's food security; experiments on Bt maize ongoing at Kenya Livestock and Agriculture Research Organization site in Kiboko](#)

Commentary: African Centre for Biodiversity claims seed law proposal in South Africa would threaten farmers' rights to save seeds, threatens food security in country that already lacks food security

News: Catholic news outlet reports on Association of Catholic Medical Practitioners of Nigeria's warning that adopting GMOs without adequate safety assurances is "immoral," pointing to potential negative consequences on human health and the environment

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Tehran Times reports Iran's Environment minister says GMO opponents have no proof of GM crops' adverse effects; says opponents "are all talk"

News: Press Trust of India reports on Coalition for a GM-Free India's criticism of biotech regulator GEAC's recommendation for commercial use of GM mustard, following recent report by parliamentary panel criticizing Environment Ministry's GMO regulatory process

News: Press Trust of India reports on government think-tank Niti Aayog's support of use of GM seeds, arguing that concerns about monopolization by multinationals can be addressed by limiting use of GM seeds to those developed by domestic institutions and companies

News: Times of India reports on recent report by parliamentary standing committee on science & technology and environment & forests, pointing out several loopholes in existing GM crop evaluations, and calling on Environment Ministry to thoroughly evaluate environmental impact of GM mustard

News: Press Trust of India reports parliamentary panel says no GM crop should be introduced in country unless biosafety, socio-economic desirability evaluated in "transparent" process with accountability regime in place; India's GM crop regulator recently recommended commercial use of GM mustard

News: China Radio International reports on Tanzanian government's proposal of using gene editing technology to improve crops such as maize, rice and cassava, National Biotechnology Forum Adviser (OFAB) Nicholas Nyange highlighted importance of making crops more resilient to climate change

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Commentary: Danish news site op-ed says GMOs can help protect environment and feed the world; says biotech makes food production more efficient, reduces famine and ag's environmental impact

News: Romanian news site reports EU competition commissioner launches investigation into Bayer-Monsanto merger, fears purchase would reduce competition in seed, pesticide market

News: France 3 reports on Syppre project's accusation that Volunteer Reapers attacked their sunflower test plots by mistake, noting they are not GMOs, and that absence of weeds is due to mechanical weeding, not herbicide tolerance

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Bolivian news site reports farmers suffering from drought and pests request government to allow GMO cultivation; biotechnologist says many requests come from small farmers

News: Brazilian news outlet reports on potential advances in gene editing in the country, Marcelo Gravina of Information Council on Biotechnology highlighted several successful applications in the US, pointed to increased accuracy and efficiency of the technology

News: Brazilian news outlet reports on opposition to bill that would remove "T" symbol from food packaging, over objection that it reduces amount of information to consumers on transgenic foods, although passed by the Chamber of Deputies, it faces resistance in the Senate

News: Ecuadorian ecological news site reports on Aug. 14 protests by indigenous and environmental groups in Quito against decision to allow GM seeds and crops in country for research purposes

News: Mexican news outlet reports on concerns about GMOs amid NAFTA renegotiations, analyst Guillermo Correa Bárcenas urged caution, pointing to potential impact on small and medium-sized farmers that save seeds to promote biodiversity, arguing that allowing patents on GM seeds will only benefit large biotech companies

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

Commentary: University of Melbourne professor writes for Cosmos that the more scientific education a person has, the more likely they will become polarized on issues such as climate change, evolution

[More Oceania items](#)

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included a new draft food law in Bulgaria that would prohibit advertising GM foods to children. In Mexico, activists claimed that Mennonite farmers had continued to plant GM soy despite a judicial moratorium.

- The Bulgarian government released a new draft food law for review by the National Assembly. Among other provisions, the law would impose fines for marketing GM foods to children. [See more](#)
- In the Yucatan, the Secretary of Urban Development and Environment (Seduma) accused Mennonite farmers in the region of illegally planting GM soy despite a judge's decision blocking the crops. The Quintana Roo delegate of the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA) rejected the claim. [See more](#)

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North America

Commentary: Gregory Jaffe of Center for Science in the Public Interest makes recommendations for how USDA should proceed in regulating GMO disclosure, believes any information provided to consumers should be factually accurate, neutral and not misleading, highlights scientific consensus on GMO safety

Commentary: ACSH posts Alex Berezow piece reporting EU regulators may reject Bayer's acquisition of Monsanto, noting that it approved mergers involving DuPont, Syngenta; EU may be concerned about impact Bayer-Monsanto merger could have on competition in seed business

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project managing editor Tim Barker notes "GMOs Revealed" series relies on worn anti-biotech arguments from the activist fringe, produced by climate-change-denying filmmaker

Commentary: Inquisitr freelance writer questions whether GMOs, glyphosate directly or indirectly cause allergic reactions, possibly by altering gut microbiome; also questions if vaccines promote allergic reactions

News: Gizmodo amplifies Carnegie Mellon University study showing that among people predisposed to disbelieve scientific evidence about controversial topics because of their religious or political views, more education about subject may increase their disbelief; study found views on GMOs appear unaffected

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: SciDev.Net reports study in PLOS One suggests delay in approving use of GM crops contributing to malnutrition, poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa; study co-author says GM crops such as banana and

maize could help save lives in some Sub-Saharan countries, approving GM crops can increase economic growth

News: Nigerian environment news site reports on Health of Mother Earth Foundation's objection to International Institute of Tropical Agriculture's (IITA) application for confined field trials of a GM cassava variety, HOMEF claims IITA is using a new gene silencing technology that has never been tested before

Commentary: NGO Rural Women's Assembly reports on gathering from nine SADC countries to "speak out against the Farmer Input Subsidy Programmes (FISPs) and the challenges they are creating for women farmers", group demands SADC heads of state re-think FISPs to support agroecology, phase out pesticides and chemical fertilizers and resist GMOs

News: Zimbabwean news site reports Prof. Christopher Chetsanga criticizes government policy banning GMOs, notes 20 years of consumption in US without harm; minister chastises Chetsanga for being confrontational rather than building trust by pointing out genetic modification in medicine

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Business World runs op-ed by Indian government official forecasting country's agricultural future, predicting genetic enhancement in crops, livestock will have to be considered as option to enhance productivity, meet new challenges of higher demand for food and nutrition

Commentary: Indian news site The Financial Express editorial claims GMOs' "harmful effects" have not been fully examined, and pesticide and fertilizer entering food chain put human health at risk

News: Indian business news site reports cotton native to India has popular resurgence with farmers after Bt cotton has gradually lost resistance to pests

Commentary: Filipino NGO official writes in Daily Inquirer, says farmers call for end to Golden Rice trials, claim it poses threat due to "unpredictable gene mutations," say crop led to animals' organ failures due to "random gene positioning," and pesticides used with it endanger farmers, communities

More Asia items

Europe

News: Bulgarian news outlet reports on new Food Law prohibiting advertising of GM foods, imposing sanctions of BGN 2,000 to BGN 4,000 for those sell or produce food or food products in violation of the law, and establishing a National Food Council

News: Bulgarian news outlet reports on draft of the country's new Food Law, which prohibits advertisement of GM foods and foods for which there are statutory restrictions on children's use

News release: Italian scientific research organization, Associazione Luca Coscioni, announces GM corn farmer Giorgio Fidenato's legal victory over Gianni Cavallini, who must pay damages for crop destruction, highlights judge's assessment that protesters have demonstrated lack of civility and respect for the law in their opposition

News: Austrian news site reports activists criticize Canada's GE salmon approval; Greenpeace scientist claims GE fish can replace naturally occurring species, activists say no long-term studies exist to demonstrate product's safety

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news outlet reports on concerns that NAFTA renegotiation will lead to entry of

GMOs, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana researcher Rafael Pérez Miranda warned about impact on farmers who save use seeds and argued that allowing seed patents only benefits large companies

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Secretariat of Urban Development and Environment (Seduma) head Eduardo Batllori Sampedro's denunciation of GM soybean cultivation by Mennonite communities in Campeche, as in Quintana Roo, making it difficult to eradicate GMOs from the Yucatan Peninsula

News: Mexican news outlet reports on recent statement by SAGARPA's Quintana Roo delegate, Cesar Armando Rosales Cansino, that there is no proof that transgenic seeds have been cultivated in the state, he noted that if Mennonite communities are planting GMOs, they would be doing so illegally

Commentary: ETC's Silvia Ribeiro writes for La Jornada, claims FDA told Impossible Foods it's Impossible Burger does not meet safety standards, but company is selling the vegetable burger anyway; says effects of protein made synthetically are unknown

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

Commentary: Science Media Centre posts responses from New Zealand's political parties to questions on key science-related issues ahead of Sept. 23 general election, including whether nation's moratorium on commercial release of GMOs should be lifted, whether moratorium gives New Zealand competitive advantage

Announcement: Crop Biotech Update reports Australian Office of the Gene Technology Regulator received license application from Syngenta Australia for commercial cultivation of GM cotton variety with insect and antibiotic resistance; Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan to be released for public comment in December 2017

[More Oceania items](#)

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

In global biotechnology developments today, anti-GMO activists promoted the launch of a series of online videos that claimed GMOs pose a risk to human health. A report in *The Guardian* highlighted Canada's recent approval of GE salmon, amplifying activist concerns. Commentary on the European Commission's decision to investigate Bayer's purchase of Monsanto also continued.

- Alternative health promoters and anti-biotechnology activists amplified the launch of a new series of anti-GMO videos, titled "GMOs Revealed." In the first installment, the filmmakers interviewed "Food Babe" Vani Hari and the CEO of Thrive Market, as well as an anti-vaccination activist. **See more.**
- Writing in *The Guardian*, New York-based reporter Jessica Glenza amplified activist complaints that GE salmon had been approved without clear GMO labeling. Glenza also profiled the parent company Intrexon, claiming CEO Randal Kirk was critical of claims that the company had not thought through the ramifications of its technology. **See more.**
- SumOfUs executive director Hannah Lownsbrough joined other activist groups such as Food & Water Watch in criticizing Bayer's proposed takeover of Monsanto, claiming that the move could have "disastrous" effects on small farmers. **See more.**
- A Colorado news site criticized Boulder County officials for attempting to steer a government land management contract to the Rodale Institute despite concerns over an insufficient proposal. The article, citing anonymous officials, noted that a new proposal from Colorado State University contained many similarities to a rejected application from the Rodale Institute. **See more.**

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North America

Video: Episode 1 of "GMOs Revealed" series released on YouTube, featuring interviews with GMO opponents Zach Bush, Vani Hari and Gunnar Lovelace; host promises health benefits of non-GMO

Commentary: Contributor for The Guardian profiles Randal Kirk of Intrexon, highlighting recent sale of unlabeled GE salmon in Canada, claims genetic modification can change nutritional value of foods as well as behavioral traits of engineered animals

Commentary: Hannah Lownsbrough of SumOfUs writes for The Guardian in opposition to Bayer-Monsanto deal, arguing that it will negatively impact small family farmers and poor consumers, urges EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager to consider the "disastrous implications"

News: Colorado news outlet reports on bids to run Boulder County's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Innovation Initiative (SARII) as it transitions away from GM crop cultivation, highlights controversy surrounding Rodale Institute's involvement in the bidding process

News: Organic Authority reports two new studies suggest need to develop sustainable agriculture

worldwide to protect climate, humanity, with paper by Macalester College professor William G. Moseley arguing GMO technology increases costs of food production in developing countries

News: Utah public radio highlights Kevin Folta campaign to improve science communication; Folta says focus should fall on building trust more than delivering a message

[More North America items](#)

Africa

Commentary: Uganda news site contributor promotes biotech, biosafety bill among solutions to current ag model failing small holder farmers, citing GM seeds ability to address pest, climate issues behind crop losses

News release: Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) announces participation in upcoming African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) meeting, "Accelerating Africa's Path to Prosperity: Growing Inclusive Economies and Jobs through Africa," highlighting Pitch AgriHack competition for youth ag innovation

Commentary: Food Tank posts op-ed by Small Planet Institute member alleging Monsanto official co-author of Malawi seed policy that seeks to apply word only to certified seed from commercial companies, referring to farm-saved seed in policy as "grain," with critics saying policy favors seed companies over farmers

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: The Times of India reports USDA representatives, Indian counterparts to meet Aug. 31 in New Delhi to discuss issues including use of technology in farm sector, ways to increase bilateral ag trade; U.S. official says Indian farmers not keeping pace with other countries in adopting biotechnology

Commentary: Bangladeshi farmer tells Cornell Alliance for Science he will not grow conventional brinjal after his positive experience with Bt brinjal, noting Bt variety doesn't require costly pesticides harmful to farmworker health

News: Korean business news outlet reports on Rural Development Administration's announcement of plans to develop technology to genetically assess beef cattle to meet growing demand for different beef cuts, officials argue bodily malformations or other biological issues will not occur as a result of genetic engineering

News: Filipino news outlet reports on recent seminar on Communicating Agri-Innovations thru Social Media in Davao City, organized by Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (Searca), the ISAAA and Department of Agriculture-Davao, with focus on communicating biosecurity, biotech, and ag innovation

News: Vietnam News Agency reports on recent APEC conference where Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Le Quoc Doanh voiced hope that working groups would use the opportunity to discuss potential cooperation projects, Agricultural Biotechnology Development Forum (HLPDAB) promotes public-private partnerships

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Commentary: French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM profiles Intrexon, highlighting developments of several of its subsidiaries including AquaBounty, Oxitec and Okanagan Specialty Fruits

News: Dutch news outlet reports on debate over whether products of new breeding techniques such as CRISPR should be regulated as GMOs, highlights EFSA's assessment that there are no additional risks

posed by such techniques, as well as Greenpeace's claims about unintended effects

News: Belgian news source reports new study by international team of researchers suggests delays in acceptance of GMO crops by small farmers in Africa costing money and lives, finds reducing approval period for GMOs could save lives, help achieve UN's Sustainable Development goals, mitigate migration

Interview: Slovakia's Pravda interviews veterinarian who left country, moved to Canada but maintains contact with, advises Slovak dairy farmers; Milos Haas says most Canadians have accepted GMO foods but admits debate continues, studies have shown both drawbacks and benefits of GMOs

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Mexican news outlet reports on debate over NAFTA renegotiation, highlights call by several peasants, trade unions and organizations for Mexico to guarantee national sovereignty and food security, with exclusion of GMOs and adherence to precautionary principle

News: Mexican news outlet reports on opinions on GMOs by Autonomous University of Coahuila (Uadec) and Autonomous University of Agraria Antonio Narro (UAAAN) scientists, they argue that one should not label GMOs as completely good or bad, highlighting several health and environmental benefits

News: Peruvian news outlet reports on CropLife Latin America president José Perdomo's recent statements on how small and medium-sized ag operations can increase productivity and profit through use of technology

Commentary: Argentina's Los Andes lifestyle site runs column touting advantages of organic foods over transgenic foods, claiming organic foods have more nutrients, better flavor, cause less pollution by farm chemicals, while arguing transgenic foods cause allergies and damage immune systems of consumers

News: El Colombiano reports Canada becomes first country to allow sales of GM animal for human consumption with AquaBounty's GE salmon offered by retailers, notes protests by Canadian activists who fear GMOs can be harmful, points out transgenic corn and rice eaten by people in Colombia, along with animals fed with GM crops

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

[More Oceania items](#)

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Global Biotech Snapshot

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Today's global biotechnology developments included the European Commission opening a Phase II investigation into Bayer's proposed purchase of Monsanto. U.S. stakeholders continued to respond to recent discussions on the North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

- The European Commission announced today that it would open a Phase II investigation into Bayer's proposed purchase of Monsanto, noting that it was concerned about reduced competition in the markets for pesticides and biotech crop traits. [See more](#)
- Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP) promoted the group's recent report on the renegotiation of NAFTA, arguing for a more transparent process and a focus on smallholder farmers and food sovereignty. [See more](#)
- French agricultural institutes filed a complaint against the anti-biotechnology activist group Fauchers Volontaires (Volunteer Reapers) after the reapers uprooted five sunflower fields late last week. The plant research groups criticized the vandalism, adding that the plants were developed through hybridization and were not genetically modified. [See more](#)

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North America

[News: Reuters reports European Commission has launched in depth investigation into Bayer's planned deal to takeover Monsanto, saying the Commission has concerns about competition in pesticide, seed markets](#)

[News: Politico Pro reports on EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager's launch of in-depth probe into Bayer's acquisition of Monsanto, citing several competition concerns, noting importance of providing farmers with access to innovative, high quality prices and competitive prices](#)

[Report: Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy publishes report on NAFTA Renegotiation, identifying benchmarks in collaboration with several other NGOs, calls for rejection of TPP proposals to speed up adoption of new and unregulated ag technologies like GMOs](#)

[News: In These Times reports family farm groups in United States, Canada and Mexico criticize secrecy of new talks to renegotiate NAFTA; Minneapolis-based Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy notes U.S. proposals to eliminate restrictions on trade in GMOs, other ag biotech, Mexican groups want transgenic crops excluded](#)

[Commentary: Stephan Neidenbach of We Love GMOs and Vaccines writes for Genetic Literacy Project, explaining his own experience in submitting FOIA requests targeting anti-GMO academics at public institutions, notes his goal is achieving transparency](#)

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Ugandan news outlet reports on National Agricultural Research Organisation's (NARO) development of several crop varieties, using biotech to make crops more resilient to pests, diseases and drought, and to boost nutrition; farmer Abdallah Drasiku hopes Uganda's biosafety bill will be passed soon

Commentary: Ousmane Badiane of Malabo Montpellier Panel emphasizes necessity of embracing emerging technology, especially biotechnologies, to boost African agriculture and economies

Campaign: Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) writes open letter calling for immediate ban on importation of Monsanto's new RNAi maize variety into South Africa, arguing that Africans should not be used as guinea pigs, claiming that the untested gene-silencing effect may be able to cross over into mammals and humans

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Asia News Network reports on annual APEC High-Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology held in Vietnam, which called for promotion of public-private partnerships in ag biotech research, applications and use of ag biotech in response to climate change

News: Reuters reports on farmer Nel Jayaraman's quest to revive traditional rice varieties as drought conditions worsen, highlighting his belief that hybrid seeds, chemical fertilizers and pesticides make farmers more vulnerable to extreme weather, he argues for a return to organic practices

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News release: European Commission announces launch of in-depth investigation into proposed acquisition of Monsanto by Bayer, citing concerns that it could reduce competition in pesticides, seed traits; EC to make decision on proposed transaction by Jan. 8

News: Agence France-Presse reports three agricultural technical institutes file complaint following vandalism of experimental sunflower plots by Volunteer Reapers', who claim the plants were herbicide-tolerant GMOs, they condemned the act, and noted no GMOs are grown in France

News: French news outlet reports on Volunteer Reapers' destruction of five sunflower tests pots of Terres Inovia, Arvalis and ITB in action opposing GMOs, Terres Inovia, Arvalis and ITB issued a joint statement condemning the action, and noting that there are no GM crops being grown on their plots

Commentary: Contributor for French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM examines the open source seed movement, highlighting argument that peasant seeds cannot fully be protected without laws prohibiting patents on living organisms, worries that pending agribusiness mergers will block access to genetic resources

Event: IFOAM EU promotes 11th European Organic Congress set for Sept. 5-7 in Tallinn, Estonia, to look at how stakeholders, policymakers can reach European Organic Vision 2030; NGO working to devise strategies for developing organics in Europe

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Commentary: ChileGlobal Biotech amplifies recent statement by University of Chile scientist Claudia Stange, dispelling several myths about GMO safety and presence of GM foods in Chile

News: Argentine news site reports Argentine Seedlings Association official contends Bt protein resistance generated in maize, Bt seeds no longer effective in country; GRAIN member interviewed for

article compares loss of efficacy of Bt maize to spread of weeds resistant to glyphosate

News: Agencia EFE reports on Hanoi 2017 seed fair in Paraguay to promote natural cultivation, raise public awareness of different options available instead of GM food; 300 producers of natural crops in Paraguay expected to attend

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Australian anti-GMO NGO MADGE posts paper presented at Home Economics Institute of Australia conference in January 2017, voicing opposition to development of GM super bananas, arguing that non-GMO beta carotene-rich varieties already exist, and claiming GMOs will hurt farmers

Commentary: Australian news outlet contributor examines beneficial applications of CRISPR in medicine and agriculture; says he opposes its use in animal agriculture over concerns that it could increase animal suffering, but hopes that developments like Impossible Burger may eliminate meat from our diets altogether

More Oceania items

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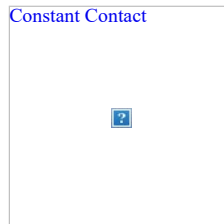
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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Aug. 21, 2017
 Date: Monday, August 21, 2017 9:02:10 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology events centered on trade issues. Members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation held a discussion on biotechnology. In India, trade officials previewed trade talks with the U.S., noting implications for agricultural issues.

- The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Working Group on Biotechnology opened its meeting in Vietnam on Sunday. Organizers highlighted the importance of public-private partnerships and developing climate-resilient crops. [See more](#)
- Indian news outlets reported that trade officials in the country were conducting informal talks with their U.S. counterparts, anticipating the autumn India-U.S. Trade Policy Forum. U.S. officials warned that India was falling behind competitors such as China in the adoption of agricultural technologies. [See more](#)

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North America

Commentary: Chicago Sun-Times editorial asserts that solar eclipse is a reminder that people can trust science, including on other topics such as safety of genetically modified crops

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Michael Rosch writes to Hawaii Rep. Tulsi Gabbard in response to recent letter to Ag Secretary Perdue asking for strict GMO labeling requirements, points to scientific consensus on GMO safety, notes GMO labeling is corporate-driven to promote organic food

Commentary: Food & Water Watch argues Bayer-Monsanto merger unites two companies with track records prioritizing profits over public and environmental health; cites Monsanto Roundup lawsuits, Bayer neonics' threat to bees

News: World trade news outlet reports source close to NAFTA talks says US negotiators are seeking provisions to regulate biotech imports

[More North America items](#)

Africa

Commentary: Harare Institute of Technology biotech department chair Amos Musengi writes for local news outlet, examines debate on GMOs, highlighting numerous benefits and noting that many claims about risks are unsubstantiated, believes biotech can be used in tandem with other agricultural methods

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: The Hindu previews India-US trade forum expected in October, noting U.S. likely to discuss

concerns on India's challenging IP rights; countries hope to establish agreement that fosters, protects innovation

News: Press Trust of India reports on U.S. embassy official's recent statement that India is not keeping pace with its peers like China in adopting new agricultural technologies, warning that failure to boost crop yields may result in increased agricultural imports, highlights Monsanto's legal battle over seed royalties

News: Indian news outlet reports on collaborative research from scientists at University of Hyderabad (UoH), Canada and China to develop a water-efficient transgenic rice variety, researcher P.B. Kirti highlighted potential use of the gene in other crops to create bigger plants

Commentary: Former professor at National Science Foundation, The Royal Society, Belgium, writes letter to Indian Prime Minister Modi, published by Deccan Chronicle, voicing opposition to GM mustard, highlighting negative economic impact on poor women ag workers, and health risks associated with herbicide use

News: Vietnam News Agency reports on official opening of meetings of APEC Working Group on Agricultural Biotechnology (HLPDAB) and Technical Cooperation in Agriculture (ATCWG) in Can Tho, highlighting goals of increasing biotech research, especially for sustainable development to help cope with climate change

News: Xinhua reports on Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting in Vietnam, featuring meeting of Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG), highlights ATCWG's goal of promoting ag information sharing and cooperation in the region regarding ag technology, and boosting communications and capacity building

Interview: Korean news outlet interviews GMO special committee chairman of Gyeongnam Province, Park Jung-mi, he claims GMOs present several risks to human health, pointing to IARC's review of glyphosate and Seralini's study of impact on GMOs on rats

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: Italian news outlet reports anti-GMO activist Gianni Cavallini must pay €5,000 in damages plus legal fees for destroying GM corn crop owned by Giorgio Fidenato

News: Italian news outlet reports a Justice of the Peace ordered Gianni Cavallini to pay €5,000 in compensation plus legal fees for vandalizing Giorgio Fidenato's GM maize crop

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Commentary: Slow Food blogger highlights the organization's commitment to helping anti-GMO efforts in Bolivia, promotes agroecology and family farming

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News: Australian news outlet reports on Environment Minister Steven Miles' promotion of GM crops to help farmers adapt to climate change, noting they will be among the hardest hit, and emphasizing importance of developing new hybrids and species that can tolerate different levels of heat and rainfall

[More Oceania items](#)

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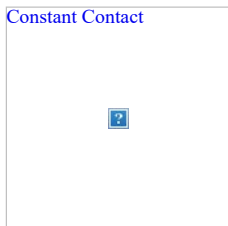
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From: [Jay Byrne](#)
 To: [Wray-Cohen, Diane - FAS](#)
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Aug. 21, 2017
 Date: Monday, August 21, 2017 5:09:41 PM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

With the news that streaming video provider Hulu will release the "Food Evolution" documentary next month, American Council on Science and Health president Hank Campbell wondered why competitor Netflix refused to carry the film. It led to an examination of the anti-agriculture documentaries Netflix does offer - including "GMO OMG," "Wheat" and "Cowspiracy." The piece is highlighted below in this week's newsletter.

Other pieces include potentially promising developments regarding biotechnology regulations in Kenya and Uganda, a study showing no impact on bumblebee colony development from exposure to the neonicotinoid pesticide thiamethoxam and a House of Lords member suggesting Britain should use Brexit to set policy enabling it to become a leader in gene editing.

To view items on this newsletter, first log in on [Bonus Eventus Community](#) page. To create an account, fill out the Request Membership form on the front page of the site. To share articles, click on the Twitter icon.

Please [contact us](#) if you have any questions.

In This Issue

- [Stakeholder Spotlight](#)
- [Stories Worth Sharing](#)
- [What's Trending?](#)
- [Calendar highlights](#)

Stakeholder Spotlight: Center for Food Safety



The Center for Food Safety, led by activist attorney Andy Kimbrell, operates as a litigation arm for the anti-GMO, anti-pesticide and pro-organic movements.

This month, the center announced legal action targeting "shellfish CAFOs" in Washington state, renewed opposition to GM salmon sales in Canada, sought to

■ Stories Worth Sharing

[Hank Campbell: As Hulu prepares to offer "Food Evolution," Netflix prefers documentaries that are against agriculture and science](#)

[David Ropeik: Journalists should be as skeptical of NGOs' biased claims about chemical dangers as they are about corporate interests](#)

[Study in Scientific Reports finds no impact from thiamethoxam exposure on bumblebee colony growth and development](#)

[Chicago Sun-Times: Eclipse a reminder to trust science - including on safety of genetically modified foods](#)

[Gilbert Arap Bor: Kenyan election results raise possibility of access to GM technology for farmers](#)

[Ronald Bailey: U.S. FDA should withdraw "scientifically ridiculous" regulation blocking GE salmon](#)

[Matt Ridley: Brexit provides Great Britain opportunity to become a leader in gene editing](#)

[Isaac Ongu: Ugandan Parliament to resume debate on stalled Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill](#)

block research trials using GM moths in New York and continued false and misleading claims that pesticides are causing a "bee apocalypse" in the United States and Canada.

To learn more about the Center for Food Safety, [CLICK HERE](#).

[CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES](#)

[Washington beekeeper sees "uneducated" newcomers as one of largest killers of bees](#)

[Alison Van Eenennaam: Without concerted effort to defend genetically engineered crops, farmers will have "no technology left"](#)

[Interagency government effort in Philippines empowers development of biotech rice, papaya, cotton and eggplant](#)

[CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING](#)

What's Trending?

[California moves to restrict use of chlorpyrifos, add buffer zones; comment period through Oct. 2](#)

[Friends of the Earth plans "week of action" - starting Saturday - aimed at pressuring Kroger into ending sales of food grown with neonics](#)

[U.S. government settles high-profile WOTUS wetlands case with California farmer](#)

[Sales of genetically engineered salmon in Canada draw protests](#)

Calendar highlights

August 24-26	August 25	September 4-15
French Green Party conference in Dunkirk	Deadline for comments on USDA's 30 questions about GMO labeling process	Conference of the Parties: Thirteenth Session (China)

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR](#)

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 Date: Sunday, August 20, 2017 9:28:59 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included discussions on appropriate uses for gene-editing techniques at CRISPRcon.

- The University of California-Berkeley hosted CRISPRcon, a conference on the future of gene editing. CRISPR pioneer Jennifer Doudna said we should reach global consensus on appropriate uses for gene editing. *Wired* reported the event provided serious discussion on how the technique should be used, and corporate officials said they would avoid mistakes made with GMOs by providing products with consumer benefits. **[See more](#)**
- U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, while addressing NAFTA renegotiations, said the U.S. wants to "promote science-based agricultural trade," a veiled reference to biotechnology. *Reuters* reported thousands of Mexican farmers protested the renegotiations and want the deal to exclude anything related to agriculture. **[See more](#)**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **[click here](#)**

North America

[Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project runs op-ed by vegan college student saying she sees no contradiction with eating GMO foods, favors biotechnology in agriculture, notes GMO crops can produce omega-3 fatty acids, which could replace fish in people's diets, cites studies that prove biotech crops safe and effective](#)

[News: Agricultural news site reports 28 states adopted laws to prevent local governments from passing seed laws, including those that ban GMOs; OSA official calls the laws "a gag on public debate"](#)

[News: Organic Authority amplifies reports from The Guardian, The Washington Post about AquaBounty selling GE salmon to retailers in Canada, noting anti-GMO activist's remarks that Canadian consumers are "guinea pigs" because they are eating GMO salmon with no labeling](#)

[Commentary: Hank Campbell of American Council on Science and Health discusses Netflix's refusal to carry pro-science "Food Evolution" documentary, points out home streaming service runs multiple anti-ag food documentaries, includes scientists' reactions to "GMO OMG," other negative food documentaries](#)

[Audio: v-Fluence's Food and Ag in 2 on Talk Media News reports BIO voices support for arctic apple with hope it can change public perception of GMOs, Progressive Farmer editor says USDA bee survey shows habitat restoration efforts may have worked](#)

[News: Star Press reports on controversy surrounding GE salmon in the US, highlights favorable opinion by Indiana Farm Bureau leader Joe Russell, who stated he would be "honored" to eat the nation's first GE seafood, as well as opposition from environmental groups such as Friends of the Earth](#)

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: South African news site reports activists level corporate abuse accusations during Permanent People's Tribunal, claim farmers are forced to use GMOs

News: Nigerian news site reports millions of Nigerians still malnourished 2 years after biosafety law is approved, expert says country must promote and support the technology to help hungry people

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Filipino news site reports some officials, local citizens express their support for Golden Rice development

Commentary: Bangladeshi farmers group say farmers protested against Golden Rice commercialization in Bangladesh

News: Indian business news site reports native cotton seed is replacing Bt cotton, says the local cotton variety gets better yields and resists pests better than the transgenic variety

Commentary: Filipino news outlet contributor examines many benefits of Bt corn, with focus on potential export opportunities, highlights data from most recent ISAAA report on global biotech crop adoption

Commentary: Filipino NGO's news outlet promotes action by members of Stop Golden Rice Network to oppose new application for field testing and direct use of Golden Rice in country; activists cite threat to health, seek government resolution to investigate field testing of product

News: Vietnamese news source lists foods it says can cause cancer, including genetically modified food, cites controversy over whether GMO foods increase risk of developing tumors, recommends choosing organic or growing own food to avoid GMOs

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News release: Testbiotech updates report claiming EFSA scientist gave presentation at conference in US stating that glyphosate is not carcinogenic, NGO questions whether Monsanto funded the conference

News: French news outlet reports on sale of GE salmon in Canadian market, highlights concerns of environmentalist Mark Butler regarding potential genetic contamination of wild Atlantic salmon

News: German news outlet reports on debate surrounding regulation of products of new breeding techniques such as CRISPR, highlighting argument that gene editing is more precise and safer than traditional genetic engineering, highlights gene editing developments by Dow, DuPont and Monsanto

News release: Testbiotech claims Monsanto uses "hidden funding" to influence EFSA scientists' opinions on glyphosate, says scientists "may have" received payments from Monsanto

News: French news site describes Volunteer Reapers raid on GM sunflower field trials to destroy the crops

News: French multilingual radio network reports GE salmon on market in Canada, notes Spanish genetics expert explains there is no risk to consumers, proponents say product will reduce pressure on wild salmon

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Mexican news site reports biotech company uses genetic modification to produce crops that use fertilizer more efficiently, reduces amount needed, reduces runoff pollutants

Commentary: Brazilian Federal Senate's TV network broadcasts discussion between officials of Socio-Environmental Institute and National Technical Biosafety Commission about proposal to transfer laboratory analysis on transgenic to final products and eliminate labeling of transgenic products

News: Inter Press Service reports renegotiation of NAFTA reignites debate in Mexico, with small producers' groups demanding exclusion of agreement's agricultural chapter; Trump administration includes biotechnology among its negotiating objectives, which wasn't in original treaty; transgenic crops frighten Mexican producers

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during this weekend's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

[More Oceania items](#)

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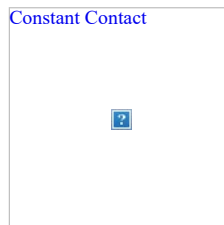
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Today's global biotechnology developments included coverage of the University of California-Berkeley's CRISPRcon, a conference about the future of gene editing.

- Biotechnology and agriculture news outlets reported on the University of California-Berkeley's CRISPRcon, where experts from a variety of biotechnology fields met to discuss the future of the technology. *Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology News* magazine quoted a CRISPR inventor on potential ethical concerns, while *Feedstuffs* and *Agri-Pulse* highlighted potential applications in animal agriculture. [See more](#)
- French news outlets amplified commentary from the anti-biotechnology Faucheurs Volontaires, who held a protest demonstration during a court hearing today where members were accused of vandalizing glyphosate containers. [See more.](#)

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North America

News: Genetic engineering news site reports CRISPRcon highlights need to debate, decide on regulating CRISPR applications; technology's developer Jennifer Doudna says we can't put off ethical issues, including safeguards against unintended mutations, side effects

News: Feedstuffs reports CRISPRcon brought together experts, scientists to address CRISPR's role in emerging technology for animal and crop health, includes technology developer Jennifer Doudna

News: Bloomberg reports food industry ready to meet FDA's June 2018 deadline for completely removing partially hydrogenated oils from their products; Dupont Pioneer and Monsanto have developed GMO soybean oils being used by some food manufacturers to replace PHOs

Commentary: Agricultural news site Capital Press praises sugar industry's campaign to change people's opinion on GM crops, notes GM crops benefit farmers, are completely safe; beet farmer says industry is losing online debate so "we have to engage"

Commentary: In Forbes, Kavin Senapathy addresses claims Monsanto employees helped write academic papers vindicating Roundup, argues Monsanto should have been more transparent, PR mistakes cast shadow over crucial technology

Commentary: Vascular surgeon, ACSH fellow says Impossible Burger chose greater good of testing SLH over ideology of opposing animal testing, compares it to Golden Rice saving lives versus "ideological purity" of banning the product

[More North America items](#)

Africa

Interview: South Africa's Bizcommunity interviews Magda du Toit, corporate engagement and communication manager for Monsanto South Africa, about her career in agriculture; she says she enjoys touting benefits of biotechnology for small- and large-scale farmers, calls it very good for food production

Commentary: Kenyan farmer says elections marked turning point in Kenya, says science and GMO supporters elected, should mean that Kenyan farmers will have access to GM seed soon to help ensure food security

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

Report: ISAAA issues review of 17 years of reporting on agri-biotech in Philippines, notes mass media main source of information on biotech in nation, concludes editorial positions of popular newspapers matured over time, predicts social media may amplify, revolutionize future discussion of issues

News: Filipino news source reports Agriculture Department officials say Golden Rice will decrease number of cases of Vitamin A deficiency and malnutrition in next few years, boost resistance of children to micronutrient deficiencies prevalent among poor people with diets based mainly on rice

Commentary: Indian entrepreneur says China's steps in exploring CRISPR, gene editing should encourage other countries to keep pace with competing agriculture, medical, and military programs

News: Indian news site reports countries have differing standards for organic milk, notes India allows milk to be labeled organic if produced by cows that eat GM feed but many disagree with that policy

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: French newspaper reports anti-glyphosate activists plan demonstrations during court trial for vandalizing cans of glyphosate; notes EU considering re-authorizing herbicide for 10 years

Commentary: The Times runs op-ed by science author Matt Ridley arguing Great Britain could lead world in gene editing, partly because United States often divided over moral and legal issues stemming from matters of biology; he says good regulations, communication with public about GM trials have reduced concerns in Britain

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Low-influence Brazilian ag news source reports National Technical Biosafety Commission approves new variety of Bt soybeans for planting, human and animal consumption; GMO grain first product released by CTNBio that resists insects, tolerates glyphosate, two other herbicides

Commentary: Mexican news source's columnist argues "hysteria" of negative claims about GMOs fed by media myths, misconceptions, asserts nearly every crop produced on industrial scale results from some sort of GE, compares anti-GMO claims to those of vaccine opponents, says neither based on science

News: Argentine news site reports Conicet teams use CRISPR gene editing in human and veterinarian medicine, and to make crops resistant to pests, disease, drought

Campaign: Ecuadorian environmental NGO demands country's Ministry of Environment "take all administrative, technical and legal measures to maintain Ecuador free of transgenic crops and seeds"; say National Assembly's approval to allow entry of GM seeds and crops for research violates constitution and is a "serious environmental risk"

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News release: Australia's Queensland University announces \$13 million grant from CSIRO to fund synthetic biology research

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From: Jay Byrne
 To: Wray-Cohen, Diane - FAS
 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Aug. 16, 2017
 Date: Wednesday, August 16, 2017 9 01:11 PM

FAST ACCESS: MONITORING \ STAKEHOLDERS \ COMMUNITY

Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included stakeholders' response to the start of North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) renegotiation talks. In Canada, media outlets reported on continued protests against GM salmon's commercial approval.

- Food and agriculture stakeholders responded to the start of renegotiation talks over the NAFTA trade deal. The American Farm Bureau Federation said trade in the region could benefit from rule-making in areas such as biotechnology. Meanwhile, the National Farmers Union and Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy - along with Canadian and Mexican farming organizations - warned against allowing the trade deal to increase the movement of genetically modified products across borders. Friends of the Earth also criticized the deal. **See more**
- Canadian activists in Prince Edward Island held an awareness campaign criticizing a planned GE salmon production facility. The protesters warned that the salmon had been sold in Canada without any labels or indication that it was transgenic. **See more**
- The U.S. National Automatic Merchandising Association issued a call to vending machine manufacturers, asking them to respond to a Department of Agriculture request for comments on its GMO labeling proposal. The group called for vending machines to be exempt from requirements to display labels for GM ingredients. **See more**

Reminder: to access the full text, archives and monitoring dashboard resources you need to log in to the **Bonus Eventus community portal** using your email address and personal password. Please contact us if you need any assistance or support.

For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **[click here](#)**

North America

News release: National Farmers Union issues statement denouncing formal talks to renegotiate NAFTA, claims they are designed to increase agribusiness exports, corporate control over food system, eliminate restrictions on trade in GMOs, other ag biotechnology; Mexican groups demand imports of transgenic crops be excluded

Campaign: National Automatic Merchandising Association provides form letter for its members to use as public comment on USDA's proposed rule for national GMO labeling, which includes possible requirement for vending machines to display labels related to GMO and GE ingredients in products they sell

News: CBC reports on recent public consultation session on food affordability, accessibility, safety and conservation in Charlottetown, some residents seek clear GMO labeling, while others note GMO labels would not change their purchasing habits

News: The Guardian Canada reports on recent anti-GE salmon awareness campaign in Charlottetown, where activists handed out fliers warning residents that GE salmon is available on the market and unlabeled

News: San Diego PBS affiliate reports biologists at University of California-San Diego genetically modifying mosquitoes to fight spread of Zika virus, other insect-borne diseases; new study shows some Americans strongly opposed to releasing GM insects in wild

Commentary: Bloomberg contributor examines ways in which current regulatory systems may become obsolete in the face of new technologies such as gene editing, highlighting recent paper by Dimitri Kusnezov and Wendell Jones arguing that as technologies become more complex, they will be difficult to regulate in a stable way

Commentary: Ag Daily posts op-ed by reproductive biologist Carol Curchoe listing 10 GMOs that benefit human health, animal welfare, citing several under development and debunking persistent myths about GMOs; she credits GMOs with saving U.S. papaya industry from ringspot virus

Commentary: Steven Neidenbach writes for Genetic Literacy Project, examines argument that GMOs are unnecessary because we already produce enough food to feed the world, explains ways in which GMOs can help reduce food waste, a big problem in developing nations, notes farmers adopt the technology because of its benefits

More North America items

Africa

News: Malawi news outlet reports on review of New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition which found that Malawi's private sector has lost interest in the project, Malawi Coordinator, Victor Mponda-Banda noted private sector's apathy is likely due to misunderstanding of the concept and slow progress in some policy reforms

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: U.S.-based NGO Global Justice Ecology Project discusses demonstrations by farmers on India's Independence Day to protest farmer suicides, demand complete waiver of loans and increase in crop prices; NGO cites new study suggesting climate change-related droughts increasing rates of farmer suicides

Commentary: BIO amplifies Alliance for Science report about Golden Rice making progress toward reaching marketplace in the Philippines after more than decade of scientific testing, biosafety permit application awaiting approval, notes more than 100 Nobel laureates signed letter in support of the rice in 2016

News: Filipino newspaper reports Joint Department Circular empowering development of biotech crops in Philippines means biotech rice, papaya, cotton, eggplant expected to be fully implemented in farms, most crops already through with field trial stages, should reduce health problems from pesticides, fertilizers

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: French news outlet contributor examines debate over GE salmon in Canada, argues consumers are right to be concerned about lack of labeling requirements, worries that CETA agreement may allow its entry into Europe without consumers' knowledge

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Brazilian news source reports National Technical Biosafety Commission approves variety of insect-resistant Bt soybeans and three types of herbicides, five other varieties of soybeans, maize and cotton waiting to be released by end of 2017

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Campeche Agrarian Attorney's Office delegation's warning that case regarding Mennonites' illegal planting of GM soy could reach the Agrarian Unitary Court, if it affects

rights of local communities

Commentary: Mexican news outlet contributor warns readers about seven transgenic foods consumed in Mexico, highlights links to cancer and effects on reproduction, claims multinational corporations push peasants into unemployment, encourages readers to buy organic, Mexican foods

News: Ecuadorian news outlet reports on national march against transgenics and agrarian debt, organized by Federation of Agricultural Centers and Peasant Organizations of the Coast (Fecaol), where demonstrators will voice opposition to the Seed Law

More Latin America items

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Oceania items

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More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

Events calendar

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Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included Nigerian news outlets reporting on the potential benefits of agricultural technology. GeneWatch U.K. criticized an approved U.S. field trial of GM moths designed to reduce the populations of diamondback moth pests.

- Nigerian news outlets reported on recent stakeholder statements in favor of the country's use of biotechnology. Articles in *Nigerian Tribune* and *Vanguard* emphasized the potential of pod borer-resistant beans, disease-resistant cassava and insect-resistant cotton. A report in *Leadership* emphasized that the technology could be a solution to fall armyworm infestations. [See more](#)
- European anti-biotechnology group GeneWatch U.K. published commentary criticizing the field trial of a GM moth designed to reduce pest populations. The group claimed that published research on the moths indicates they will cause significant plant damage, making the technology a "failure." [See more](#)
- Commentary on Canada's decision to approve GE salmon continued, with *Le Monde* reporting on the salmon's sale and amplifying environmental groups' concerns. *CBC* radio interviewed salmon co-inventor Garth Fletcher, as well as the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network's Lucy Sharratt. [See more](#)

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North America

News: CBC's "The Current" looks at controversy over sales of GM salmon to consumers in Canada and lack of labeling requirement, interviews co-inventor of GM salmon, who defends its safety, and coordinator for Canadian Biotechnology Action Network, who criticizes lack of transparency

Commentary: Cornell University's "Alliance for Science" posts analysis by Ugandan ag journalist reporting nation's parliament will resume debate on stalled Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill in August, will determine whether Ugandan farmers permitted to grow GMO crops; he asserts public awareness, support for biotech growing

News: Florida NPR affiliate reports on University of Miami scientist's examination of public comments in opposition to GE mosquito trials in Key Haven last year; scientists found most opposition stems from mistrust of science and the government, while proponents supported positive impacts on human health

Study: JAMA posts research letter assessing public comments received by FDA on proposed GE mosquito field trial in Florida, researchers said "efforts to understand and respond to public concerns are critical for maintaining public trust in public health activities"

Commentary: Organic Authority claims biotech industry controlling information about GMOs, dictating what journalists report about its products, paying off reporters, academics, scientists to report on GMO food in favorable light, attacking journalists whose articles include criticisms of biotech

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology (OFAB), Nigeria Chapter coordinator Dr Rose Gidado's call for adoption of biotech maize to help in fight against fall armyworm invasion, noting Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) variety has proven resistant to the pest

Commentary: Nigerian Tribune contributor examines several ways in which biotech can help reduce import costs, noting Nigeria currently spends N7 trillion annually on food imports, points to climate resilient rice, WEMA corn to help fight fall armyworm pest, pest-resistant cowpea and Bt cotton

Commentary: Nigerian news outlet contributor argues adopting agricultural biotech is essential if Nigeria seeks to improve food security in the face of population growth, notes it is a tool for sustainable ag development, points to successful applications in other nations

Commentary: Ag communications expert Isaac Ongu writes for Ugandan news outlet, examines recent PLOS ONE study which found that Uganda's delay in enacting its biosafety bill could have resulted in deaths of over 5,500 Ugandans due to food shortages, puts findings in context with data on stunted child growth due to vitamin A deficiency

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: The Hindu Business Line reports India's agriculture on cusp of self-sufficiency, with production of food grain increasing five-fold over last 70 years, notes cotton production has more than doubled since 2001 introduction of GM seeds; Economic Survey 2016-17 calls for resolving controversies on GM seeds

News: Mainstream Weekly publishes letter to India's prime minister from members of Sarvodaya movement and Gandhian networks asking him to reject commercial release of GM mustard, arguing GM crops have failed to deliver benefits, asserting transgenic varieties will contaminate all other crops

News: Food Navigator reports on "permanent hiatus" of GM mustard in India, after government reverted to provision that it will only allow production after full scientific evaluation of long-term health and environmental effects, Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan pointed to high level of opposition from scientists, farmers and NGOs

Commentary: Filipino news outlet contributor describes golden rice as "fool's gold in agriculture," claims it will deprive small farmers of using their heirloom seeds, argues alternative methods of combating malnutrition exist, calls for moratorium on expansion of big agribusiness plantations

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News release: GeneWatch U.K. claims Cornell University's plan to release GE moths in upstate New York is bound to fail, pointing to evidence that crop damage will still occur, questioning Oxitec's "Sterile Insect Technique"

News: Hungarian news outlet reports on Scientific Advisory Board of the European Academies' (EASAC) report to provide clarification on gene editing, they call for transparency, and recommend that plant products derived from gene editing not be covered by GMO legislation

News release: The Netherlands Commission on Genetic Modification announces eight lines of genetically modified maize found to have negligible environmental risks, no risk inserted sequences of genes can spread to other species, considers environmental risks of maize imports and processing to be negligible

News: Le Monde reports Canadian supermarkets world's first to sell GE salmon as food, Canadian regulators concluded AquaBounty's "AquaAdvantage" salmon safe and nutritious as unmodified equivalent; environmental groups denounce lack of labeling, warn of risk to wild populations

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Argentina's La Capital reports president of Monsanto Argentina says information management reduces risks in agriculture, with data and drones among new technologies that improve decision making, predicts market will be surprised in coming decades by innovations in genetics, biotech

News: Epoch Times Brazil reports National Technical Biosafety Commission approves another type of GM soybean more resistant to insects, tolerant to herbicides; academic says GM soybean reduces, may eliminate use of insecticides, agrochemicals

News: Uruguayan news outlet reports on Rural Society of Rio Negro's (SRRN) voicing of concerns on biotech approval delays in recent meeting with Ag Ministry, trade union president Rafael Secco noted the technology will benefit the environment by reducing need for pesticide applications

News: Ecuadorian news outlet reports on recent protest by peasants against recently passed law allowing entry of GMOs for research purposes, they filed a claim of unconstitutionality, claiming GMOs threaten their health, seeds and land

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

Commentary: Australian Farm Institute executive director Mick Keogh writes for grain industry news site, amplifies several papers in latest edition of Farm Policy Journal providing perspectives on GM crops over the past 20 years, argues GM crops have provided enormous benefits, and that the biggest hindrance is lack of public acceptance

[More Oceania items](#)

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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Aug. 14, 2017
 Date: Monday, August 14, 2017 9:03:34 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included news that Mozambique had harvested a GM maize test crop. A U.S. science agency updated its study on agricultural research.

- A Mozambique news agency reported that the country has harvested its first test plots of genetically modified maize. The field trials were launched in February under the auspices of the Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) project. [See more](#)
- The U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Medicine, and Engineering updated its website on the new study, "Science Breakthroughs 2030: A Strategy for Food and Agricultural Research." The updates include an agenda from the Aug. 8 town hall, with an area where the video is expected for publication on Tuesday (Aug. 15). [See more](#)

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North America

News: MIT Technology Review reports on Realizing Increased Photosynthetic Efficiency (RIPE) project, based at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, seeking to develop food crops with improved photosynthetic capabilities in face of climate change

News release: University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences researchers are examining several potential solutions to citrus greening, highlights successful use of CRISPR to create a resistant plant with no foreign DNA, meaning it can be immediately commercialized

News: Bloomberg reports Bill Gates says United States likely to maintain current levels of aid to Africa, despite Trump's proposals to cut funding; speaking in Tanzania, Gates advocates use of GM seeds to improve productivity on African farms, touts need for precise use of fertilizers appropriate for African soils

Interview: The Center for Skeptical Inquiry posts interview with Kevin Folta about his upcoming lecture at CSIcon on Oct. 27, titled "Genetic Engineering of Plants and Animals: Hot New Techniques, Same Old Resistance," he says recent breakthroughs in field constitute genetic engineering 2.0

Commentary: Steven Druker writes for Independent Science News, criticizing Royal Society's 2016 report in favor of GMOs, claims it ignores disruptive nature of the GM process, as well as studies demonstrating harm, calls for urgent reforms of Royal Society and other scientific institutions that assert GMO safety

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Mozambique news outlet reports on harvest of first GM maize field trial in the country as part

of Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) project, researcher Olga Fafetine highlighted goal of fighting hunger

Announcement: Mozambique government announces harvest of its first GM maize trial plot at Institute for Agrarian Research's Chókwe agrarian station, the first trial tested the insect resistant component, while the second trial later this year will test drought tolerance

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Isaac Ognu recounts recent visit to Ugandan banana farmer featured in Food Evolution documentary, Frances Nanziri, notes that two years after filming, Nanziri's banana crops are worse off due to banana bacterial wilt, notes anti-GMO sentiment is hindering access to vital technology

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

Commentary: Indian blogger writes in opposition to GM mustard, claiming government's approval is result of industry lobbying, links herbicides used on GM mustard to cancer

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News release: Rothamsted Research announces receipt of £6.3 million from government's Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF), to launch its new five-year strategic Smart Crop Protection program, which integrates chemical, genetic, biological, ecological, mathematical and agronomic approaches

News: U.K. news outlet reports on attraction of vegan fast food to big investors, highlights Impossible Foods' Impossible Burger and environmental benefits, reports US FDA wants proof through additional testing that the company's GE soy leghemoglobin is safe, Impossible Foods plans to resubmit its petition

News: Serbian news outlet reports on loophole in local law allowing for entry of GMOs in spite of Serbia's ban, illegal GM crops were recently discovered on 10 hectares in Macva and Srem, misdemeanor applications have been filed against the plot owner

Commentary: French NGO Inf'OGM activist notes President Emmanuel Macron said during campaign he favored banning GMO crops in field, possibly eventually banning them for animal feed, but did not completely rule out research on genetic manipulation; notes politician from Normandy recently spoke in favor of easing ban on neonicotinoids

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Mexican news outlet reports on litigation over Yucatan's declaration of GMO-free status; Undersecretary Narváez noted the issue must be decided at the federal level, but that it is not currently on SAGARPA's agenda

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News: Australian news outlet reports number of cotton growers in the NSW Riverina will increase by 30 percent this season, after Monsanto's registration of 50-60 new cotton growers for its GM variety

[More Oceania items](#)

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From: Jay Byrne
 To: Wray-Cohen, Diane - FAS
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Aug. 14, 2017
 Date: Monday, August 14, 2017 4 03:22 PM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

Several articles in this week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter feature the common thread of explaining why biotechnology is a critical tool for sustainable food production. A Canadian chef weighed in last week on the need for GMOs to feed the world, a pair of articles touch on how biotechnology could help prevent crop losses - and, in turn, starvation - in Africa and another explains the potential genetic engineering solutions to protect citrus fruit.

To view items on this newsletter, first log in on [Bonus Eventus Community](#) page. To create an account, fill out the Request Membership form on the front page of the site. To share articles, click on the Twitter icon.

Please [contact us](#) if you have any questions.

In This Issue

[Stakeholder Spotlight](#)
[Stories Worth Sharing](#)
[What's Trending?](#)
[Calendar highlights](#)

Stakeholder Spotlight: Environmental Working Group



Environmental Working Group (EWG) is in the news again for its creative advocacy use of government testing databases.

Building off its success in generating widespread media amplification of its annual "Dirty Dozen" claims, EWG has now launched a [campaign](#) alleging

Stories Worth Sharing

[Canadian celebrity chef Michael Smith on GMOs: "We need that tool in our tool kit" but transparency should be improved](#)

[Jacob Grandstaff: Doomsday claims about bee die-off that prompted EU neonic ban unnecessarily hurt farm production](#)

[University of Florida researchers detail three ways GMOs can help fight citrus greening that is causing "serious damage"](#)

["Food Evolution" director: Seeing food shortages in Africa when GM solutions are available was influential moment](#)

[Isaac Ongu: Two years later, Ugandan featured in "Food Evolution" still seeking GM technology to rescue banana farm](#)

[Nathanael Johnson: Backlash over Impossible Burger's use of genetic engineering should be a "nothingburger"](#)

[Angela Logomasini: EPA's pro-science ruling on chlorpyrifos "a victory for public health, consumers' budgets, and struggling farmers"](#)

[Karl Haro von Mogel: Citizen science project on GM corn nearing completion, results being prepared for publication](#)

[Bloomberg View: Bees doing better despite onslaught of stressors impacting their health](#)

[Michigan State University student from Zimbabwe pledges to bring message home about need for access to modern farming technology](#)

contaminants are found in local drinking water supplies across the United States at levels that pose a risk to human health.

To learn more about Environmental Working Group, [CLICK HERE](#).

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What's Trending?

U.S. House committee chairman asks National Institutes of Health why glyphosate safety data was not published

University of Guelph-led study claims neonic thiamethoxam impairs egg-laying by queen bees, increasing extinction risk

22 Democratic senators send USDA letter demanding tough GMO labeling standards

Questions raised about role Monsanto's decision to bypass university testing on dicamba played in drift damage issues

Calendar highlights

August 14-17	August 16-17	August 16-17
Southern Africa Permanent Peoples Tribunal against Transnational Corporations	Public rally and anti-glyphosate conference during French trial for "Volunteer Reapers"	CRISPRcon at University of California-Berkeley
August 19	August 24-26	August 25
National Honey Bee Day (United States)	French Green Party conference in Dunkirk	Deadline for comments on USDA's 30 questions about GMO labeling process

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR](#)

<p>Stakeholder database</p> <p>More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate</p>	<p>Monitoring portal</p> <p>Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.</p>	<p>Bonus Eventus community</p> <p>Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.</p>
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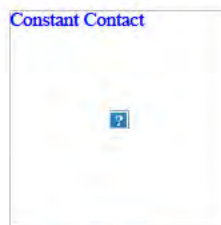
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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included continuing commentary on GE salmon sales in Canada, food associations warned the USDA not to delay GM food labeling, an Indian think tank survey advocated for GM crops, and the Impossible Foods CEO responded to criticism by saying his company took all necessary precautions and followed regulations in releasing its vegan burger.

Consolidated highlights include:

- *Canadian Press* reported the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network and other activist groups objected to sales of unlabeled GE salmon in the country. *Discover* magazine reported activists claim the GE salmon could endanger human health and the environment, but the article noted the farmed GE salmon could benefit over-fished wild salmon. **See more**
- Food trade associations warned the Office of Management and Budget not to delay in establishing food labeling regulations to avoid "regulatory uncertainty." *Politico* reported the Trump administration is holding fewer meetings on GM labeling than the Obama administration, and the current administration is responsible for meeting the July 29, 2018, deadline to establish several benchmarks for the law. *The Hill* reported 22 Democratic senators wrote the USDA urging the agency to enact tough labeling laws. **See more**
- An agricultural task force established by Indian government think tank Niti Aayog strongly recommended that India permit "proven and well-tested GM technologies with adequate safeguards" to increase farmers' productivity. **See more**
- An open letter from Impossible Foods' CEO Pat Brown responded to claims the company skirted food regulations in marketing its synthetic Impossible Burger, which uses an ingredient produced by GM yeast. Brown said company officials worked hand-in-hand with regulators. *Grist's* Nathanael Johnson said not trying new technologies is the riskiest option. The *Organic & Non-GMO Report's* Ken Roseboro said the FDA refused to recognize the product as "safe," and noted David Bronner called the company "unethical." **See more**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **[click here](#)**.

North America

News: San Francisco Chronicle reports Impossible Foods CEO says environmentalist-driven media coverage of veggie burger misleads public, adds company took every measure it could to ensure safety, follow regulatory processes; Friends of Earth official says regulatory agencies falling behind quickly changing food industry

News: Discover magazine reports activists protest unlabeled GE salmon sales in Canada, claim they endanger wild salmon and human health; writer notes product could be boon to overfished wild salmon

News: CBC reports Council of Canadians calls government's Simplot potato approval "foolhardy;" NGO official says the council will campaign against the product, says it gives area a "poor image"

News: Farms.com reports celebrity chef Michael Smith voices support for GM foods in consultations on A Food Policy for Canada, emphasizing world must be able to produce enough food to feed 10 billion people by year 2050, but Smith suggests Canadian government needs better labeling for GM food

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project posts piece by Andrew Porterfield rebutting myth that GM bacterium developed in 1990 could have ended all plant life, notes original claim by Green Party member that she co-wrote scientific paper advancing theory proven false, no such paper existed

Commentary: Biology Fortified's Karl Haro von Mogel summarizes process of Citizen Science experiment testing hypothesis that wild animals avoid eating GM corn, highlighting extensive measures to avoid bias, and ensuring transparency in communications with Monsanto, describes final steps of peer review and publication

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Nigerian news outlet contributor lists several reasons why Nigeria must embrace biotech, highlighting potential applications in agriculture and medicine, and pointing to success of GM cotton in India, amplifies Biocrops Biotechnology Company Limited CEO Joseph Olugbenga Tola Odusanya's support of biotech

Commentary: Madagascar news source contributor dismisses emails from Monsanto papers discussing Seralini retraction as unimportant because Seralini paper was fraudulent on multiple points, primarily erred by using rats predisposed to developing tumors

News: Cornell University's Next Generation Cassava Breeding project publishes first newsletter, says its researchers have explored cassava's genome, proved modern plant breeding methods such as genomic selection can be used for crop, plan to develop high-yielding and disease-resistant varieties

More Africa items

Asia

Letter to the editor: New Delhi resident writes to local news outlet, thanking them for publishing a tribute to Pushpa Mittra Bhargava, but noting it left out a description of his anti-GMO activism, especially against GM mustard

News: Indian business news outlet reports on declining cotton yields due to whitefly and pink bollworm attacks, farmers that have adopted Bt cotton experience sporadic pink bollworm attacks

News: Press Trust of India reports on Supreme Court declaration requiring a 30 day period for objections to be raised should government issue a notification for sale of GM food products, highlights apex court's dismissal of Vandana Shiva's objections to the 2007 notification

More Asia items

Europe

News: Radio France reports Consumers Not Guinea Pigs group files complaint with European Commission demanding products from animals raised on GM feed be labeled

News: Dutch news site reports Wageningen University researchers developed disease-resistant GM potato, but biotech products nearly impossible to market in EU so they work on developing identical potato using slower, conventional breeding

Commentary: Slow Food blogger reiterates objections to CETA trade agreement with Canada, voicing concern about entry of unlabeled GE salmon into Europe following its recent release on the Canadian market

Commentary: GRAIN's Biodiversidad magazine features Biodiversity Alliance collective conversation about experiences working to protect seeds, highlights perspectives of several NGOs including ETC Group and GRAIN, participants speak out against introduction of patented transgenic seeds in Latin America

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Secretary of agri-food and Rural Development, Paulo Bañuelos Rosales' recent statement on importance of maintaining GE-free agriculture in Guanajuato, noting it will benefit exports, as many countries seek high-quality corn from the region

News: Argentinian news outlet reports on release of information on members of National Commission of biotechnology (Conabia), responsible for approving GMOs in Argentina, highlights allegations of conflicts of interest due to members' ties to biotech companies

News: Mexico's Milenio reports breeding work of 1,500 Campeche beekeepers affected by damage to ecosystem blamed on excessive logging, planting of transgenic soybeans by Mennonite groups; Maya communities claim bees poisoned while flying over fields of transgenic soybeans

News: Brazilian news outlet reports on release of GE salmon onto Canadian market, highlights debate over labeling in the US, and concerns from environmental groups about potential escape into the wild, as well as AquaBounty's assurances that they have taken necessary precautionary measures

Commentary: Mexican news outlet contributor amplifies health expert Alejandra Espinoza's opinion on GMOs, highlighting her claims that they can cause cancer in the long term, claims they negatively impact the environment as well

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News release: Soil & Health Association notes new standards do not contain clause allowing national approval of GE trees; says local district councils retain ability to approve or disapprove GE tree permits

[More Oceania items](#)

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 Date: Thursday, August 10, 2017 9:03 06 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included continued controversy over biotechnology in Canada, as well as new activist protests criticizing a U.S. ice cream company.

Consolidated highlights include:

- Canadian media outlets reported on celebrity chef Michael Smith's recent pro-biotechnology statements during consultations for A Food Policy for Canada. During a meeting with food industry representatives, Smith urged acceptance of the technology in order to ensure global food security; Smith encouraged transparent GMO labeling in order to gain consumer trust. **See more**
- U.S. activists with the Organic Consumers Association (OCA) held a series of protests, calling on ice cream maker Ben & Jerry's to use only organic milk in its ice cream; Ben & Jerry's had previously announced that it had converted to non-GMO ingredients. Today's protests followed weeks of campaigning, launched when OCA announced that testing had found traces of glyphosate in many of the company's ice cream flavors. **See more**
- Commentators in Food Tank and *El Financiero* responded to U.S. trade negotiator Robert Lighthizer's mid-June statement that the country would emphasize GM crop acceptance in future economic agreements. Writing in Food Tank, former Center for Food Safety activist Doug Gurian-Sherman called GM crops "unsustainable" and said they had only led to new agricultural problems. An editorial writer with *El Financiero* made similar claims, warning that NAFTA negotiations could imperil Mexico's landrace maize varieties. **See more**

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North America

News: CBC reports celebrity chef Michael Smith speaks out in support of GMOs, noting the debate surrounding them is a first world problem, and arguing that they are a necessary tool to feed 10 billion people by 2050

News release: Organic Consumers Association announces protests against Ben & Jerry's in seven US cities and Mexico City, calling on the company to switch to 100 percent organic milk, claiming use of GM animal feed and contamination with glyphosate contradicts the company's sustainability image

Commentary: Former Center for Food Safety scientist says Trump admin's stance on GM crops not supported by science; says GMOs are unsustainable, negatively impact rural areas' economies, alleges Monsanto uses dicamba drift problem to sell GM seed, claims related pesticide use harms bees

Commentary: Kitchn contributor amplifies recent StarTalk podcast featuring discussion with Neil deGrasse Tyson and Pamela Ronald on GMOs, says humans have been modifying food for thousands of years, and that GMOs are part of a sustainable solution, both voiced concerns about effects of pesticide consumption on humans

Commentary: Tulsa World profiles "Food Evolution" film maker Trace Sheehan, says African nations'

extreme food emergencies convinced him of GMOs' importance

Commentary: Andrew Porterfield writes for Genetic Literacy Project, criticizes Food & Water Watch for touting aqua-farming of pink salmon, considered invasive species in UK, while demonizing GE salmon that cannot escape land-based farms, could not breed

Commentary: Stratfor examines recent market release of AquaBounty's GE salmon in the Canadian market after nearly three decades, highlights regulatory roadblocks in the US, notes the future of GE salmon has implications for GE livestock currently in development, notes policy on manipulated organisms will be crucial

News release: U.S., Argentinian companies announce FDA completes full review of their safety evaluation for soybeans with HB4 stress tolerance trait produced by their joint venture Verdeca, allowing products derived from the beans to be used commercially in food for humans, animal feed

News: Acres USA reports Cornell University to begin open-air trials of GM diamondback moths in Upstate New York, points out moth is scourge of cruciferous crops worldwide, organic farmers in state concerned about possible negative economic impacts from GE version of insect

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: The Detroit News runs op-ed by Michigan State University student from Zimbabwe who hopes her education will help her improve African agriculture, change attitudes in her home country that has blocked imports of GMOs; she points out GMO technology can produce cassava plant resistant to brown streak disease

Interview: The East African talks to former Syngenta executive now serving as manager director of Nairobi-based seed company about firm's plan to tackle food insecurity in Africa; Andy Watt says firm producing seeds in South Africa because it allows GMOs, expresses confidence GMO crops will be approved for use in East Africa

Report: African Centre for Biodiversity publishes discussion document entitled "The Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) Project - Profiteering not Philanthropy!," voices concern that promoting royalty-free drought-tolerant maize crops in African nations will open the doors to other GM events

Commentary: African Centre for Biodiversity issues alert, warning about applications for permits allowing GM crop varieties developed using RNAi in South Africa and Nigeria

News: Third World Network Biosafety Information Service reports field trials of Bt cotton being conducted in Swaziland despite product's poor performance elsewhere in Africa; variety in field trials makes use of Bt technology previously patented by Monsanto, which targets pests like African bollworm

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indonesian news source reports on 2017 International Conference on Biosciences held at Bogor Agricultural University, with theme of "From Genes to Ecosystems," focusing on current trends in research related to biology, including biology of genetics and biotechnology

News: Indian economy news outlet reports on government reticence in approving GM mustard, as it has decided to review all objections brought forward by farmers and scientists, according to environment minister Harsh Vardhan, including potential impact on human health and the environment, as well as yield potential

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Pat Thomas of UK NGO Beyond GM responds to recent documents demonstrating that US FDA has not yet received proof that soy leghemoglobin used in Impossible Burger is safe, argues that processed food is not a viable solution to food security in the face of climate change

Commentary: Inf'OGM notes Nagoya Protocol approaching ratification, offers framework to address liability and compensation caused by LMOs

News: Lithuanian news source reports food inspectors find undeclared GMOs in Ukrainian sweets, which testing found to contain more than 5 percent GM soy; EU law requires labeling if food contains more than 0.9 percent of GMO

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Commentary: Mexican news site commentator says US efforts to use NAFTA to require Mexico to accept GM crops would be "disaster" for Mexican agriculture; claims Monsanto cannot demonstrate health, environmental safety, and would put agriculture in hands of 3 corporations

News: Brazilian pork industry publication reports Brazil has second-largest production area of transgenic crops in world, with nearly 50 million hectares of transgenic varieties of soybeans, corn, cotton; industry professionals say challenge now to control resistance in insects, weeds

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

Commentary: Publisher of Australia's Weekly Times, Ed Gannon, writes in support of using genetic engineering to rid Australia of invasive species such as mice, rabbits and cane toads, believes such applications may help improve public opinion of GMOs

[More Oceania items](#)

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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Aug. 9, 2017
 Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2017 9:03:04 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included ongoing controversy over the sale of a genetically engineered salmon in Canada, and concerns over a public consultation process on GM soy in Mexico.

Consolidated highlights include:

- Canadian media outlets continued to report on activists' concerns about the sale of a genetically engineered salmon in Canada. Outlets such as *The Huffington Post Canada* and *CBC* amplified calls for mandatory GMO labeling from the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network. [See more](#)
- Canada's Angus Reid Institute issued the results of a new poll, finding that a majority of Canadians favored mandatory GMO labeling but were still uncertain about the definition of a GMO. [See more](#)
- In Mexico, Mayan communities criticized a public consultation process over the commercialization of GM soy in the Yucatan region. The groups claimed that peasant representatives faced intimidation and threats over their resistance to the crops. [See more](#)

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North America

News: Canadian media reports on market release of GE salmon, Lucy Sharratt of Canadian Biotechnology Action Network voiced concern about lack of mandatory labeling, as AquaBounty has not disclosed where the fillets were sold and for what purpose

News release: Canadian public opinion research organization says new poll shows fewer than 40 percent of Canadians believe it's safe to eat GM foods, more than 80 percent say at least some GMOs should be subject to mandatory labeling, even though majority unclear on definition of GMOs

News: Canadian media outlets reported on new public opinion research poll showing most Canadians unclear on definition of GMOs but still want mandatory labeling; poll from Angus Reid Institute also shows avoiding GMOs not top priority for most Canadians when grocery shopping

News: Bloc Quebecois leader and MP in National Assembly, Martine Ouellet, reiterated the Bloc's position in favor of mandatory GMO labeling, following arrival of GE salmon on the market, she noted that once Quebec gains independence, it can require GMO labeling to "control what is on our plates"

Audio: Genetic Literacy Project's Jon Entine and Ecomodernist Podcast's Rick Maltese interview Food Evolution documentary director Scott Hamilton Kennedy, joined by scientists Kevin Folta and Alison van Eenennaam, with focus on "confirmation bias"

News: Los Angeles Times reports environmental, consumer advocacy groups calling on Impossible Foods to pull its plant-based burger from market until it can prove GE ingredient that gives patty beef-like quality safe to eat; activists say FDA documents show regulators have yet to deem special

ingredient fit for consumption

[More North America items](#)

Africa

[Commentary: Ghanaian news outlet contributor examines media scrutiny of Ag Minister Owusu Afriyie Akoto's statement that the fight against fall armyworm is won, in spite of evidence of continued devastation, highlights opposition to his appointment based on his favorable position on GMOs](#)

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

[Announcement: ISAAA's Crop Biotech Update reports Bureau of Plant Industry in Philippines accepting public comments for 60 days on proposal for direct use of Golden Rice as food and feed, or for processing](#)

[Commentary: Vandana Shiva op-ed in Deccan Chronicle claims the "fraud and corruption we have witnessed in Bt cotton at high costs to farmers and the environment are now being repeated with GMO mustard;" Shiva reviews Monsanto's history in India and concludes crop must not be approved](#)

[Video: Official Channel of the Upper House of the Indian Parliament, Rajya Sabha TV, examines unaddressed concerns about GM mustard, in context of Supreme Court order](#)

[News: BioVoice reports on letter from India's Association of Biotech-Led Enterprises-Agriculture Group \(ABLE-AG\) to Prime Minister Modi in support of GM mustard, in response to letter from 34 medical experts against the technology, ABLE-AG accused anti-GMO activists of fear mongering, calling them "anti-national"](#)

[News: The Hindu reports cotton crop in parts of three Indian states attacked by pink bollworm, appears to be erosion of resistance to pest in some transgenic varieties, seed firms directed to pay compensation to farmers in Maharashtra; government officials claim pest can be contained with chemical treatment](#)

[Commentary: Korean news outlet contributor voices concern about health risks of GM corn and loopholes in national labeling laws, calls on government to tighten the Food Sanitation Act](#)

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

[News release: Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture announces recent statement by National Agricultural Research and Innovation Centre \(NARIC\) director-general, Csaba Gyuricza, at the China-Europe Soya Symposium in Pekin, Gyuricza encouraged research collaboration to boost non-GM soy production](#)

[Commentary: Italian news magazine column describes how genetic engineering can create virus resistant plants, lauds technology for also reducing losses, simplifying cultivation and reducing pesticide use; importance of Hawaiian GM papaya and future virus resistant GM plants under development cited](#)

[Commentary: French NGO posts letter from member of Volunteer Reapers critical of fundraising by the activist group's leaders, saying "the search for money has become an end in itself...volunteer GMO reapers have become a marketing product...we have become the workers of a biobusiness, unrelated to organic farming;" letter further criticizes nighttime destruction of GM crops](#)

[News: Turkish news outlet reports on Former Chairman of the Biosafety Council, Dr. Hakan Yardimci's description of rigorous risk assessment process needed for GMO approvals, following Turkey's recent approval of new GM soy and corn varieties for feed use, he highlighted the potential of the technology](#)

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Mayan communities' complaint to National Human Rights Commission (CNDH), denouncing "climate of harassment" and "division strategy" employed in consultation process on GM soy cultivation

News: Mexican news outlet reports on recent statement by Mayan communities denouncing "intimidation, threats and defamation of community leaders and advisors" in the consultation process of planting GMOs in Campeche, arguing that federal authorities only want to protect interests of companies like Monsanto

News: Brazilian news outlet reports on bill introduced by MP Luzia de Paula to ban GMOs in school meals, with goal of protecting health and encouraging purchase of organic food, Secretary of Education noted implementation of such a ban would be difficult, as most soy and corn produced in Brazil is transgenic

News: Brazilian ag news outlet reports on Embrapa Soja researcher Alexandre Nepomuceno's recent presentation on CRISPR at 20th Brazilian Congress of Seed Technology, noting reduced production costs will allow more players in the market, called on Brazil and China to decide whether to regulate the technology like GMOs

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

[More Oceania items](#)

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 Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2017 9:00:44 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included new advocacy around the potential release of Golden Rice. Activists also criticized a U.S. food company producing meatless hamburgers, rejecting its claims of ingredient safety.

Consolidated highlights include:

- Scientists and science advocates called for supporters to submit comments on Golden Rice's biosafety application, noting that the crop was being reviewed by regulators in the Philippines and in Australia. The Stop Golden Rice! Network announced that it had helped coordinate protests outside the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute. It highlighted criticism of Golden Rice from NGOs in Indonesia and the Philippines, and pointed to the network's success in delaying the commercialization of Golden Rice. The Philippines National Anti-Poverty Commission announced a roundtable discussion on Golden Rice, scheduled for Aug. 11; however, additional meeting details were limited. [See more](#)
- *The New York Times* reported that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration had questioned the safety of a genetically engineered soy product in communications with the developer, Impossible Foods; the communications were obtained through a Freedom of Information Act filed by the ETC Group. The company uses the soy product in so-called meatless hamburgers. Friends of the Earth and ETC Group issued a joint press release, calling for the company to pull the burgers from the market. Impossible Foods reaffirmed the safety of its food, noting the results of its animal feeding studies. [See more](#)
- Canadian activist groups continued to criticize the commercial release of AquaBounty's genetically engineered salmon, calling on state and federal governments to label the fish and urging their supporters to pressure grocers not to sell it. [See more](#)

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North America

News: New York Times reports on controversy surrounding Impossible Burger's "Secret Sauce" made from soy leghemoglobin; documents released from ETC Group FOIA request show FDA is not satisfied with Impossible Burger's safety assessment, the company says goal is transparency

Press release: Impossible Foods reaffirms safety of key ingredient in synthetic burger's key ingredients, highlights rat feeding study which found no harmful effects

News release: Friends of the Earth responds to documents released from FOIA request which reveal that FDA believes information provided by Impossible Burger is insufficient for it to grant general recognition of safety, criticizing the company for putting the product on the market

News: The Washington Post reports environmental groups oppose USDA proposal to lift restrictions on commercial production of freeze-tolerant GE eucalyptus trees, citing concerns about negative effects on environment; draft environmental impact statement concluded trees pose few environmental risks

Commentary: Food Drive posts op-ed by former Grocery Manufacturers Association executive discussing Trump administration's attempts to deregulate food and ag sectors, arguing food companies need to choose whether regulatory philosophy on GMO labeling or consumer trust more important factor

News: Food & Wine reports astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson discusses GMOs on his "StarTalk" podcast, explains why GMO is misleading term; Tyson asserts humans have modified organisms since agriculture began, with seeds for all food crops modified through selective breeding, crossing strains

[More North America items](#)

Africa

Commentary: Alternative Information & Development Centre promotes upcoming Permanent Peoples' Tribunal on Transnational Corporations from August 14-17, hosted by Southern African Campaign to Dismantle Corporate Power, with theme of land, food and agriculture

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

Commentary: Blogger for Cornell Alliance for Science highlights progress towards bringing golden rice to market in the Philippines, following application submitted by International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) for a biosafety permit, highlights opposition from anti-GMO groups

Commentary: Shivani Shah of Greenpeace India writes for local news outlet, reiterating opposition to GM mustard, promotes agroecological systems to boost production and decrease water use, argues that GM mustard is not the solution to India's oilseed problems

Commentary: Financial Express writer recalls meeting with the late Pushpa Bhargava, founder of India's Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology who admittedly never formally studied biology, cited "principle" in opposing Bt cotton, genetic modification of crops

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: German medical news outlet reports on ETH Zurich Researchers' breakthrough development of method to combine several essential micronutrients, iron, zinc and beta-carotene, into one rice plant, scientist Navreet Bhullar hopes the new variety will begin field trials next year

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Commentary: Columnist for Argentine NGO ECOS Córdoba reflects on one year anniversary of Monsanto's withdrawal from its Malvinas Argentinas seed factory, says it was "not the beginning or the end" but part of ongoing fight against agro-business

Commentary: Brazilian news site contributor reports Federal Public Prosecutor's Office (MPF) is targeting conflicts of interest involving members of National Technical Biosafety Commission (CTNBio); claims CTNBio "approved and continue to approve GMOs despite the insufficiency and shortcomings of scientific research", cites "irregularities" in approval of GM sugar cane

Commentary: Campaign spokesperson for 'I Do not Want Transgenics in Chile' writes for local news outlet, highlights campaign efforts by Pesticide Action Network to promote agroecology, and goal of forcing government to require labeling of GM foods

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News: Australian farming news outlet reports on Australian Grains Industry Conference, where chief executive of grain breeder AGT promoted end point royalty system as a driver for research and development in grain breeding; highlighting success with wheat, he also discussed questions surrounding gene editing regulations

Campaign: Cornell Alliance for Science urges followers to submit comments in support of International Rice Research Institute's (IRRI) requests for biosafety permit to allow use of golden rice in food, feed and processing in the Philippines and for inclusion of golden rice in the the Food Standards Australia New Zealand code

More Oceania items

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 Date: Monday, August 7, 2017 9:05:06 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included new activist campaigns calling for stricter regulation on field trials and new plant breeding techniques.

- Beyond Pesticides launched a new campaign protesting a proposed field trial of genetically engineered moths that would reduce wild pest populations. The group urged supporters to write to New York's Department of Environmental Conservation and warn that the proposed test is being held despite incomplete environmental assessments and could put organic farming operations at risk of losing their certification. [See more.](#)
- Friends of the Earth Australia issued a statement today outlining potential concerns with Australia's review of its National Gene Technology Scheme. The group asked supporters to create submissions on the review and offered a list of potential concerns to raise in their communications. The list included demands for regulating new plant breeding techniques and reinforcing the rights of states to ban GM crop cultivation, as well as statements on the need for GMO labeling and for maintaining the current safety assessment process. [See more.](#)
- *Kenya News Agency* reported that the country's Horticultural Research Institute would soon release a Bt cotton variety as part of a pilot project to reduce costs for small farmers. [See more.](#)

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North America

Campaign: Beyond Pesticides urges supporters to take action to tell Cornell University, New York Department of Conservation and New York Governor Cuomo to stop planned release of GM moths intended to control the pest in cabbage, claims release may cause de-certification of nearby organic farms

Commentary: Jan Nyrop of New York State Agricultural Experiment Station and Tony Shelton of Cornell University write for upstate New York news outlet in support of GM moth field trials, explaining that there is negligible environmental risk, and inviting readers to a public forum on Aug. 9

Video: Science in Real Life video explores genetic modification, walking through the process of creating a GM tomato plant in a Cornell lab, Cornell professor Joyce Van Eck explains the process, how GMOs can help solve several agricultural problems, and why GMOs are perfectly safe to eat

News: Agence France-Presse reports on Canadian environmentalists' outcry over recent commercial release of GE salmon, they denounced the lack of mandatory labeling and called for boycott, highlights opposition from Vigilance OGM, Canadian Biotechnology Action Network and Ecology Action Center

Report: Alison Van Eenennaam co-authors report for Journal of Animal Science, summarizes available scientific literature on the detection of dietary DNA, protein and glyphosate in animal products, finds that products from animals that have consumed GE feed do not pose novel health risks

Commentary: Food and agricultural economist Jayson Lusk examines how state votes on GMO labeling

changed consumer concern about GMOs, finds evidence that while state GMO labeling initiatives did increase awareness about GMOs, they did not significantly increase public concern

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Kenya News Agency reports GM drought tolerant Bt cotton variety will soon be released to Kenyan farmers, Cabinet secretary Willy Bett highlighted financial benefit of reduced need to spray pesticides

Commentary: African Centre for Biodiversity blogger recounts recent event co-organized with National Farmers' Union of Mozambique (UNAC) and its provincial affiliate in Manica (UCAMA), where smallholders expressed need for access to a diverse range of quality seeds, but not exclusively from the private sector

Commentary: South African news outlet editorial warns readers that they may be eating GMOs without their knowledge, claims GMOs and glyphosate pose serious health risks, amplifies concerns about GMOs by Jonathan Latham and African Centre for Biodiversity

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Business Standard reports inauguration of National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute Center of Innovative and Applied Bioprocessing Campus in Punjab; Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Science & Technology & Earth Sciences, Environment, Forest & Climate Change, urges scientists to create nutritional revolution

Commentary: Vietnamese news outlet contributor warns about negative impact of industrial agriculture on human health and the environment, claims GMOs are toxic due to treatment with glyphosate, highlighting IARC's review, promotes organic ag as an alternative

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: Sciences et Avenir reports AquaBounty sells first GE salmon in Canada; company argues production of transgenic salmon won't affect environment, production in large quantities of fish that is much in demand will relieve pressure on wild populations

Announcement: European Food Safety Authority's risk assessment of new sequencing information on GM soybean event 305423 finds that studies performed for risk assessment of the single event soybean 305423 and the two-event stack soybean 305423 × 40-3-2 remain valid, and that new sequencing data do not indicate any safety issues

Commentary: Italian organic and peasant farming NGO CampiAperti voices opposition to products of new breeding techniques, claims it will be a further step towards granting more patents to multinational seed companies

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Chilean news outlet reports on recent seminar entitled "Latin America and China: the future of food security," organized by Syngenta, general director of Syngenta for Latin America South, Antonio Aracre noted acquisition by ChemChina will help the company maintain competitiveness against Bayer/Monsanto

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

Commentary: Friends of the Earth Australia urges supporters to submit comments regarding Government's National Gene Technology plan, voicing opposition to lack of regulation for products of new breeding techniques such as CRISPR, measures preventing GM crop bans and GMO labeling, and contamination of organics

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From: Jay Byrne
 To: Wray-Cohen, Diane - FAS
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Aug. 7, 2017
 Date: Monday, August 7, 2017 5:50:19 PM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

Later this week, activists with the Organic Consumers Association will stage protests at Ben & Jerry's stores in the United States and Mexico in a bid to force the ice cream maker to go fully organic. In the eyes of Alex Berezow of the American Council on Science and Health, it's part of an effort to blackmail - or, as he says, "greenmail" - the company.

The article is listed below as part of this week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter, along with a piece from David Zaruk's "The Risk-Monger" blog more broadly examining the fear-mongering approach of organic industry marketing efforts.

There are also pieces looking at new U.S. statistics on the bee population, the debate over glyphosate use in Sri Lanka and GM mustard in India, along with a look back at a recent biotechnology communications symposium in Uganda.

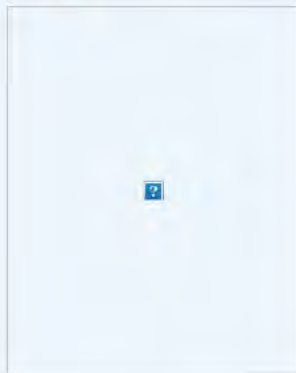
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In This Issue

[Stakeholder Spotlight](#)
[Stories Worth Sharing](#)
[What's Trending?](#)
[Calendar highlights](#)

Stakeholder Spotlight: Bioscience Resource Project



Jonathan Latham's
Bioscience Resource Project,
in collaboration with the

■ Stories Worth Sharing

[Alex Berezow: Organic activists trying to "greenmail" Ben & Jerry's with glyphosate campaign](#)

[Angela Logomasini: New USDA stats latest evidence Greenpeace, other activists are wrong about bee health issues](#)

[Andrew Porterfield: Cheerios, Grape Nuts cereals among foods that contain less vitamins after non-GMO switch](#)

[David Zaruk: Is there anything more to organic food than "slick marketing tricks?"](#)

[Joan Conrow: New study quantifies loss of human life, money from African nations delaying GM crop approvals](#)

[Steve Milloy: Analysis claiming to show sperm count decline is flawed, shows no link to chemicals](#)

[Kavin Senapathy: Widely accepted seedless watermelon not considered to be a GMO despite use of mutagenic chemical](#)

[C. Deepal Mathew: Sri Lanka glyphosate ban would cause more labor, use of alternatives that would harm the environment](#)

Center for Media and Democracy, recently released so-called "Poison Papers" alleging widespread conspiracies between the chemical industry and government regulators to keep chemicals and pesticides on the market that pose alleged risks to human health and the environment.

CLICK HERE to learn more about Latham and the Bioscience Resource Project.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Jill Kuehnert: Uganda symposium reinforced need for new tools to communicate about safety and benefits of GMOs [2](#)

Shanthu Shantharam: Indian government must stand up to anti-GMO activists blocking nation's agricultural progress [2](#)

"Food Evolution" director says documentary has people changing their minds about GMOs [2](#) Interview part 2 [2](#)

Pennsylvania newspaper details effort to bring back American chestnut tree using genetic engineering [2](#)

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

New batch of "Monsanto Papers" raises further allegations of undue influence on media and scientific research

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts largest ever "dead zone" in Gulf of Mexico

Canada approves import of Simplot GM potato varieties, opening door for potential trade with U.S.

USDA bee stats show slight increase in bee population over past year, with 27 percent drop in colony collapse disorder cases

Environmental Working Group releases database raising concern about pesticides, other pollutants in U.S. tap water

Calendar highlights

August 7	August 10	August 12
"Food Evolution" screening at National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine	Organic Consumers Association glyphosate protests against Ben & Jerry's in six U.S. cities	Final public hearing on South Africa Plant Breeders' Rights and Plant Improvement bills

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

<p>Stakeholder database</p> <p>More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate</p>	<p>Monitoring portal</p> <p>Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.</p>	<p>Bonus Eventus community</p> <p>Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.</p>
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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Aug. 4-6, 2017
 Date: Sunday, August 6, 2017 9 04:08 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

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Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included a call from the Organic Consumers Association for participants to protest against Ben & Jerry's. A news site reported Brazilian farmers pay higher royalty rates on GM soy than Argentine farmers. Food Standards Australia New Zealand called for submissions on an International Rice Research Institute application related to Golden Rice.

- The Organic Consumers Association is seeking participants to protest against Ben & Jerry's in seven U.S. cities and Mexico City on Thursday (Aug. 10). The protests are intended to pressure the company into going 100 percent organic. **See more.**
- Brazilian news site *Canal Rural* reported that Brazilian producers are paying more for Monsanto's Intacta seeds than producers in neighboring Argentina. Meanwhile, Argentine news site *La Nacion* reported that the government's system of collecting royalties, instituted last year, has more than doubled the collection rate on Intacta soy. **See more.**
- FSANZ called for submissions on IRRI's application to approve Golden Rice in its code. The move is intended to prevent trade issues should small amounts of Golden Rice end up in other rice shipments. The FSANZ safety assessment determined the GM crop presents no health or safety concerns. **See more.**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **[click here](#)**

North America

News: Associated Press primer on gene editing explains safety is a key question, reviews ethics debate; notes researchers using gene editing to improve crop growth

Campaign: Organic Consumers Association newsletter seeks participants for NGO's #DumpBenandJerrys press events, protests (Aug. 10) in seven U.S. cities, Mexico City; claims company's refusal to go organic pollutes waters with fertilizers, pesticides used to grow GM corn to feed cows

News: Washington Post reports commercial roll out of GE salmon in the US is held up due to complicated regulatory structure and controversy over labeling, Canadians have already consumed five tons

News: The Canadian Press reports Canada endorses Simplot potato varieties designed to withstand pathogen that caused Irish famine; notes while authorities say the modified crops are safe for human consumption and environment, "changing the genetic code of an existing food remains an ethical issue for some companies"

Commentary: Andrew Porterfield of Genetic Literacy Project points to several examples of organic, non-GMO products containing fewer vitamins and nutrients than their conventional counterparts, explains how vitamins and nutrients are frequently derived from GM crops

News: Toronto Star reports on several Canadians that have changed their minds on controversial issues such as GMOs, highlights Ottawa resident Rachel Gouin's experience working for an anti-GMO organization, she changed her mind on the subject after having a conversation with a scientist

More North America items

Africa

Campaign: World Federation of Trade Unions releases its conference declaration promoting planned counter-offensive against capitalists, multinationals, monopolies in Africa, calls for end to GMO cultivation

News: Agricultural economist writes in Huffington Post about recent USDA data projecting shrinkage in demand for maize imports in South Africa region due to expected record harvests; Zambia and Malawi projected to be net exporters, Zimbabwe self-sufficient

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Atlantic reports researchers look to make wheat resistant to wheat blast, are hesitant to use genetic modification due to consumers' GMO concerns, note that CRISPR, other gene editing methods have potential and are not regulated in US

News: Indian news outlet reports on letter from Association of Biotech-Led Enterprises-Agriculture Group (ABLE-AG) to Prime Minister Modi in support of GM mustard, accusing anti-GMO activists of being "anti-national" and fear mongering

Announcement: Malaysian National Biosafety Board announces decision granting approval for import of an herbicide tolerant GM corn variety by Syngenta for use in food, feed and processing, following Genetic Modification Advisory Committee (GMAC) determination that it does not threaten human health or the environment

Announcement: Malaysian National Biosafety Board announces decision granting approval for import of a high oleic fatty acid GM soybean variety by DuPont for use in food, feed and processing, following Genetic Modification Advisory Committee (GMAC) determination that it does not threaten human health or the environment

News: China news agency reports geneticist applies for retraction of paper published last year on new gene editing technology that could be an alternative to CRISPR after other scientists claimed they have been unable to reproduce results, authors plan to analyze why results not produced

Commentary: Italian news site piece by Navdanya International director raises concerns about GM mustard, claiming it would threaten farmers' livelihoods, pose risks to bees; argues fight in India is crucial for global war on GMOs, country needs democratic debate on food systems to protect environment and people's health

More Asia items

Europe

News: Global Meat News reports Russian sanitary inspection office plans to improve control over GMOs in domestic food and feed market; head of trade house RusAgro says situation with GMOs has driven up feed prices, putting pressure on meat producers, reducing their competitiveness; new system will launch by 2018 to speed up GMO testing

Commentary: German anti-GM NGO Testbiotech takes issue with CDU/CSU parliamentary group's stance to exclude gene editing from regular biotech crop testing approvals; says Testbiotech supporters have sent almost 10,000 emails to German politicians

Interview: Turkish news site talks to former Chairman of Biosafety Council Dr. Hakan Yardimci about country's recent decision to allow three GM soy varieties and one GM corn variety for animal feed; Yardimci says farmers around world have widely adopted GM crops, urges Turkey invest in biotechnology research

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Commentary: Mexican news site reports Mayan community accuses government of threatening and intimidating indigenous leaders in effort to get them to allow GM soy crop cultivation

News: Brazilian rural news site reports Brazilian producers pay for more for Intacta GM soy technology than their Argentine or Paraguayan neighbors, pointing out Argentina's legislation does not require royalties for saved seeds; Brazilian soy producers calling for similar legislative change to even playing field

News: Argentine news site reports on government's control system for Intacta soy royalties; Monsanto Argentina president says there is a "very important change in producer's willingness to pay", with levels above 80% compared to 40% when system began

Commentary: Brazilian news outlet contributors profile efforts by Vandana Shiva and Navdanya to preserve seed biodiversity, highlights her claims that Green Revolution technologies, including pesticides and controlled seeds, are responsible for declining biodiversity and loss of traditional seed varieties

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News release: Food Standards Australia New Zealand issues call for submissions, through September 14, on International Rice Research Institute's application to include vitamin-A rich Golden Rice in the Code, with goal of preventing any trade issues in event that small amounts inadvertently end up in shipments of other rice

News: Agrow reports Food Standards Australia New Zealand proposes approval of imports of GM Golden Rice

News: New Zealand news outlet reports on agricultural policies of various political parties ahead of upcoming election, Northland MP NZ First leader Winston Peters noted NZ First will not support GM crop field trials, GE plants proven safe under controlled conditions may be permitted for proliferation in certain circumstances

Announcement: Food Standards Australia New Zealand highlights Golden Rice application from IRRI based on trade issues, closing date for submissions Sept. 14; notes assessment determines no health and safety issues relating to this rice

[More Oceania items](#)

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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Aug. 3, 2017
 Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 9 01:07 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

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Today's global biotechnology developments included news that Brazil delayed a vote to reform its labeling requirements for GM ingredients in food and new GM crop approvals by Canadian regulators.

- Brazil's Senate announced that an agricultural committee vote to revise the country's GMO labeling law had been delayed. The measure, if approved, would allow higher tolerances of GM ingredients before requiring a label. The news release noted that Sen. Regina Sousa warned of potential health risks from foods with transgenic ingredients. [See more](#)
- Canadian regulators gave approval for J.R. Simplot to market and import three potato varieties genetically modified to resist late blight. The move opens up trade with the U.S., where the potatoes have been approved since February. [See more](#)
- The U.S. Organic Trade Association (OTA) promoted a new federal government report, "Harvesting Opportunity: The Power of Regional Food System Investments to Transform Communities," highlighting a chapter on how organic agriculture can improve economic conditions in rural counties. An OTA spokesperson claimed organic agriculture also has well-known health and environmental benefits. [See more](#)

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, [click here](#)

North America

News: Associated Press reports that Canada has approved three cisgenic potatoes developed by J. R. Simplot, enabling trade across U.S. and Canadian borders

Commentary: Kavin Senapathy writes for Forbes in honor of National Watermelon Day, points out paradox in worry about agricultural chemicals and GMOs, while seedless watermelons, not considered to be GMOs, are created using mutagenic chemicals to prevent seed production

Commentary: Vermont dairy farmer writes for Global Farmer Network, criticizing Ben & Jerry's continued rejection of GMOs in its response to claims about glyphosate residues in its ice cream, notes both GMOs and glyphosate are perfectly safe, highlights importance of GM animal feed on her farm

News: Capital Press reports two U.S. sugar companies to launch \$4M online campaign to educate consumers, change perceptions about GMOs; Idaho sugar beet farmer says campaign will highlight GMOs' lower use of pesticides

Report: Duke Initiative for Science & Society breaks down GE Salmon Labeling Act, noting it requires GE salmon be labeled as 'Genetically Engineered' or 'GE,' and that HHS verify environmental assessments conducted by the FDA on GE fish

News release: Organic Trade Association welcomes recent publication by Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis and U.S. Federal Reserve Board of Governors, with a chapter highlighting economic benefits of organic agriculture

More North America items

Africa

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Africa during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

[News: Progressive Farmer reports on National Grain and Feed Association and North American Export Grain Association's recent statement on performance of free trade agreements, calling for consistent approach for managing low-level presence of US biotech products not yet approved for import](#)

[Commentary: ISAAA reports key stakeholders in the province of Pangasinan, Philippines sign declaration of support for the commercialization of Bt eggplant during a seminar involving those involved with Bangladesh's Bt brinjal](#)

[Commentary: Shanthu Shantharam of Iowa State University writes for Indian magazine, calls on Indian government to stand up to anti-GMO activists, noting opposition to biotech crops hinders agricultural growth, explains genetic modification process, affirms that GMOs are safe](#)

[News: Associated Press of Pakistan reports the country is ranked seventh out of 26 countries growing biotech crops, according to ISAAA's most recent global biotech adoption report, with over 97 percent adoption of insect resistant cotton, stakeholders are now looking towards economic benefits of biotech maize](#)

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

[Commentary: The Greens/European Free Alliance challenges Science Advice Mechanism report conclusions on NBTs, arguing unintended mutations are common in all forms of genetic modification, urges precautionary approach to NBT regulation](#)

[Report: Report in Common Market Law Review examines issues of agricultural sustainability, biodiversity, and patents in EU GMO regulations, argues legal enclosure could justify imposing restrictions on GM cultivation in order to conserve agrobiodiversity](#)

[Interview: Five Star Movement Sen. Elena Fattori tells Italian news site she and her party have doubts on GMOs, skeptical over Agriculture Ministry's plan to fund NBT research because they are unsure how the products will be regulated](#)

[Commentary: Turkish news site claims GM foods cause a variety of health problems, especially for pregnant women; claims insects gain immunity to pesticides used with or in GM crops](#)

[News: Dairy Reporter reports on Arla Foods Ingredients' launch of "Pure Dairy" campaign as part of clean-label trend, promoting its Nutrilac ingredients made from whey protein extracted from milk produced by grass-fed cows, free from hormones and antibiotics, highlights EU consumers' aversion to GMOs](#)

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

[News release: Brazilian Senate announces vote delayed on bill changing GM labeling rule; notes proposal easing restrictions on GM labeling was rejected by science and technology commission, senator claims GM products can harm health](#)

News: Brazil Soy Project reports Brazil soy farmers pay up to 150 percent more royalties than Argentine soy farmers for Monsanto's Intacta GM soy; Monsanto official says comparison is unfair, does not take business models, form of collection into account

Commentary: Agron article focuses on how Brazil is driving GMO adoption in Latin America

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

[More Oceania items](#)

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 Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2017 9:00:31 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included additional activism objecting to Bayer's purchase of Monsanto and new developments in Kenya's efforts to field trial beneficial GM crop traits.

- Food & Water Watch issued a statement today announcing that it had issued another letter to the U.S. Department of Justice asking it to oppose Bayer's purchase of Monsanto. The NGO warned that the merger would substantially reduce competition in the vegetable seed market. Today's letter was signed by 23 additional farm groups; three groups signed its July 26 letter. [See more](#)
- Kenya's *Business Daily* reported that the country's National Biosafety Authority "defied" the minister of agriculture by announcing new GM maize and cotton field trials. The trials, scheduled for October, will be run by Kenya Agricultural Livestock and Research Organisation (Kalro) and African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF). [See more](#)
- Writing in the *The Guardian*, an activist with the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network (CBAN) highlighted confirmation that the federal government would require an additional environmental safety assessment before AquaBounty could cultivate GM salmon at its Prince Edward Island facility. The statement followed weeks of campaigning by CBAN against the facility. [See more](#).

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North America

News release: Farm, consumer group coalition sends letter urging DOJ to block Bayer-Monsanto merger warning move will further concentrate, privatize vegetable genetics, reduce availability of produce with little, no pesticides

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science blogger amplifies study quantifying the costs of biotech approval delays in Africa, notes toll in human lives

Commentary: Guardian publishes piece by Canadian Biotechnology Action Network head claiming AquaBounty has avoided full scientific assessment of the environmental risks of GM salmon production

News: Food Dive reports Dannon officials say non-GMO Project label is added value targeted at shoppers for whom non-GMO is a priority

News: The AP reports study findings published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences suggest farmer suicides are on the rise in India as climate change exacerbates drought and reduces annual incomes

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Kenyan business news outlet reports National Biosafety Authority (NBA) announces field trials for GM maize and cotton will begin in October, defying Health Ministry decision to halt trials, NBA managing director Willy Tonui noted they have all guidelines required for release of biotech maize for field trials

News: South Africa's Farmer's Weekly reports on approval of first GM sugarcane in Brazil resistant to sugarcane borer; principal scientist with South African Sugarcane Research Institute says they are also conducting GM research to combat stalk borer, which if successful, "could be our first proudly South African GM crop"

News: Tanzanian news outlet reports on Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, Jumanne Maghembe's call for acceleration of GM crop adoption, highlighting importance for boosting productivity and eliminating poverty

News: Burkina Faso news outlet reports on the country's shift back to conventional cotton, due to complaints about poor fiber quality in Monsanto's Bt variety, Interprofessional Association of Cotton Burkina Faso (AICB) Information Secretary Ali Compaoré noted the technology was not the issue, expressing openness to trying different GM varieties

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: India-based Moneycontrol reports NITI Aayog think tank vice chairman resigns, notes RSS-affiliate Swadeshi Jangran Manch heavily criticized the organization after it endorsed GM mustard

News: Indian Express reports on death of scientist and anti-GMO activist Pushpa Mitra Bhargava, highlights anti-GMO movement's reliance on his scientific evidence in its opposition to Bt eggplant and GM mustard

Commentary: Shivani Shah of Greenpeace India writes for local news outlet, acknowledges importance of self-sufficiency in oil production, lists several alternative strategies to GM mustard, claims GM mustard is unnecessary and does not live up to promises of yield advantages

News: Indian news outlet reports on Central Government's statement to Supreme Court that it will not make its decision on commercialization of GM mustard until September, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) begins deliberating on a GMO labeling mandate

Campaign: A group of Indian economists write to Prime Minister Modi, urging him to support commercialization of GM mustard, noting it has undergone sufficient environmental and food safety assessments, and that foregoing yield increases is extremely costly, especially to the poor

News: Chinese news outlet reports on former CCTV anchor and anti-GMO activist Cui Yongyuan's recent interview, where he noted that he constantly receives death threats, Cui claims lobbyists once offered him millions to stop protesting GMOs, highlights controversy over his high-priced non-GMO store

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: Turkish news outlet reports on Biosafety Board's approval of three GM soy varieties and one GM corn variety for use in animal feed, following reports by Scientific Risk Assessment Committee and Social-Economic Evaluation Committee

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Latin America during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

Commentary: Weekly Times editorial promotes potential of CRISPR-Cas9 technology to eradicate mice without chemicals, stop mosquitoes from transmitting diseases to humans; urges open mind on genetic manipulation technologies

Commentary: Executive director of Gene Ethics for a GM-Free Australia calls for tougher laws for new GM techniques in Tasmanian news site, claims "widespread non-compliance with Office of Gene Technology Regulator's safety rules and licenses have been confirmed"

News: Australian Broadcasting Corporation reports Australian-led researchers are working to control cotton bollworms and corn earworms, say pests are "humanity's greatest competitors for food and fibre;" research team has mapped their genomes and fears "the two could hybridise to create a new super pest"

More Oceania items

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 Date: Tuesday, August 1, 2017 9 01:40 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included news that European regulators would need more time to review Bayer's proposed purchase of Monsanto. Activists highlighted a new release of court documents related to a lawsuit over Monsanto's herbicide Roundup and the crops designed to tolerate it.

- European regulators announced that they would delay a decision on Bayer's proposed takeover of Monsanto, pushing an Aug. 7 deadline back to Aug. 22. The news was accompanied by reports that Bayer was offering additional concessions to ensure the deal met approval. In the U.S., a National Taxpayers Union representative criticized Democrats' opposition to the merger, arguing that it was based on reflexive dislike of Monsanto rather than any legitimate competition concerns. [See more.](#)
- Attorneys suing Monsanto posted more than 75 new court documents today, alleging that the company colluded with regulators to hide health risks of its Roundup herbicide. U.S. Right to Know's Carey Gillam highlighted the documents, warning that Monsanto's influence on regulatory bodies threw into question the safety of its entire portfolio. The document release was amplified by the NGO Sustainable Pulse, which claimed the documents show Monsanto pressured scientific publishers to withdraw a Gilles-Eric Seralini paper critical of GM maize NK603 and Roundup. [See more.](#)

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North America

[Commentary: Carey Gillam of U.S. Right to Know writes for Huffington Post, claims newest batch of "Monsanto papers" adds to evidence that the company colluded with EPA to cover up dangers of glyphosate, and that it "ghostwrote" certain studies](#)

[Commentary: Sustainable Pulse amplifies Baum, Hedlund, Aristei & Goldman's summary of most recent release of documents relating to lawsuit linking Monsanto's Roundup to cancer, highlights documents allegedly demonstrating Monsanto's influence in having Seralini's infamous rat study retracted](#)

[Commentary: Brandon Arnold of National Taxpayers Union writes for The Hill, criticizing Democrats' "A Better Deal" economic agenda, believes their opposition to Bayer-Monsanto deal stems more from dislike of Monsanto than any real competition concerns](#)

[More North America items](#)

Africa

[Commentary: Committee for the Abolition of Illegitimate Debt \(CADTM\) promotes recent launch of North African Network for Food Sovereignty as a framework for unifying struggles and engaging mobilization in the region, highlights goal of guaranteeing free access to seeds](#)

[News: Pan-African news outlet reports on debate over Ugandan bill to allow use of GMOs in the country, Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment \(ACODE\) claims the bill seeks to secretly](#)

introduce GMOs without proper safeguards, accuses government of using threats of hunger and armyworms to sway public opinion

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on National Biosafety Management Agency's (NBMA) analysis of some suspected GM products to ensure Nigerians' safety, Director-General Rufus Ebegba says goal is ascertaining whether or not the products are actually GM, called on Nigerians to trust the agency

Commentary: Dr Rose Maxwell Gidado, Nigeria's Coordinator for Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology (OFAB), writes for Nigerian Tribune, explains what GMOs are, and how biotech can be used in conjunction with other modern ag practices, emphasizes scientific consensus on GMO safety

News: Ghanaian news outlet reports on Biotechnology and Nuclear Agriculture Research Institute (BNARI) Director Kenneth Danso's assessment that GMOs will be necessary for Ghanaian agriculture to survive climate change, noting traits such as drought tolerance are difficult to achieve with traditional breeding

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Indian news outlet reports on Minister of State for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Shri Y. S. Chowdary's response to question in House of Parliament Rajya Sabha, noting that the only GM crop currently permitted for cultivation is Bt cotton, and that Bt eggplant and GM mustard have been recommended for consideration

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: Reuters reports that Bayer has offered additional concessions to ensure EU approval of its purchase of Monsanto, says company seeks to avoid lengthy review

News: Politico reports that European regulators have extended their review of Bayer's purchase of Monsanto; new deadline is August 22

News: Dutch ag news outlet reports Verband Lebensmittel Ohne Gentechnik (VLOG) certification body Qlip issues first GMO-free certificate to Cheese Pack Holland, as part of the Netherlands' pilot program for GMO-free milk production, in response to German demand

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Mexican news outlet reports on recent biotech lecture by Francisco Bolívar Zapata at Colegio Nacional, Zapata dispelled several concerns about GMO safety and highlighted several environmental benefits, such as reduced pesticide use

News: Ecuadorian news outlet reports on recent event, Dialogue on Knowledge on Corn and Seeds, where representatives of indigenous communities in the Sierra Norte discussed importance of protecting traditional seed varieties, and called for reforms to the seed law to ban transgenics

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

[More Oceania items](#)

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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - July 31, 2017
 Date: Monday, July 31, 2017 9:04:26 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

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In global biotechnology developments today, India's Supreme Court announced that it would maintain a moratorium on GM mustard cultivation pending the outcome of a September hearing.

- International and Indian media outlets reported that the Supreme Court would maintain a moratorium on GM mustard commercialization. The court added that it was awaiting a government policy decision. If the crop were approved for release, the court would hear an activist lawsuit protesting the crop's cultivation at a hearing the second week of September. Other news reports noted that the environment minister told the Rajya Sabha that a regulatory committee had approved the crop but that no further decisions had been made. **See more.**
- In a report on the African Centre for Biodiversity website, Third World Network's Lim Li Ching warned that promotional efforts for the Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) project would open the door to commercial GM crop varieties from multinationals such as Monsanto. **See more.**
- *Irish Times* reported that the country's minister of state for agriculture was urging regulators to consider whether the island could benefit from a GM-free status and potentially act as a biodiversity reserve in the case of "a scare." **See more.**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **[click here](#)**

North America

[Interview: GMO Answers interviews high-tech agricultural startup scientist Xiaohua Yang on Medium, she believes scientists need to become better story tellers to help engage the public, points to several potential biotech applications](#)

[News: New York Times reports on increase in land disputes in Kenya, usable farmland is rapidly disappearing due to climate change and overgrazing](#)

[News: Genetic Literacy Project contributor looks at efforts to use genetic modification to turn annual crops into perennials; says doubling of major grain crops since 1950s not enough to feed growing population, transforming major crops to perennials could increase production and reduce chemical use](#)

[More North America items](#)

Africa

[Commentary: Lim Li Ching of Third World Network writes blog post for African Centre for Biodiversity \(ACB\), following recent meeting organized by ACB and Kenya Biodiversity Coalition, highlights discussion of concerns that Water Efficient Maize for Africa \(WEMA\) project is a way for Monsanto to open the door to GMOs in Africa](#)

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Reuters reports two Indian states will allow increased pesticide spraying to ward off whitefly bug attacks of GM cotton crop due to weather conditions

News: Bloomberg reports India's top court puts commercial release of a GM mustard variety on hold until decision on activist lawsuit, case scheduled for September

News: Indian news source reports Supreme Court says it would hear a plea challenging commercial cultivation of GM mustard crop in the country before sowing season begins if the government decides to approve it

News: Indian news site reports state agriculture minister for Tamil Nadu asserts state government will not allow introduction of GM mustard, not even for testing

News: India Today reports on government's announcement that it will make its decision on GM mustard in September, following approval from GEAC, highlights opposition from environmental activists from the Sarson Satyagrah, who urged Prime Minister Modi to reject its approval

News: Press Trust of India reports on Central Government's announcement to supreme court that it will make a decision on whether to allow commercial roll-out of GM mustard in a month and a half, if the government decides in favor, the court will hear a petition challenging its release

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: Irish Times reports country's ag minister believes Ireland should remain GMO-free to maintain biodiversity, differing opinion to Agricultural and Food Development Authority

News: Bulgarian news outlet reports draft of Food Chain Management Act published for discussion, would unify all food chain activity including GMO regulation under a common framework

Commentary: Inf'OGM says NGOs need opportunity to help define priorities of France's food congress, including adding GMOs to the agenda; adds range of perspectives sought so far isn't broad enough

News: Bloomberg reports Bayer CEO Werner Baumann recently told investors that there is "no reason to doubt" that planned deal with Monsanto will close by the end of the year, even if EU Commission decides to open a Phase II in-depth review

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Audio: Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation says biofortified cassava with beta-carotene is an excellent food for school lunches, contains important nutrient to prevent health problems

Commentary: Ecuadorian news outlet contributor summarizes history of GM seed regulation in the country, praises recent rule finally allowing entry of GM seeds for research purposes, notes it is unknown when controversy over potential health and environmental effects will end

News: Argentinian news outlet reports on government's willingness to make changes in its seed law, as long as consensus is reached in agribusiness and seed industry, according to Minister of Agroindustry, Ricardo Buryaile, highlights government's resolution with Monsanto over its Intacta GM soybean variety

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

Commentary: University of Melbourne professor writes for The Conversation, examines various agendas that have earned the label "anti-science," as well as how science serves social and political agendas, argues that the populist left's anti-GMO stance is more conspiracist than leftist, and leftist anti-GMO sentiment is more about anti-corruption

News: Australian Broadcasting Corporation reports on accidental planting of GM canola by South Australian farmer in spite of the state's ban, Biosecurity South Australia executive director Will Zacharin noted the farmer will not be held responsible, but seed companies have been warned to be more careful

More Oceania items

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From: Jay Byrne
 To: Wray-Cohen, Diane - FAS
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - July 31, 2017
 Date: Monday, July 31, 2017 4:02:51 PM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

U.S. activist groups were energized last week when *The New York Times* ran with a story raising alarm about the presence of glyphosate in Ben & Jerry's ice cream products. Upon closer examination, the claims didn't hold up.

This week's newsletter features pieces by Kevin Folta explaining how the *Times* failed to check out research that was not peer-reviewed or even published in a journal. He also explains how Ben & Jerry's likely riled the Organic Consumers Association by refusing to bow to its demands. Julie Kelly explores the failings of the NGO's research and the newspaper's journalism while Stephan Neidenbach examines the questionable background of the glyphosate opponents attempting to smear the herbicide.

Other pieces touch on the promise of gene editing, how Chipotle's norovirus outbreak serves as a reminder of the chain putting ideology ahead of food safety and a push for biotechnology regulations in Uganda. There's also a piece from *The Washington Post* exposing common myths about agriculture.

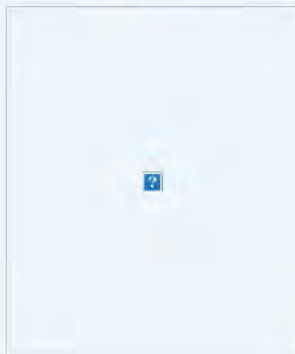
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In This Issue

[Stakeholder Spotlight](#)
[Stories Worth Sharing](#)
[What's Trending?](#)
[Calendar highlights](#)

Stakeholder Spotlight: John Fagan



This week, The New York Times amplified a "report" about glyphosate in Ben & Jerry's ice cream products

■ Stories Worth Sharing

[Kevin Folta: New York Times article on glyphosate in Ben & Jerry's ice cream combines bad science, bad journalism](#)

[Julie Kelly: New York Times article on Roundup in Ben & Jerry's ice cream "deceptive and dishonest," riddled with errors](#)

[Stephan Neidenbach: Ben & Jerry's glyphosate scare spread by anti-vaxxers with history of shunning scientific accuracy](#)

[David Zaruk: Eight tips for dealing with coordinated attacks from organic activists on glyphosate, "Food Evolution"](#)

[Paul Vincelli: Gene editing an environmentally friendly choice for crop protection](#)

[Uganda National Biosafety Committee chairman: Efforts to block biotech regulations lead to lack of oversight, "jungle law"](#)

[Kavin Senapathy: Norovirus outbreak another reminder Chipotle eschews modern farming practices "at the expense of food safety"](#)

[Joseph Perrone: Chipotle food safety issues no surprise as some organic practices risk exposing fruit, vegetables to fecal microbes](#)

that was authored by John Fagan, identifying him only as the chief executive officer of Health Research Institute (HRI) laboratories. Fagan and other experts cited by the Times unanimously claimed the levels of glyphosate found pose a risk to human health.

What the Times failed to note were any details or background about Fagan, his bizarre views or his business history on the topic of food production and testing as the "Raja" for the Maharishi religious cult charged with ensuring health invincibility for movement members via food purity and testing labs.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see more details The New York Times failed to mention.

[CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES](#)

Mischa Popoff: USDA Organic Program "leads consumers to pay more for organic food" more likely to make them sick [?](#)

"Plant M.D." Tim Durham: Using precautionary principle to block biotechnology "obstructionist" with its unblemished safety record [?](#)

Tanzania agriculture ministry official asks seed companies to provide Water Efficient Maize for Africa varieties to smallholder farmers [?](#)

Henry Miller: USDA hits "cluelessness trifecta" with its regulation of GM petunias while admitting no plausible expectation of harm [?](#)

Jenna Gallegos: Exposing 10 "mega myths" about farming, GMOs, pesticides, antibiotics [?](#)

[CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING](#)

What's Trending?

Organic Consumers Association tests finding glyphosate traces in Ben & Jerry's ice cream prompt unbalanced article in The New York Times

Study: Delays in biotech approvals cost sub-Saharan Africa thousands of lives, millions of dollars each year

Stanford researchers claim climate change will lead to more rain, causing more nitrogen-based fertilizers to wash into waterways

Golden Rice advocates offer sample letter asking Philippines Bureau of Plant Industry to support approval of biofortified GR2E rice

Chairman of U.S. House Agriculture Committee willing to consider neonic ban as part of farm bill negotiations

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, EPA formally post withdrawal of Waters of the United States (WOTUS) to Federal Register

Calendar highlights

August 1	August 5	August 7-10
Iowa Water Quality Summit	African Centre for Biodiversity seed bill workshop	National Association of Plant Breeders annual meeting
August 7	August 10	August 12
"Food Evolution" screening at National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine	Organic Consumers Association glyphosate protests against Ben & Jerry's in six U.S. cities	Final public hearing on South Africa Plant Breeders' Rights and Plant Improvement bills

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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This weekend's global biotechnology developments included a *PLOS One* study that found Nigeria's delays in adopting GM crops costs the country millions of dollars and possibly thousands of lives.

- A study by Wageningen University researchers suggests delays in approval for the pod-borer-resistant GM cowpea costs Nigeria between \$33 million and \$46 million annually while between 100 and 3,000 lives are lost. **[See more](#)**
- Indian news site *Mint* reported the government told the Supreme Court that GM mustard has 20-year history of safe use, noting the product being considered for commercialization is not herbicide-tolerant. The court had requested the government provide information on how the GM crop would impact other crops. Meanwhile, *Press Trust of India* reported activists are increasing campaign efforts as the Supreme Court hearings begin. **[See more](#)**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **[click here](#)**.

North America

[News: Florida NPR affiliate reports on University of Florida's Citrus Research and Education Center's efforts to use CRISPR to combat citrus greening](#)

[Commentary: Anti-GMO magazine profiles baseball player venturing into organic farming, says organic offers health benefits; adds eating organic, avoiding GM foods helped his athletic career](#)

[Commentary: Kevin Folta in Medium blog post accuses New York Times, Organic Consumers Association and Regeneration Vermont of conspiring to destroy Ben and Jerry's reputation, notes OCA's data on glyphosate residues in Ben & Jerry's ice cream is not published or peer reviewed, and is likely not accurate](#)

[Commentary: Jeffrey Smith of Institute for Responsible Technology writes for Huffington Post, claims recent Nature Methods study demonstrating unintended mutations in CRISPR mice exposes several new health risks posed by GE mosquitoes and GE salmon](#)

[News: New York Times reports on Japanese research team's development of a truly blue chrysanthemum, notes commercialization may be difficult due to concerns about potential environmental contamination](#)

[More North America items](#)

Africa

[News release: Wageningen University promotes study finding unjustified delays in biotech crop approvals in sub-Saharan Africa costs thousands of lives, millions of dollars](#)

[News: Ugandan farm news site reports Parliament to consider biosafety bill tabled since 2013, notes agencies develop 17 GM crops that would benefit farmers, but will be unavailable commercially unless](#)

Parliament approves bill

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) Director General Rufus Ebegba's call on farmers to trust the agency to ensure safety of GMOs prior to release on the market, during recent visit with members of Nigerian-American Chamber of Commerce

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Press Trust of India reports activists increase campaign efforts as GM mustard Supreme Court hearing begins

Interview: Former Indian environment minister Jairam Ramesh tells Indian news site environmental protection can't be left to market forces, but central government leans that way, noting GM mustard approval; says Supreme Court lately has supported the executive, boding ill for the environment

Commentary: Ex-health minister for India writes open letter, endorsed by 34 medical professionals, to Prime Minister Modi, claiming GMOs and pesticides are hazards to human health, claims assessments were inadequate, urges Modi to reject GM mustard commercialization

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Commentary: Contributor for French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM criticizes EU Commission's authorization of using a GE fungus strain in production of adult food supplements, objects to lack of labeling or risk assessment, even though no GE material remains in the final product

Commentary: Contributor for Evening Standard (U.K.) examines GMO debate, highlights benefits such as helping improve food security in developing African nations, argues that pesticides are responsible for bee colony collapse, notes GMOs can help reduce pesticide use

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Argentinian news outlet reports Agricultural Union of Avellaneda denounces Monsanto's actions regarding fees for its Intacta GM soybean variety

News: Costa Rican news site reports activists submit 28,000 signatures requesting government to label GM products after study finds 85 percent of items analyzed contain transgenic ingredients

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News: Australian Broadcasting Corp. reports SA government's GMO ban is popular with consumers, but SA farmers argue that GMOs are safe and the ban stifles agricultural growth

News: Australian Broadcasting Corporation reports on South Australian Premier's rejection of calls from grain farmers to lift the ban on GM crops, Grain Producers South Australia chairman Wade Dabinett argues the government has no proof that there is any economic benefit in maintaining the ban

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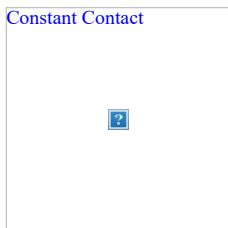
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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included a Capital Research Center article giving the USDA's National Organic Program a failing grade, and *Des Moines Register* contributor says a Bayer-Monsanto merger will be bad for rural areas.

- A Capital Research Center article by "Is It Organic?" book author Mischa Popoff claimed the USDA's Organic Program leads consumers to pay more for food and to buy products more likely to make them sick. Meanwhile, it noted the organic industry's war against biotechnology is sustained and well-funded. [See more](#)
- Ex-U.S. Treasury economist Austin Frerick wrote a piece in *The Des Moines Register* arguing that falling crop prices and a wave of agricultural industry mergers would stress farmers and rural economies. Frerick suggested not only should the Bayer-Monsanto merger be opposed, but the existing large corporations should be broken up. Frerick was interviewed about his piece by *Politico*. [See more](#)

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North America

News: NPR reports on Japanese scientists' development of "true blue" GM chrysanthemum, Naonobu Noda of Japan's National Agriculture and Food Research Organization noted there are no specific plans for their sale, as GMOs are difficult to commercialize

Commentary: University of Kentucky professor Paul Vincelli writes for Ensia, provides several examples of how genetic engineering, especially gene editing, can make crop protection much more environmentally friendly, notes pesticides have potential for misuse, but disease and pest-resistant crops reduce pesticide use

News: Canadian news site reports country's Environment Minister says proposal to grow AquAdvantage GE salmon on Prince Edward Island will face environmental assessment and be subject to strict requirements

Commentary: Highlighting biotechnology's potential for reducing hunger, BORGEM Magazine contributor claims the technology is 'wrongfully exploited' by multinational companies when poorer countries should be benefitin

Letter to the editor: Illinois farmer explains his 20 years of success using GM crops and herbicides like glyphosate; says he is confident in the safety of the food he grows for his family and consumers

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Ghanaian news outlet reports the country will most likely face food shortages this year due to fall armyworm devastation of maize crops, Ministry of Agriculture announced only one out of the five

pesticides it has imported is effective against the pest, highlights plans to import an additional 3,000 liters of Neemazal

News: IPP Media reports on recent statement by acting director for research and development in Tanzania's Ag Ministry, Jackson Nkuba, calling on seed companies to make Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) drought-tolerant varieties available to smallholder farmers, in order to boost growth in the ag sector

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Indonesian news site reports professor notes difficulties in marketing GM crops, notes lengthy and costly approval processes

News: Iowa Farmer Today reports Iowa agricultural groups 'seek more access' during trade mission to China; notes some working on a more transparent approval system for crop biotech traits

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: Agribusiness Intelligence reports USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service extends deadline for public comment on scope of GMO food disclosure rules, giving stakeholders until August 25

News: NutraIngredients reports Nature Scientific Reports team from Rothamsted Research Institution in UK successfully cultivated GM plant-derived omega 3 on commercial scale

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News release: Brazilian Senate announces bill would ease restrictions on producers regarding labeling GMOs, would require reporting only products with more than 1 percent GMO ingredients, would not require transgenic symbol

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News: Anti-biotech NGO reports on Australian researchers developing GM banana with pro-vitamin A, field trials in Uganda; notes AC-Bio doubts biotech's capacity to meet Africa's needs

News: Australian news site reports field test for Bt cotton Bollgard 3 in Western Australia, researchers hope results approach top yield worldwide

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 Date: Wednesday, July 26, 2017 9:05:07 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included new advocacy campaigns against Bayer's purchase of Monsanto. U.S. science commentators responded to the latest norovirus outbreak in a Chipotle restaurant.

- Civil society groups in the U.S. issued an open letter asking the U.S. Department of Justice to block Bayer AG's proposed purchase of Monsanto Co. The groups - including Food & Water Watch and the National Farmers Union - warned that the merger would reduce competition in cottonseed and herbicide resistance traits. The campaign follows a letter from European activist group Avaaz that similarly criticized the potential impacts on competition as European antitrust regulators seek to complete their preliminary review of the deal by Aug. 7. [See more](#)
- Following last week's news that Chipotle had to close a Virginia restaurant over another norovirus outbreak, commentary in *The Hill* and *Forbes* criticized the chain for focusing on its non-GMO marketing claims rather than emphasizing actual food safety issues. A report in *Fox Business* added that Chipotle did not meet Non-GMO Project guidelines for being free of GM ingredients despite the campaign. [See more](#)
- In Uganda, the *Daily Monitor* continued to highlight the country's newly relaunched National Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill. In a point-counterpoint today, experts argued for and against the proposed legislation. [See more](#)

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North America

[News release: Food & Water Watch, American Antitrust Institute and National Farmers Union announce they have sent joint letter to Department of Justice in opposition to Bayer-Monsanto merger, NFU's Roger Johnson argues the merger will negatively affect markets for both GM and conventional seeds](#)

[Campaign: American Antitrust Institute, Food & Water Watch and National Farmers Union write joint letter to Department of Justice in opposition to Bayer-Monsanto merger, arguing that consolidation does not necessarily drive innovation, and claiming that the merger will lead to increased prices for farmers and consumers](#)

[Commentary: In Forbes, Kavin Senapathy skewers Chipotle for "stubborn commitment to eschewing modern food science and agricultural practices, even at the expense of food safety," noting its opposition to safe genetic engineering techniques](#)

[Commentary: Joseph Perrone of Center for Accountability in Science writes for The Hill, criticizing Chipotle's continued "better-for-you" branding free from GMOs and antibiotics, following most recent outbreak of foodborne illness in the Beltway area, points to several examples of how organic is no safer or healthier](#)

[News: Fox Business notes recent issue with customers getting norovirus isn't first problem for Chipotle, lists its untrue claims about antibiotic-free and GMO-free menu items](#)

[Commentary: Business Insider shares conspiracy theory from Natural News article accusing biotech](#)

industry of planting E. coli to destroy Chipotle because it has publicly denounced GMOs, notes there is no evidence to back up claims

News release: Canadian Biotechnology Action Network welcomes confirmation that AquaBounty does not yet have federal approval to commercially produce GE salmon at its facility in Rollo Bay, Prince Edward Island, Mark Butler of Ecology Action Centre called for transparent environmental risk assessment prior to approval

[More North America items](#)

Africa

Commentary: New York-based investor writes in CNBC Africa about biotechnology's potential to bolster region's food security, calls on governments and investors to embrace the technology

News: Ugandan news site reports scientists moving away from genetic modification to use synthetic biology, which may not require laws in order for farmers to access the technology; notes Science & Technology minister urges Ugandan legislators to pass biosafety bill

Interview: Ugandan news outlet interviews two experts on the Biosafety Bill, one advocates caution, criticizing the bill for not mentioning the precautionary principle, while the other calls for its passage, pointing to several benefits of biotech for Uganda, and noting opposition is based on misinformation and fear

News: Zimbabwean news outlet reports on recent workshop where biosafety experts from South Africa and Zimbabwe emphasized importance of promoting understanding of biosafety issues in Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, Dr Hennie Groenewald pointed to need for communication on GMOs

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: The Hindu reports that activists attending May GEAC meeting questioned safety of using herbicides on GM mustard, noted government's poor record of post-release monitoring

News: The Wire continues with second in two-part series on Swadeshi Jagran Manch's criticism of Modi government's economic policies, with focus on SJM's opposition to GM mustard and Bt cotton, and claims that GEAC's report is unscientific and favors the GM lobby

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Study: Swedish law, ethics professors say EU needs to revamp its regulatory framework governing GM crops

Report: Organic Cotton Accelerator summarizes obstacles to increased organic cotton uptake, emphasizes need for coordination to overcome lower yields and other issues before industry interest disappears

Study: European Food Safety Authority study seeks to develop and harmonize reliable sampling approaches to generate data for GM plant risk assessments, identifies Theory of Sampling as the most comprehensive framework

Commentary: Contributor for French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM criticizes EU Commission's response to Green MEPs' questions on EU compliance with the Cartagena Protocol regarding transboundary movement of living modified organisms, argues Commission's answer regarding products of mutagenesis is insufficient

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Commentary: Brazilian news site profiles MST movement, says organization uses small farmers' as pretext for "delinquent and liberticidal purposes," violates law without repercussions

News: AFP profiles healthy living TV show host Bela Gil, who touts organic food; notes "poverty increases while transgenic crops and deforestation" continue

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News: New Zealand agriculture news site profiles US farmer who avoided GM crops in 1990s, but changed his mind when he couldn't eradicate weeds without damaging non-GMO crops; notes GM crops make farming easier, reduces pesticide use

[More Oceania items](#)

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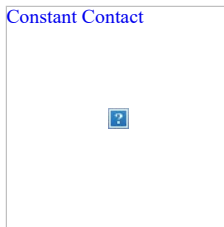
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From: Jay Byrne
 To: Wray-Cohen, Diane - FAS
 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - July 25, 2017
 Date: Tuesday, July 25, 2017 9:03 07 PM

FAST ACCESS: MONITORING \ STAKEHOLDERS \ COMMUNITY

Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included a new report from activists in Europe criticizing the role of "Big Business" in U.K. trade negotiations. U.S. organic activists launched a campaign targeting prominent ice cream maker Ben & Jerry's over its dairy sourcing.

- Following news that the U.S. and the United Kingdom have entered into trade talks, the activist groups Corporate Europe Observatory and Global Justice Now published a report accusing U.K. trade negotiators of working in secret with corporate interests while ignoring civil society groups and consumers. [See more](#)
- News outlets in Africa reported on the release of a new generation of maize resistant to the striga weed. The new crop variety, known as Imazapyr Resistant Maize, is being promoted by the African Agricultural Technology Foundation as "StrigAway." [See more](#)
- *The New York Times* amplified a new glyphosate testing campaign spearheaded by the Organic Consumers Association, which is urging ice cream maker Ben & Jerry's to go beyond its promises to source non-GMO milk and instead use organic milk in its ice cream. [See more](#)

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, [click here](#).

North America

[News: New York Times reports on Organic Consumers Association commissioned testing which found traces of glyphosate in Ben & Jerry's ice cream, global director of social mission emphasized company's transition away from GMOs, noted need to better understand where the glyphosate is coming from](#)

[News: Business Insider amplifies New York Times coverage of OCA tests claiming glyphosate found in samples of Ben & Jerry's ice cream, with NGO critical of company's choice to advertise products as "natural"](#)

[Campaign: Organic Consumers Association petition urges Ben & Jerry's to stop greenwashing, go organic, claims cow in milk supply fed GM corn treated with "carcinogens and endocrine disruptors" Roundup, atrazine and metolachlor that pollute Vermont's waters](#)

[Commentary: Food science writer James Cooper blasts Westminster Bakers for "scare tactic marketing" via Non-GMO Project label, argues every major scientific organization worldwide has concluded genetic modifications pose no harm](#)

[News: Capital Press reports Oregon and Idaho sugar beet farmers struggling with glyphosate-resistant kochia weeds; Monsanto and German plant breeding company working to develop genetically engineered sugar beet resistant to glyphosate and dicamba](#)

[News: Alaskan news site reports Sen. Lisa Murkowski leads U.S. Senate effort to ban import of GE salmon until FDA requires GM labeling, citing risk to Alaska's fishery industry; notes no health risk from fish](#)

Commentary: Organic lifestyle outlets report Campbell's departure from Grocery Manufacturer's Association largely due to differences on GMO labeling

More North America items

Africa

News: Xinhua reports Kenyan farmers are returning to maize cultivation after development of maize variety resistant to striga weed, African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) scientist explains StrigAway is coated with herbicide attached to maize's roots, killing the weed before any damage

News: Kenyan news outlet reports on development of StrigAway maize variety that is resistant to striga weed, against which herbicides are ineffective, it is being promoted by African Agricultural Technology Foundation, and BASF contributed to its development

News: Quartz South Africa correspondent reports Kenya's Biosafety Authority is reviewing application by Israeli company Imaginature to produce transgenic baby's breath flowers; comment period closed, decision expected in coming months

Interview: Nigerian news outlet interviews Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) Project Manager Sylvester Oikeh, he explains how WEMA's new maize variety can prove useful in fighting spreading fall armyworm invasion, in addition to resisting insects and harsh weather conditions

More Africa items

Asia

News: Press Trust of India reports that during a house hearing on agrarian crisis, opposition leaders questioned government policies; NCP politician called for open mind on ag technologies

News: Indian business news outlet reports farmers are growing illegal GM hybrid cotton varieties that are both bollworm resistant and herbicide tolerant, the new varieties have not been approved by Indian regulators

Commentary: Hindustan Times reports India's Supreme Court asks federal government to provide research on GM mustard's adverse effects; activist noted Technical Expert Committee report opposed GM seeds for crops originating in India

News: Press Trust of India reports Supreme Court asks federal government for research on adverse effects of GM mustard; notes briefing submitted by activist seeks 10-year moratorium, claims GM mustard causes cancer, will contaminate seed stock, higher yields are a hoax

News: Times of India reports government avoids ban on commercial cultivation of GM mustard by agreeing to provide additional scientific data to Supreme Court

News: India's Financial Express reports commercial launch of GM mustard at least two years away, government tells Supreme Court; decision for release hasn't been made, court waiting on additional information

News: Indian news site reports government tells Supreme Court no final decision has been made on release of GM mustard though the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee has approved it for field tests

More Asia items

Europe

News: Huffington Post UK reports on recent House of Lords report which found that cheap food imports could threaten UK animal welfare standards post-Brexit, the U.S. is able to offer cheaper food due to more relaxed standards on GMOs and animal hormone treatments

Commentary: Global Justice Now director Nick Dearden writes for U.K. news outlet, criticizing International Trade Secretary Liam Fox's secrecy in post-Brexit trade deals, points to recent publication with Corporate Europe Observatory which found 90 percent of trade ministers' meetings have been with businesses

News release: Corporate Europe Observatory and Global Justice Now announce publication of new briefing, "Big Business Britain - How corporate lobbyists are dominating meetings with trade ministers," raising questions about ways in which post-Brexit trade deals could favor interests of Big Business

News: Politico reports opposition in U.K. to importing GM food, hormone-treated beef from U.S. in post-Brexit trade deal; notes U.K. environment secretary seeks to maintain food quality standards of EU

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Commentary: Mexican news site says GM foods are cultivated with agrochemicals and pesticides, which affects their composition, flavor; adds they have fewer nutrients, will eventually make people sick

News: Mexican news site reports the government's consultation with indigenous communities concerning the adoption of GM soy has not adhered to international standards on the subject, risking possible confrontations

Commentary: Mexican news columnist examines GMO debate, highlights many economic benefits of the technology, and notes humans have always improved crop varieties through breeding, points to health benefits of GM super banana, voices concern about corporate control of food

News: Brazilian news outlet reports on upcoming Piauí seed fair, hosted from July 27-28, will goal of making farmers aware of risks of transgenic seeds, and to help them identify GMOs and prevent contamination of their fields

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

[More Oceania items](#)

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More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

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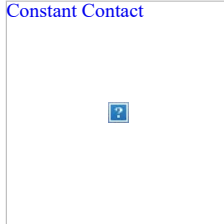
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From: Jay Byrne
 To: Wray-Cohen, Diane - FAS
 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - July 24, 2017
 Date: Monday, July 24, 2017 9:01:48 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included the start of trade talks between the U.S. and the United Kingdom.

- *India Legal* reported that the country's Supreme Court ordered the government to have scientists file an affidavit with the court explaining the potential environmental impacts of its GM mustard seed. The order followed arguments from activist Aruna Rodrigues, who is seeking a stay on the mustard's release. The court has scheduled another hearing for July 31. [See more.](#)
- *BBC* and other news outlets reported that negotiations had begun between the U.S. and the United Kingdom on a trade agreement following the U.K.'s exit from the European Union. Analysts in the U.K. and in the U.S. noted that food and agriculture were likely to be a focus and noted that British regulations on biotechnology could be among the points of discussion. [See more.](#)

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North America

Commentary: Washington Post intern dispels 10 common myths about agriculture, explains that both organic and conventional operations use pesticides, highlights different varieties of GMOs, explains hormone and antibiotic content in farm animals

Commentary: Farmer/assistant professor at Virginia college writes for AGDAILY, deeming application of precautionary principle to biotechnology "obstructionist" because even unblemished safety record over two decades hasn't led to relaxed regulations

Commentary: BIOTECanada president writes magazine article touting Canadian farmers' use of biotechnology to boost yields while reducing "environmental footprint of agriculture"

News: Politico reports Democrats pledge crackdown on corporate monopolies, claiming food-ag mergers will hurt family operations and increase food prices

News: Politico roundup reports China ag ministry says Dow Enlist soybean is not one of biotech varieties slighted for approval, prompting Dow to request clarification on remaining GMOs to be approved; environmental groups to stage EPA protest demanding neonic ban today

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News release: La Via Campesina announces conclusion of its Seventh International Conference, with a declaration to step-up opposition to transnational agribusiness and land-grabbing, and to promote food sovereignty and agroecology

News: News Agency of Nigeria reports on African Development Bank (AFDB) President Akinwumi

Adesina's announcement of \$24 billion in African Agriculture, at International Institute of Tropical Agriculture's (IITA) 50th anniversary celebration, highlighting goal of introducing high-yielding green revolution technologies

News: Tanzanian news outlet reports on increasing popularity of organic farming, according to Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (Toam) CEO Jordan Gama

News: Ugandan news site reports First Lady mediates debate over Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill 2012, which has divided MPs, scientists and civil society; notes several GM crops in advanced research stages in Uganda

More Africa items

Asia

News: Times of India quotes Chairman of Review Committee for Genetic Manipulations, who says that by delaying approval of Bt brinjal, India's done harm while Bangladesh has reaped its benefits

News: Indian news site reports 33 economists petition Prime Minister to commercialize GM mustard; say it would lead to higher yields, augment limited land resources and alleviate farmer distress

News: India Legal reports Supreme Court asks government to have scientists file report on possible impact of GM mustard on other crops; anti-GMO campaigner files petition seeking ban on release

News: Vietnamese news outlet reports 100 percent of cultivated area uses hybrid maize, according to Ag Ministry's Department of Crop Production, including 16 approved GM maize varieties, by the end of March, 2017, 1,500 tonnes of GM maize seeds had been imported

Commentary: Vietnamese news outlet contributor warns readers about dangers of GMOs, claiming they are more dangerous in the long-term than Agent Orange, warns about health risks of several GM products

Commentary: Vietnamese news outlet contributor reports on recent biotech workshop in Phu Yen, where speakers examined current biotech applications and developments, as well as many benefits while acknowledging certain risks, believes long-term health effects of GM foods are unknown, calls for caution

More Asia items

Europe

News: BBC reports U.K. and U.S. to start talks on post-Brexit trade deal; quotes economist who says U.K. would likely have to amend some of its current standards on GM food

News: Politico reports U.K. trade secretary visit U.S. to discuss post-Brexit US-UK trade expected to raise debate over biotech trade policy, cites U.K. environmental secretary strict stance on food safety standards

News: Irish Farmers Journal reports Ireland approved two Dow GM soybeans that are insect-resistant, herbicide-tolerant; EU likely to approve for import, processing; EFSA says GM soybeans are safe for human health, environment

Commentary: Contributor for French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM promotes "Maison de la Nature" brochure to raise public awareness about transgenic plants and new GMOs, with focus on "hidden GMOs" and new techniques

Announcement: German liberal policy group Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung and seven other organizations announce publication of a book on agroecology, and how it can save agriculture from industrialization

More Europe items

Latin America

Audio: Radio program by Brazilian Ag Ministry's Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa), features researcher Eduardo Alano in discussion on benefits of biofortified cassava

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

[More Oceania items](#)

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 To: Wray-Cohen, Diane - FAS
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - July 24, 2017
 Date: Monday, July 24, 2017 4:02:38 PM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

A month after it was released, the "Food Evolution" documentary continues to be a focal point for science communicators discussing genetic engineering. In this week's newsletter, Yvette D'Entremont writes for *SELF* magazine on the film's reliance on scientific findings - a sentiment echoed by director Scott Hamilton Kennedy.

As European lawmakers move toward a decision on glyphosate's future, Andre Heitz examines activists' "wild allegations" in the Monsanto Papers and Hank Campbell discusses how the International Agency for Research on Cancer's questionable assessment was used to get California to list the herbicide as a carcinogen. There's also ongoing reaction to the recent field studies looking at the impact of neonicotinoids on bees and a *USA Today* piece by Alex Berezow calling out organic foods as a "gigantic scam."

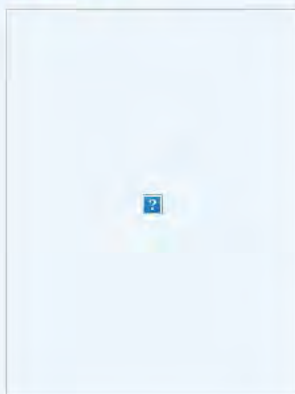
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In This Issue

[Stakeholder Spotlight](#)
[Stories Worth Sharing](#)
[What's Trending?](#)
[Calendar highlights](#)

Stakeholder Spotlight: Participatory Ecological Land Use and Management (PELUM)



In the news this week for
lobbying against passage of

■ Stories Worth Sharing

Yvette D'Entremont: "Food Evolution" documentary is "chock full" of science showing GMOs are safe, can help fight climate change

Alex Berezow: Organic food is "gigantic scam," part of trend toward misleading buzzwords in labeling

Andre Heitz: "Monsanto Papers" contain nothing more than "wild allegations" in underhanded campaign against glyphosate

Angela Logomasini: Real headline for European field study should be "amazing finding" that 95 percent of beehives had no neonics

"Food Evolution" director: Film is pro-science and attempts to "reset the conversation" on GMO safety

Hank Campbell: Activists used IARC to "game the system" and get California to list glyphosate as carcinogen

Kevin Folta: Genetic engineering provides potential avenue to combat food shortages due to climate change

Terry Daynard: York University used "dubious bee management and weak statistics" to claim neonics harm bees

Global Farmer Network: India already consumes "huge amounts" of

biotechnology-enabling biosafety legislation in Uganda, PELUM is a coalition of regional and country-based NGOs primarily funded by European donors.

PELUM has country offices that operate as independent local NGOs in multiple African countries including Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia and Uganda.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about PELUM.

[CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES](#)

[imported cooking oil from GM crops, should approve GM mustard](#)

[Dan Perrin: Data ignored by IARC could be "final nail in the coffin" for claims that glyphosate causes cancer](#)

[Massachusetts Farm Bureau: State's effort to protect bees should look at "whole picture," not single out neonics](#)

[Ugandan president calls on Parliament to debate and pass Biotechnology Bill](#)

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What's Trending?

European Commission seeks glyphosate vote by September, threatens not to renew authorization without majority support

Ghana environment ministry to intensify research on armyworm infestation, could pursue genetic engineering

U.K. environment secretary promises "green" Brexit, vows to continue EU restrictions on neonics

China approves import of two GM corn varieties; Dow, DuPont, Monsanto products awaiting decision

Quebec proposes ban on atrazine, chlorpyrifos, neonics; comments accepted through Sept. 1

Rewrite of WOTUS rule to be released for public comment in December; Supreme Court schedules October arguments

Calendar highlights

July 28-29	August 1	August 7-10
International Conference on Nutrition in Medicine	Iowa Water Quality Summit	National Association of Plant Breeders annual meeting

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR](#)

<p>Stakeholder database</p> <p>More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate</p>	<p>Monitoring portal</p> <p>Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.</p>	<p>Bonus Eventus community</p> <p>Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.</p>
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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - July 21-23, 2017
 Date: Sunday, July 23, 2017 9:01 01 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

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This weekend's global biotechnology developments included commentary on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's postponement of a deadline for comment on GMO labeling and media coverage of Campbell Soup Co.'s decision to leave the Grocery Manufacturers Association. A biotechnology conference in Uganda and the potential for genetic engineering to be used as a solution for armyworm issues also attracted attention in Africa.

- USDA announced that it was extending the deadline for commenting on its questions about federal GMO labeling. Reporting on the development, a U.K. agriculture news outlet noted that the GMO labeling rule was listed as "inactive" in the agency's latest agenda. [See more.](#)
- U.S. food and agriculture news outlets reported on Campbell's announcement that it would be withdrawing from the Grocery Manufacturers Association, citing differences in "principles." Reports noted that Campbell's had previously pledged to disclose GM ingredients on its food products, breaking away from the GMA during the push to pass a federal GMO labeling standard. [See more.](#)
- India's *Financial Express* reported a group of "eminent economists" wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi arguing there is "no reason" to deny farmers access to GM mustard while the Coalition for a GM-Free India issued a fact sheet listing supposed health and environmental risks from the crop. [See more.](#)

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North America

Commentary: Food Dive analyst highlights Campbell leaving Grocery Manufacturers Association as sign of changes in food industry; notes Campbell was first major company to label foods with GM ingredients

News: Politico Pro reports Campbell Soup Co. will leave Grocery Manufacturers Association by year's end, according to Chief Executive Denise Morrison, following disagreement stemming from Campbell's support of mandatory GMO labeling

Announcement: USDA extends deadline for input on National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard until Aug. 25 to allow stakeholders more time to provide feedback

Commentary: U.S. Right to Know questions motives of corporate-funded U.K. Science Media Centre, claims it has "pro-GMO bias" due to past funding from biotech corporations; notes ties to Sense About Science lobbying effort

Commentary: Common Dreams contributor voices concern about Trump Administration's 100 day action plan with China, arguing it puts global agribusiness first, criticizes forward motion of ChemChina/Syngenta deal, in spite of widespread opposition to GMOs by Chinese citizens

Commentary: Keith Kloor writes that Huffington Post's editorial standards vary depending on subject and matter, says after notifying editors of "Paul Thacker's pattern of deceit regarding my work", Kloor was told "Mr. Thacker controls his own work"; Kloor ponders if Thacker had written a factually incorrect

piece on vaccines, his article would never have appeared on Huffington Post

Commentary: Natural News contributor claims unconfirmed allegations about food safety issues in Hampton Creek products, leading Target to recall all its products, is possibly an attempt by biotech industry to sabotage the non-GMO brand from within

More North America items

Africa

News release: Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa's (COMESA) Getachew Belay noted polarized debate on GMOs leads to indecisiveness in policy making, speaking at 2nd Agri-Biotechnology and Biosafety Communications (ABBC) 2017 Africa stakeholders Symposium in Entebbe

News: Ghanaian news outlet reports on Environment Minister Kwabena Frimpong's suggestion that government could consider adoption of genetic engineering as a long-term solution to fall armyworm infestation, highlighting planned research by Crops Research Institute (CRI)

News: Pan-African news outlet reports on Declaration of the 2nd Kwame Nkrumah Intellectual and Cultural Festival, which recognized importance of indigenous knowledge for food sovereignty, environmental sustainability, and community empowerment, called for rejection of "imperialist" use of science and technology, such as GM seeds

News: Ghanaian news outlet reports on Environment Ministry plans to intensify research on how to control fall armyworm infestation, highlights Kwabena Frimpong Boateng's statement about Crop Research Institute plans to use genetic engineering

News: Xinhua reports on African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) Executive Director Denis Kyetere's announcement of expansion of Imazapyr Resistant Maize (IR Maize) seed with goal of improving maize productivity and boosting food security, helping control the parasitic "witch weed" plant

News: South African news outlet reports on upcoming competition tribunal hearing on proposed Dow-DuPont merger, the tribunal requested further information from Competition Commission about South Africa's maize seed market, and about proposed licensing remedy

News: Ugandan news site reports on gathering of agriculture scientists from 20 countries to discuss science communication techniques; Uganda's minister for Science, Technology and Innovations calls for passage of country's biosafety bill to enable farmers access to GM crops

News: Nigerian news site reports National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) Director General Rufus Ebegba tells chamber of commerce NBMA will ensure "genetically modified crops are safe before they are released into the market"; Edegba adds "farmers can rest assured" government will not do anything to cause economic harm

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Coalition for a GM-Free India claims to bust myths about GM mustard, alleges harm to human health and environment not discovered due to inadequate testing; argues herbicide-tolerant mustard will result in more "toxic residues" from glufosinate

News: Pakistani news outlet reports on Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry's call for adoption of modern biotech to boost food production and sustainability, noting 40 percent of production is wasted in post-harvest losses due to insufficient utilization of biotech

News release: Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry calls for adoption of modern ag technologies to avoid post-harvest losses and boost production, LCCI leaders highlighted enormous potential for Pakistan in biotech, calling for collaboration between private sector, scientists, researchers and

government

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: [Rinnovabili reports that 5 Star Movement senators seemed divided about an Italian agriculture committee meeting's decision to approve research on 'new' GMOs](#)

Commentary: [Michel-Edouard Leclerc of E.Leclerc Centers writes for Le Monde, weighs in on General Food Congress as an opportunity to re-engineer the agri-food sector, highlights challenges of responding to consumer demands, such as GMO-free or pesticide-free, while maintaining price competitiveness](#)

News: [Romanian news outlet reports on view of the country's largest agricultural producer, Agricola Braila, that EU policies on GMOs are discriminatory; company manager says GMOs help fight disease and reduce pesticide use, criticizes policies allowing GMO import but prohibiting domestic cultivation](#)

News: [Wageningen University tells Netherlands news source the university is developing cisgenic-resistant potato varieties that could solve phytophthora infestation, particularly for organic farmers unable to use pesticides, cite EU regulation on nbts as barrier](#)

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: [St. Lucia Times reports public consultation held on proposed bill to regulate GMOs, living modified organisms; notes government position is to regulate through licensing system, allow for public feedback, ensure human health, environmental safety](#)

News: [Brazilian news site reports former member of the National Technical Biosafety Commission \(CTNBio\) warns municipalities fighting dengue with GE mosquitoes that any success will be short lived, requiring them "to buy mosquitoes every year", adds "technology is a decoy because the problem is never solved"](#)

Audio: [Kevin Folta's Talking Biotech podcast, hosted by Dr. Paul Vincelli, features Dr. Sabina Vidal of National Republic University in Uruguay, highlighting her lab's interest in genetic improvements in soybeans, as well as how Uruguay's stringent regulations hinder biotech research and innovation](#)

Commentary: [Contributor to Mexican news site writes about attack on native maize from GM crops; warns "in a short time we would lose the breeds and varieties of our corn developed through thousands of years of cultivation"](#)

News: [Ecuadorian news site reports on new protests by agricultural and peasant organizations against entry of GM seeds for research; indigenous leader says assembly members "sufficiently trained" to analyze issue, calls on protest organizers to avoid confrontations](#)

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during this weekend's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

[More Oceania items](#)

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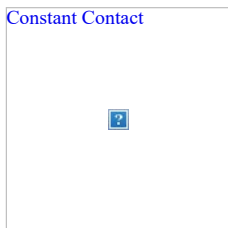
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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included news that an amendment requiring labeling of genetically engineered salmon had been added to the proposed 2018 U.S. budget. In Uganda, the president called on lawmakers to modernize the country's agricultural system.

- *Politico* reported that the Senate Appropriations Committee approved an amendment to the proposed 2018 spending bill, which would require retailers to label genetically engineered salmon. The amendment had been introduced last week by U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska. [See more](#)
- In a speech opening an annual agricultural showcase, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni called on legislators to help farmers embrace the benefits of commercial agriculture. Museveni urged lawmakers to promote a variety of farming technologies and to pass the country's proposed Biotechnology Bill so that farmers could access innovations developed by local plant researchers. [See more](#)
- South Korea's Rural Development Association announced plans to conduct an environmental assessment of GM rapeseed in August following reports that the crop had been growing illegally despite reputed eradication. [See more](#)
- The African Centre for Biodiversity announced an upcoming workshop to help activists prepare for an Aug. 12 public hearing on proposed changes to South Africa's seed laws. The activist group urged supporters to attend in order to discuss issues of food sovereignty and seed access raised by the draft amendments. [See more](#)

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, [click here](#)

North America

[News: Politico reports Senate Appropriations Committee approves amendment to proposed 2018 spending bill requiring retailers to label GE salmon](#)

[Commentary: Pacific Legal Foundation promotes its letter to USDA arguing its GMO labeling law contradicts rights established by First Amendment; questions need for law, adding it will hurt small businesses](#)

[Commentary: Writing in Huffington Post, Monsanto's Robert Fraley shares key message from his AAAS lecture, argues communication is as important as science in feeding the world, noting GM crops are 'poster child for a science that is widely misunderstood'](#)

[News release: Institute for Agriculture & Trade Policy opposes Trump plans for NAFTA renegotiation; claims inadequate farmer protections; provisions on "novel and unregulated" biotechnology may harm people, environment](#)

[Commentary: Center for Food Safety organic policy manager claims U.S. Senate agriculture committee chairman Pat Roberts, who sponsored bill to prevent state GMO labeling, wants to undermine the integrity of the "entire organic process"](#)

Commentary: Katherine Paul and Ronnie Cummins of Organic Consumers Association call for cracking down on fraudulent organic brands, while also demanding higher standards, urging supporters to boycott "Factory Farm Organic" brands, and speaking out against "natural" label

News: Illinois news site reports Hodgson Mill sued over use of term "All Natural" in products that may contain GMOs; company and plaintiffs both point to lack of FDA definition of "natural"

News: MarketWatch reports Campbell Soup to withdraw from the Grocery Manufacturer's Association over 'purpose and principles' by the end of the calendar year; Campbell's CEO emphasizes transparency with consumers

More North America items

Africa

Event: African Centre for Biodiversity to co-host workshop (Aug. 5) on proposed seed laws in South Africa in preparation for speaking against restrictions on saving, trading, exchanging, selling seeds at final public hearing (Aug. 12)

News: Zimbabwean news source profiles Malawi cotton farmer representing growing trend of African growers abandoning cotton farming due to pest damage; experts say biotech crops could solve problem though most SADC countries apply a precautionary approach to GM crops

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on House of Representatives' passage of second reading of bill seeking to establish a National Renal Center to help over 30 million Nigerians suffering from kidney-related diseases, lawmakers urged government to forestall GMO products by demonstrating need to establish critical health facilities

News release: Ugandan president calls on Parliament to debate and pass Biotechnology Bill; urges abandonment of subsistence farming, move to for-profit commercial agriculture

Commentary: Kenya-based CGIAR scientist begins series on scaling up climate-smart agriculture in Africa, notes challenge of convincing Ugandan farmers to grow drought-resilient maize when main concern is simply growing enough to eat

News: Ugandan news source reports biosafety agencies held symposium in Uganda to discuss ways to build consumer confidence in biotechnology; attendees hope to bridge GMO communication gap in countries struggling to release biotech crops to farmers

More Africa items

Asia

News: Korean news outlet reports national seed agency survey identifies GM rapeseed in Gangwon province, notes Korea's Rural Development Association plans to conduct environmental impact investigation in early August

Commentary: Korean news outlet contributor authors satirical piece from perspective a unauthorized GM rapeseed plant that explains how it infiltrated Korean fields and how its relatives in Japan hybridized with mustard crop

Interview: Indian business news outlet interviews Rajasthan Ag Minister Prabhu Lal Saini, who views GM mustard as unnecessary due to existence of comparable parental mustard varieties, and noted he does not want to become dependent on any company

Commentary: Global Farmer Network piece by Borlaug Farmers Association of South Asia head argues Indian government should approve commercialization of GM mustard to increase economic, environmental sustainability of farms

More Asia items

Europe

News: EU Observer reports a proposal to allow member state to ban use of GM ingredients in food will likely remain stuck for the rest of the year, Estonian spokeswoman Annikky Lamp noted reopening discussions on the topic is not currently part of the Estonian presidency program

Commentary: Slow Food Italy blog praises Lidl grocery chain for move to phase out GMO feed from livestock production chain, notes concern about Amazon acquiring Whole Foods

News: German magazine examines protracted dispute over Golden Rice and genetically modified foods in general despite support from scientists and Nobel laureates; Golden Rice researcher says Greenpeace's action is akin to stopping him from jumping in to save someone from drowning

News: Dutch ag news outlet reports on recent stakeholder meetings on biotech organized by Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment, where speakers emphasized importance of new regulations that facilitate development while considering social issues

News: Czech news outlet reports on Ministry of Environment's warning that illegal multicolored GM petunias have been discovered on the market, in addition to orange GM petunias, calling on breeders and growers to check cuttings and seeds, and noting they pose no risk to humans or the environment

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Commentary: Writing for Colombia biotech trade NGO, Chilean biochemistry student promotes Brazilian study finding 15-year analysis of biotech crop adoption in Columbia affirms biotechnology helps achieve greater crop productivity, reduce pressure on the environment

News: Agencia EFE reports on director general of Mexican ag company Agrobio, Alejandro Monteagudo's assessment that stigmatization of GMOs is due to disinformation tactics of the technology's detractors, pointing to history of safe use

Commentary: Epoch Times Argentina contributor warns about health risks of new gene editing technologies, highlighting several studies demonstrating off-target effects

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples (CDI) delegate Pedro Armentia López's statement that if a community decides to grow transgenic soy it is a personal decision that must be respected

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News: Australian news source reports Monsanto data shows Victoria GM canola plantings lag behind Western Australia; farmer says increased premium for non-GM canola explains low uptake in east

[More Oceania items](#)

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included local news coverage of a biotechnology communication summit in Uganda and additional European activist response to recent votes on GM crop imports.

- Local media outlets reported on statements made at the Agri-biotechnology and Biosafety Communication 2017 Africa Symposium held this week in Entebbe, Uganda. *New Vision* reported that the country's minister for science and technology reaffirmed the government's support for biotechnology but called on scientists to step up communication efforts with the general public. Activists with Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) called on regulators to strengthen consumer protections before passing the measure. **See more.**
- European anti-biotechnology activist groups Testbiotech and InfOGM summarized the results of the European Parliament vote Tuesday on GM soy imports, noting that a qualified majority had not been reached to reject or allow the crops. Testbiotech noted that it would actively lobby German MEPs to vote against the crop authorizations, rather than abstain from the follow-up vote in September. InfOGM used the vote to highlight public opposition to GM crops in the region. **See more.**
- Commentary on China's recent biotech trait approvals continued, with *Reuters* reporting that Dow AgroSciences had requested clarification on the status of its application for import approval of Enlist soybeans. An analysis from Stratfor Enterprises highlighted biotechnology's role in Beijing's long-term food security plans while commentary in lifestyle magazine *Quartz* noted that Chinese consumers remained suspicious about the technology. **See more.**

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North America

News: Quartz reports on China's approval of two new US GM crop varieties for import, in spite of continued public concern about negative health effects, highlights recent Zhejiang University poll which found that most people in China don't know what GMOs are

Commentary: Stratfor Enterprises contributor examines China's approval of four out of eight US GM crops for import, at end of 100-day period to develop a trade action plan, believes biotech is part of Beijing's long-term imperative for achieving food security

News: Capital Press reports Scotts Miracle-Gro is making 'significant progress' in eliminating GE creeping bentgrass plants in Oregon; says EPA 'local need' approval of Reckon herbicide allows company to move forward

Report: In Plant Genetics paper, researcher Pamela Ronald concludes that public must focus on sustainability of end product and not how a seed variety was developed; summarizes continuum of breeding technologies

News release: Global Justice Ecology Project says USDA receives 'near unanimous' public rejection of GE eucalyptus trees, adds eucalyptus plantations notorious for depleting waterways

News: Singularity Hub reports on Food Evolution documentary, highlights director Scott Hamilton Kennedy's goal of telling the GMO story correctly using a pro-science approach, Kennedy notes both sides have the same intentions, but emphasized importance of having data to back up arguments

Commentary: Reason Foundation magazine science correspondent criticizes organic farmers and their "anti-science allies" for opposing genetically modified moths that could help achieve organic agriculture's goal of reducing pesticide usage

Commentary: ACSH contributor reports New York exploring use of GM diamondback moths to protect crops; says convincing the public that GMOs are a safe, pesticide-free way to help farmers is 'no small task'

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: ISAAA says Ugandan government wants Parliament to pass biosafety bill; Ugandan minister for Science, Technology, Innovation expresses support for the bill at symposium

News: Ugandan news outlet reports on civil society organizations' opposition to biosafety bill, Betty Rose Aguti of Caritas Uganda advocated adherence to the Precautionary Principle, arguing the bill contains several clauses in need of amendment to protect Ugandans from risks posed by unintentional release of GMOs

News: Ugandan news outlet reports on recent Agri-biotechnology and Biosafety Communication (ABBS) 2017 Africa Symposium in Entebbe, where Dr. Elioda Tumwesigye urged scientists to take advantage of the symposium to improve their communication skills

News: Ugandan news site Daily Monitor's Michael J. Ssali says Uganda cannot afford to take food security issues lightly, needs GM crops to help farmers address pest control, disease, climate change issues and to feed its people; urges passing biosecurity bill

Interview: Prospective political party chairman and activist tells Nigerian news site he got involved in politics to oppose GMOs, says anti-biotech forces need politicians who are activists and oppose biotechnology

More Africa items

Asia

News: Reuters reports Dow AgroSciences seeks clarification from Chinese Ag Ministry on its position re Enlist soybeans, after the product was not approved this week with other US biotech products for import

Commentary: Sylvian Huguenard of BASF South Asia writes for The Hindu BusinessLine, highlighting immense potential of biotech crops to decrease water consumption while boosting yields, amid growing issues of water conservation and usage

Commentary: Chandra Bhushan of Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi writes for Hindustan Times, argues Food Safety and Standards Authority of India's new organic certification regulation will adversely impact small farmers and hinder growth in the sector, argues products grown using pesticides and GMOs should be labeled

Commentary: Professor M S Swaminathan notes he stressed in a 2004 statement on India's GM crops policy that non-GMO methods of addressing agricultural issues should be explored before biotechnology

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Testbiotech says German government's abstention on vote to allow EU imports of GE plants paves way for Bayer and Dow; adds most EU member states voted against authorization

Commentary: French anti-GMO NGO says meeting of EU Member States fails to reach qualified majority to import GM soybeans, confirming continued opposition of France; adds context of vote peculiar given EC import approvals

News: Scottish farming news outlet reports on Romanian farming company Agricost's complaints about EU GMO policy, president Lucian Buzdugan pointed out that prohibiting farmers from growing GM crops while allowing GM imports is discriminatory, noting GMOs would help farmers become more environmentally friendly

News: Italian news site reports court denies damages for Giorgio Fidenato in lawsuit against state for banning GM corn cultivation

Interview: Provincial Farmers Union president suggests genome-edited corn could be solution to using less water for corn crop, coping with drought

News: Italian news site reports Italy to finance research on NBTs despite fact that EU Court of Justice has yet to rule on whether GMO regulations apply to gene-edited products; ag minister says Italy "must prepare to face this new frontier"

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Bolivian news site report Brazil will overtake US as leading soy producer in the next decade; notes Bolivia planted 1.2 million hectares of GM soy although only certain modifications are allowed, putting country in top 10 producers

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

[More Oceania items](#)

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included a new declaration from European member states calling for increased efforts to develop domestic soybean production. Commentary continued on an India Supreme Court hearing addressing GM mustard commercialization.

- Thirteen EU member states signed a Germany- and Hungary-led declaration calling for increased investment in domestic, non-GMO soy production. Italian activist group Coldiretti applauded the declaration. **See more.**
- Activists continued to respond to India's Supreme Court hearing on GM mustard. *The Times of India* amplified a statement from agriculture scientist MS Swaminathan, who reiterated his concerns about the ecological impacts of the crop and called for developing a similar variety via marker-assisted breeding. *Press Trust of India* reported that the government did not have plans to again meet with farmer groups opposed to the crop's commercialization. **See more.**
- "Food Evolution" filmmakers spoke to *Food Manufacture* about industry missteps in commercializing GM crops. In a separate article, *SELF* magazine published commentary from science communicator Yvette D'Entremont. The article urged *SELF* readers to view the documentary with an open mind and compared the scientific consensus on GM crops to that on climate change. **See more.**
- U.S. trade group Biotechnology Innovation Organization announced that it was committed to ensuring the success of the 100-day trade talks between the U.S. and China, emphasizing its focus on ensuring that that all pending biotechnology traits receive approval. *Reuters* reported that Monsanto and DuPont were urging the country to ensure that GM crop import approvals were conducted through a transparent process. **See more.**

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North America

Report: Plant Biotechnology Journal paper concludes that a close examination of studies claiming that adverse effects from GM crops are a 'cause for concern' are methodologically flawed and thus invalid

Commentary: "Scibabe" Yvette d'Entremont writes for Self in support of Food Evolution documentary, highlights scientific consensus on GMO safety as well as environmental benefits, debunks several myths about Monsanto and Roundup

Commentary: University of Florida scientist Kevin Folta writes Medium column suggesting genetic engineering provides a potential avenue for dealing with food shortages that could be caused by climate change

News release: BIO says it is focused on 'full success' of US-China 100-day trade plan, will work to resolve China's remaining technical questions related to GM crop imports in a timely manner

Video: Video by American Seed Trade Association and CropLife International highlights challenges to modern food production including global spread of disease, climate change and increased population

growth, presents gene editing as similar to traditional plant breeding

News release: Friends of the Earth analysis of Trump Administration's objectives for renegotiated NAFTA stresses concerns over hindrances on efforts to stop neonics use, protections placed on biotechnology, use of GMOs

Campaign: Filmmakers behind FED UP, Super Size Me and GMO OMG ask readers crowdfund 'The Devil We Know,' a film about 'unregulated' chemicals in drinking water near DuPont plant

More North America items

Africa

Report: African Centre for Biosafety highlights Bt cotton field trials underway in Swaziland; points to 'potentially severe, adverse effects' and calls for more cautious approach

News: Ghana News Agency reports on recent workshop on developing roll-out plan for implementation of Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa (S3A), an initiative developed by Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), and sanctioned by African Union Commission and NEPAD Agency

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on Association of Catholic Medical Practitioners of Nigeria's (ACMPN) recent call for adequate funding for research and development of GMOs, so that Nigeria can reap benefits of the technology while protecting citizens' health and the environment from potential risks

News: Nigerian Tribune reports on National President of Epidemiological Society of Nigeria (EPISON), Professor Ayuba Zoakah's recent statements in support of biotech, noting it has been misinterpreted due to lack of information, reports Water Efficient Maize for Africa variety has proven resistant to fall armyworms

Commentary: Agago North MP Morris Ogenga-Latigo writes for Ugandan news outlet, provides scientific background on National Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill, explains importance of biotech for addressing challenges of pests, diseases and climate change, laments fear-based demonization of GMOs

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indian news site reports government hasn't made decision on GM mustard but is hearing suggestions; GEAC has approved GM food crops with certain conditions, how to label still being determined

News: China Daily reports most corn produced in Nebraska is GM, with most varieties now approved in China; head of Nebraska Corn Board says corn a value-added export partner with state's beef

News: Reuters reports DuPont, Monsanto urge transparent, science-based GM crop reviews in China after it approved two GM crops for import but left four others waiting following 100-day trade talks

More Asia items

Europe

News: New Europe reports 13 member states sign German-Hungarian led European Soya declaration, highlights domestic cultivation potential of non-GMO soy

News: Italian news outlet reports on farmers association Coldiretti's statement welcoming signing of European Declaration on soybeans and other legumes by four EU countries including Italy, noting it will encourage sustainable development of soybean production without use of GMOs

Announcement: Politico posts text of agreement by 13 EU nations to support sustainably grown soy, development of markets for non-GMO soybean products; declaration also encourages "as little as possible" principle for crop protection

News release: European Feed Manufacturers' Federation (FEFAC), COCERAL and FEDIOL call for coherence in EU strategy to enhance soy production, noting non-GM/GM status is not a criterion for sustainability

News release: EuropaBio criticizes recent signing of European Soya Declaration by 14 member states, noting it ignores important environmental and economic benefits of growing and importing GM crops, and that increased land use would be required for EU to become self-sufficient in non-GM soy production

Campaign: Polish Civil Affairs Institute (INSPRO) urges supporters to sign petitions asking Polish retailers to offer GMO-free food, amid Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development's work on changes to rules on GMO-free labeling

Commentary: EuropaBio newsletter features opinion by MEP Christofer Fjellner of Sweden, urges policy makers to utilize scientific evidence on GMO, glyphosate; notes recent GM crop authorizations

News: Food Manufacture reports on Food Evolution's Trace Sheehan's recent statements at Institute of Food Technology's (IFT) Annual Convention & Food Expo, he believes negative public opinion of GMOs is caused in part by failure of Monsanto and others to communicate benefits

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Latin America during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments include new GM crop import approvals in China and an update to the ongoing lawsuit over GM mustard cultivation in India.

Consolidated highlights include:

- According to *Reuters*, China's agriculture ministry approved two new GM crops for import - Syngenta's Agrisure Duracade insect-resistant corn and Monsanto's Roundup Ready glyphosate-resistant corn. The move comes as part of trade discussions between the U.S. and China, and it brings the total of recently approved GM crops to four. Crop traits from Monsanto, DuPont and Dow are still awaiting approval. **See more.**
- During a hearing today, the Supreme Court of India gave government officials a one-week deadline to outline a plan for reviewing feedback and making a decision on the commercialization of GM mustard. India's additional solicitor general had told the court that the government had not yet developed a policy on the crop's approval. The court responded by urging officials to take a "considered" approach to the decision. **See more.**

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North America

Commentary: Doctoral student in agricultural economics writing on Cornell Alliance for Science refutes claims about "Food Evolution" in UC Berkeley letter denouncing film as propaganda; argues biotechnology is trying to improve accuracy in plant breeding

News release: Alaska U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski introduces legislation mandating clear labeling for GE salmon, as well as required third-party independent scientific review of FDA's environmental assessments

Commentary: CropLife guest writer and former Monsanto staffer says Monsanto's success in past 30 years largely due to simplifying crop agriculture; adds future ag methods returning to complexity

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: East African Business Week reports new ISAAA report reveals world increasingly embracing GM crop cultivation, adds that several African countries are nearing commercialization of biotech crops

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

Commentary: Chairman of the World Agricultural Forum explains how trade, food security and new

technologies all help to ensure food security; notes modern techniques, including modified crops, are key

News: India Legal reports Supreme Court will allow four weeks for objections to be heard following government's decision on GM mustard

News: The Hindu Business Line reports Supreme Court granted government one week's time to provide timeline on when it will make a "well-informed and well-intentioned" policy decision on GM mustard

News: Reuters reports China approves Monsanto, Syngenta corn for import; four other products owned by Monsanto, DuPont and Dow on waiting list pending Beijing approval

News: Press Trust of India reports Supreme Court asks national government to take a "considered" and "well-informed" view before making a decision on the commercial release of GM mustard, summarizes history of the lawsuit

News: Vietnamese news outlet reports Department of Crop Production imported 1,500 tons of GM maize seed with stem borer resistance and glyphosate tolerance, hopes to increase production

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News release: Syngenta announces it has received import approval from Chinese Ministry of Agriculture for its Agrisure Duracade, approval covers corn grain and processing co-products

News release: Frontiers in Plant Science says researchers find key to produce better crops may lie in combining traditional knowledge of Ethiopian subsistence farmers with plant genomics

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Commentary: Contributor to Argentinian news site says agri-food industry has sophisticated model to communicate towards clients, but not society; looks at Jeff Bezos' interest in buying organic Whole Foods as "great example of today's models that do what people expect and not what companies need"

News: Chilean news site reports producers in Guaminí province of Buenos Aires, Argentina are cultivating 1,300 hectares under agroecological model without GMOs or pesticides

News: Mexican news site reports Yucatan looking to add GM soy crops while waiting for outcome of court case blocking cultivation; country currently has 146 GM crop authorizations

News: Mexican news source reports eight Ethiopian researchers visited the Autonomous University of San Luis Potosí (UASLP) to learn about protected agriculture and livestock management; potential application of agricultural genetic engineering in Ethiopia cited

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

[More Oceania items](#)

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Try it free today

From: Jay Byrne
 To: Wray-Cohen, Diane - FAS
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - July 17, 2017
 Date: Monday, July 17, 2017 4:04:15 PM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

This week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter features a variety of commentary pieces on key regulatory topics in the news: an examination of how activists are influencing EU oversight of glyphosate and neonics just as a European Commission committee plans to meet this week, a look at the Trump administration's regulation of chlorpyrifos and a critique of proposed funding of organic industry marketing.

The "Food Evolution" documentary continues to attract commentary, with Jenny Splitter this week making the important distinction that Michael Pollan and Marion Nestle are disputing their portrayal in the film but not the scientific consensus that GMOs are safe. There's also another piece - this time from Austin Ruse in *Townhall* - questioning why the U.S. is funding the "fake science" of the International Agency for Research on Cancer, as well as a longform piece examining the evidence that the U.S. honeybee population is not in peril.

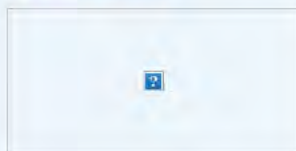
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Please [contact us](#) if you have any questions.

In This Issue

[Stakeholder Spotlight](#)
[Stories Worth Sharing](#)
[What's Trending?](#)
[Calendar highlights](#)

Stakeholder Spotlight: GRACE Communications Foundation



GRACE Communications is a leading promoter of the view that conventional agriculture production harms people and the environment.

GRACE runs campaigns and funds activist organizations opposing animal agriculture and the use of biotechnology

Stories Worth Sharing

[Shawn Regan: Considering all evidence, there's no sign U.S. honeybee population is declining](#)

[Angela Logomasini: Chlorpyrifos decision shows Trump administration is "trying to prevent policies based on junk science"](#)

[Austin Ruse: Why are American taxpayers funding the "fake science" of IARC?](#)

[Kavin Senapathy: Don't let "peddlers of nonsense" like Non-GMO Project dictate how we grow food](#)

[Jenny Splitter: Anti-GMO crowd can criticize "Food Evolution" but can't dispute scientific consensus that GMOs are safe](#)

[Henry Miller and Julie Kelly: Organic label is nothing more than marketing tool, does not deserve government subsidy](#)

[Yael Ossowski: Activist NGOs "pushing bad science to political ends" to get EU, U.K. to ban glyphosate and neonics](#)

[Rafael Salazar: By ignoring science in crusade against glyphosate, anti-vaxxer Robert Kennedy Jr. undermines progressive movement](#)

and chemicals in food production. It also promotes claims that agriculture plays a key role in polluting water.

Led by animal rights campaign funder and activist Helaine Lerner, GRACE is responsible for the "Meatless Monday" campaigns, the Meatrix series and funding for U.S. state initiatives to require the mandatory labeling of GMOs.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about GRACE.

[CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES](#)

[Paul Vincelli: 15 tips for communicating with the public about GMOs](#)



[Andrew Porterfield: Milkweed a necessity for monarch butterflies but a burden to farmers](#)

[HarvestPlus CEO Beverley Postma: Biofortification helps make more vitamin-rich food available to developing world](#)

[BioScription: Golden Rice, vitamin A-rich banana examples of biotechnology improving nutrition](#)

[CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING](#)

What's Trending?

[Harvard researchers co-author paper questioning study claiming CRISPR methods could cause unintended mutations](#)

[Australian researchers announce development of biofortified banana rich in vitamin A aimed at boosting nutrition in Uganda](#)

[Complaints about dicamba misuse on rise in central U.S. as two states issue bans](#)

[Stakeholders make final push to influence USDA comment period on GMO labeling that ends today](#)

[U.S. Right to Know activists file lawsuit seeking University of Florida communications with agrichemical companies](#)

Calendar highlights

July 16-20	July 16-24	July 17-22
11th European Conference on Precision Agriculture	International Conference of La Via Campesina	40th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission
July 18-20	July 19-20	July 22-24
Red River Valley Agriculture Water Issues Forum	European Commission Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed meeting	American Veterinary Medical Association conference

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR](#)

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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - July 14-16, 2017
 Date: Sunday, July 16, 2017 11:09:47 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Global biotechnology highlights over the weekend included NGO campaigns targeted to get comments on GMO labeling in to the U.S. Department of Agriculture before the upcoming deadline. A vote by EU member states on a GM soy variety reached no decision after Germany abstained. A U.S. Senate bill was introduced that would require GE salmon to be clearly labeled.

- NGOs Beyond Pesticides, Moms Across America and Environmental Working Group each encouraged supporters to send comments to the USDA by the deadline Monday, urging the agency to have "clear and meaningful" GMO labels, to include gene-edited products and to avoid using QR codes. [See more.](#)
- EU member states reached no decision in a vote on importing GM soy as 15 states vote against and 12 states voted for approval while Germany abstained. German NGO Testbiotech criticized German officials for abstaining, saying the lack of consensus means the decision will be left to the European Commission, which is expected to approve the pesticide-resistant variety. [See more.](#)
- U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska introduced a bill that would require special labeling for GE salmon and other types of GE fish. Murkowski said she does not want "fake fish" sold in stores without clear labeling. [See more.](#)

Reminder: to access the full text, archives and monitoring dashboard resources you need to log in to the [Bonus Eventus community portal](#) using your email address and personal password. Please contact us if you need any assistance or support.

For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, [click here](#).

North America

[Commentary: Writing on Medium, Pro-GMO blogger highlights e-mails showing anti-GMO groups coordinated with Berkeley student to criticize "Food Evolution" documentary without disclosing their involvement](#)

[Commentary: Kevin Folta urges group of 45 Berkeley faculty and students that signed letter in opposition Food Evolution documentary as propaganda to recant their statements, pointing to FOIA information obtained by Stephan Niedenbach showing that activist groups influenced academics to provide false information](#)

[Commentary: In submitted comment, IATP policy analyst Dr. Steve Suppan says proposed elimination of the petition process for GMO deregulation is a "reckless" use of APHIS' statutory authority](#)

[Commentary: Scientist Carol Curchoe writes for Ag Daily in support of GMOs, explains why they are safe for human consumption, and how growing opposition in the West negatively impacts developing nations, highlights benefits of golden rice, GM rainbow papaya, and potential solution to citrus greening](#)

[News: Alaska NBC affiliate reports on new bill by Sen. Lisa Murkowski to require special labeling for GE salmon and other types of GE fish in the future, with goal of protecting consumers and Alaska's fisheries, highlights Murkowski's concerns about potential environmental impact](#)

[Video: Pro-vegan site posts video dispelling nine myths related to biotech crops, focuses on safety for humans and benefits for farmers](#)

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian environmental news site reports Catholic medical practitioners ask government to protect people from health, environmental dangers of GMOs, but to legislate to take advantage of GMOs' benefits

Commentary: Anti-biotech NGO argues seed laws restrict farmers from saving seed, claims this has "massive ramifications" on food sovereignty; urges readers to speak up by using email template they have prepared

News: Agrimoney reports South Africa farmers expect record harvests, notes Kenya's restrictions on importing GMOs may affect South African exports to East Africa despite continuing drought there

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: The Hindu reports Indian state of Karnataka to oppose GM mustard commercialization, decision made after activists meet with state's chief minister to apprise him of crop's "adverse impact"

News: Bangladeshi financial news site reports ag minister announces government to begin program to cultivate Bt cotton to increase cotton yields

Commentary: Indian news site addresses fallacies regarding GM mustard spread by activists, points out GM mustard safety, notes yields will be greater, notes GM crops grown in 28 other countries

News: Eco-Business reports on recent World Agriculture Forum in Singapore, where panelists, including BASF's Jurgen Oldeweme noted new technologies cannot take root in agriculture without communication and social acceptance, highlighting backlash against GMOs

News: Press Trust of India reports on Rajasthan's Agriculture Minister Prabhu Lal Saini's recent statements against GM mustard, noting he did not want to become dependent on companies for seeds, and arguing that production from traditional varieties is adequate, and that GMOs are unnatural

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: German ag news site reports EU member state vote result on GM soy approval is "no decision" after Germany abstains; notes EU Parliament Environment Committee passed resolution opposing the GM soy varieties

Commentary: Liturgical animator criticizes Vatican decision to allow GMO wafers for Eucharist, says Christians will "ingest a deadly food," claims it violates the Pope's Laudato Si encyclical and signifies Catholic Church's collusion with powerful corporations

News: Dairy Herd reports on Russian Ag Ministry's draft documents for safety assessment and testing of GM ingredients for feeds, feed additives and veterinary pharmaceuticals, as well as draft documents for GE animals and GE microorganisms

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Argentine news site reports Bt corn's success meant it's spread throughout the country, but good management is needed to prevent pests from becoming resistant

Commentary: Bolivian nutritionist warns readers about negative health effects of GMOs and associated

pesticides, as well as negative environmental impacts, encourages them to seek out organic food

News: La Jornada reports beginning of Corn Collective hearing on cultivating GM corn means next few weeks are crucial "for future of transgenic corn in Mexico"

News: Telesur reports Mexican courts begin legal debate on GM corn cultivation in lawsuit brought by NGO Corn Collective, which claims the GM crop damages biodiversity, the environment, and human health

News: Ecuadoran news site reports indigenous people group Ecuarunari files lawsuit claiming new seed law is unconstitutional because it allows biotech research, claims it is "camouflage" to sell GM seed in country

News: Bolivian news site reports Argentine activist attorney says GM soy from Argentina is being marketed and cultivated in Bolivia, claims long-term studies show the GM crop causes cancer in rodents; claims Argentina's GM corn "is contaminating" Bolivia's corn

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News: Australian news site reports agency lists 32 genetic engineering incidents since 2011, including sheep grazing in GM trial site, scientists failing to comply with safety standards; OGTR assessed all risks as "negligible"

Commentary: Swiss anti-biotech NGO notes GM bananas developed by Australian researchers had bad press in Iowa, notes NGO ACBio skeptical about GM crops as solution for African agriculture

[More Oceania items](#)

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 Date: Thursday, July 13, 2017 9 04:44 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology highlights included during a Georgia congressman stating during a U.S. House Committee on Agriculture hearing that he supports genetically engineered crops. A Mexican court will begin a hearing on whether farmers in the country should be allowed to cultivate GM maize. Two activist groups asked readers to write the U.S. Department of Agriculture regarding federal GM labeling rules before a Monday deadline.

- During a House Committee on Agriculture hearing on the Farm Bill, U.S. Rep. Austin Scott expressed support for biotechnology and said GE crops allow farmers to produce more food while protecting and preserving the environment. **See more.**
- Mexican news sites reported a hearing will begin on an NGO's lawsuit that will determine whether GM maize can be cultivated in Mexico. The suit was filed against agribusinesses and Mexican regulatory agencies four years ago. **See more.**
- Anti-biotech NGOs Environmental Working Group and Center for Food Safety urged supporters to write the USDA before Monday's comment deadline. CFS asked that its patrons demand labels be placed on packages rather than using QR codes and that food made with CRISPR, RNAi and other techniques be included. **See more.**

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North America

Commentary: Henry Miller and Julie Kelly write for Forbes, calling for elimination of federal subsidies to organic agriculture, criticizing organic label as a marketing tool, noting organic food is no more nutritious or safer, or any better for the environment, they highlight Washington Post's coverage on fraudulent organic imports

Commentary: Writing for Townhall, conservative author Austin Ruse argues IARC may have defrauded US taxpayers by withholding scientific data that would have vindicated Monsanto's Roundup, suggests IARC participates in creating fake science

News: Brownfield reports CEO of U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance concerned about food companies partnering with Non-GMO Project, challenges food companies to evaluate potential partners and avoid those with ideological agenda

Commentary: Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy objects to American Farm Bureau and BIO's criticisms of USDA's proposed new rule on biotech regulation, noting they want even less regulation, criticizes USDA's proposal as insufficient, highlights health and environmental risks of GMOs and associated pesticides

News release: American Seed Trade Association CEO testifies at U.S. House ag committee farm bill hearing, calls on government to avoid burdensome policies on plant breeding that would discourage innovation

Commentary: University of Kentucky plant pathology professor Paul Vincelli posts tips to 'better communicate about GMOs with the public'; says the goal is not necessarily to change minds but to enable informed choices

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Malawi news site reports ag ministry official says GMOs are key to solving army worm problem, but cultivating GM crops are banned

News: Nigerian news site reports regulatory agencies sign memorandum of understanding to coordinate efforts at regulating biotechnology; NBMA director says it's important for agencies to work together and "speak the truth without fear"

Commentary: In new report, African Centre for Biodiversity criticizes South Africa for granting Syngenta permit to import GM maize; claims US experience shows that contamination is 'inevitable'

News: Ugandan news outlet reports on state Ag Minister Christopher Kibanzanga's assurance that government would do all it takes to ensure that parliament passes the National Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill, 2012, emphasizing safety of the technology and its importance for boosting farmers' incomes

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: CNN Money examines China's efforts to acquire major seed businesses, highlighting ChemChina's finalization of its acquisition of Syngenta, and a government fund's \$1.1 billion purchase of Dow Chemical's Brazilian corn seed and research business, experts point to efforts to boost food security

Commentary: Indian law firm notes India's GMO regulator FSSAI developing new rules for labeling GM ingredients for processed food

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Announcement: EU Commission publishes documents for upcoming July 17 meeting of Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed's Genetically Modified Food and Feed section, including draft authorizations of GM soybean varieties by Bayer and Dow

Commentary: Spanish anti-GM NGO amplifies "CRISPR and the three myths of precision gene editing" by Jonathan Latham in Independent Science News, warns "little is known" about "possible unintended effects"

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Mexican news site reports Mexican courts open judicial debate on GM corn cultivation in case filed by Corn Collective

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News: New Zealand news site reports American plant pathologist Don Huber says region is 'setting a positive example' because of GE free stance; notes Huber claims health problems are linked to GM crops

More Oceania items

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 Date: Wednesday, July 12, 2017 9:05:14 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology highlights included developments indicating expanded biotechnology investment in China. U.S. Right to Know sued for more communication regarding biotechnology from the University of Florida. The "Food Evolution" documentary continued to generate commentary.

- *Reuters* reported Dow sold a portion of its corn seed business in Brazil for \$1.1 billion to a Chinese fund part-owned by conglomerate CITIC to meet part of the conditions set by U.S. antitrust regulators for merger with DuPont to go forward. The global investment firm Toria Finance announced a \$1 billion trust was established to target China's agriculture sector. The firm views ag biotech as an attractive investment, highlighting environmental benefits of reduced pesticide use and health benefits from products such as Golden Rice. **See more.**
- U.S. Right to Know filed a lawsuit against the University of Florida to compel the university to release Kevin Folta's emails with AgBioChatter and other agricultural industry-related communications. **See more.**
- Natural News continued to attack "Food Evolution" narrator Neil DeGrasse Tyson, and the Institute for Responsible Technology's Jeffrey Smith criticized "Monsanto Troll" tactics, highlighting comments criticizing Marion Nestle. In *The Outline*, Jenny Splitter argued that while some "Food Evolution" critics raise valid food system issues, the documentary is a turning point in the debate as neither Michael Pollan nor Nestle disputed the film's claim that GMOs are safe. **See more.**

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North America

Commentary: One of the "Science Moms," Layla Katirae responds to accusations of being a shill due to her involvement in the independently funded, pro-GMO "Science Moms" movie, explains that almost everyone, even activists, is likely within six degrees of separation from Monsanto

Commentary: ACSH president Hank Campbell notes Organic Consumers Association is in a tizzy over "Food Evolution" documentary; argues anti-science groups know they've already failed when even the Los Angeles Times and The New York Times give the film a thumbs-up

News: Canadian farming publication reports Simplot expects "very small" acreage of genetically engineered Innate potatoes to be grown this year; company wants to ensure market exists before potatoes are planted

Campaign: GMO Inside issues push for clear labeling of all GMO foods, says its essential that "emerging technologies" are included in the labeling law so that consumers "aren't unknowingly serving as lab rats;" offers sample letter to send USDA

Campaign: Vigilance OGM urges patrons to call Parliament members, sign petition to support GM labeling; notes GM apple, GE salmon to come on market soon, says 75 percent of Canadians support GM labeling but Parliament opposes a bill mandating labels

Commentary: Consumer Affairs notes the U.S. government could approve ArborGen's "invasive, flammable" GE eucalyptus trees to flourish in the South; claims news reports link eucalyptus farms to wildfires becoming a "regular scourge" in Portugal

[More North America items](#)

Africa

Commentary: ISAAA reports Uganda's agricultural minister is enthusiastic about approving GM crops

News: Science news site reports GM bananas developed by Australian researchers could save lives, sight of Ugandan children, notes Ugandan farmers could be growing bananas by 2021; project funded by Gates Foundation

News: Kenya News Agency reports cotton industry expects significant shortage, need to import cotton due in part to bollworm damage; Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology official recommends approval of bollworm-resistant GM cotton

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: India's Business Standard reports on ABLE-AG's concerns that lingering legal dispute between Nuziveedu Seeds, Monsanto over Bt cotton intellectual property will prevent investment in seed research and development

Commentary: ISAAA reports Bangladesh research, development leaders ready to adopt Bt cotton, ready to build on Bt eggplant's successes

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Study: European Review of Agricultural Economics publishes Swedish research finding Swedish consumer acceptance of GMOs increased environments where GMOs were less restricted

Commentary: Consumer Affairs notes the U.S. government could approve ArborGen's "invasive, flammable" GE eucalyptus trees to flourish in the South; claims news reports link eucalyptus farms to wildfires becoming a "regular scourge" in Portugal

News: Food Navigator reports European Parliament environment committee approved resolution opposing import of Dow's herbicide-resistant soybean despite favorable EFSA safety review; concerns raised about health impact, potential endocrine disruption from herbicides used on the crop

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News release: Brazilian regulatory agency Embrapa to discuss using biotech enzymes to animal feed to aid in nutrient uptake

News release: Saint Lucia sustainable development ministry announces plans for public consultation (July 13) on biosafety bill governing use and creation of GMOs, LMOs; bill establishing risk assessment panel endorsed by country's Cabinet of Ministers

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News: Upworthy reports on GM bananas in Australia developed with vitamin A, technology given to

Ugandan scientists to start experimenting with banana plants; potential to save hundreds of thousands of individuals suffering from vitamin A deficiency

News: Australian news site reports stockfeed manufacturer accuses dairy industry of hypocrisy for opposing GM ryegrass while giving GM feed to milking cows

Commentary: Former Dairy Australia official writes newspaper op-ed suggesting use of GM high-energy ryegrass as feed could be boost to struggling dairy industry

More Oceania items

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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - July 11, 2017
 Date: Tuesday, July 11, 2017 9:04:23 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology highlights included a European Parliament committee urging the European Commission to block the import of GM soy and a flurry of activity among African stakeholders.

- The European Parliament's environment committee today approved a resolution opposing the import of GM soy. Green MEP Bart Staes issued a statement urging the appeal committee to take similar action Wednesday (July 12) while the NGO Testbiotech expressed concern that member states would abstain and leave the decision in the hands of the commission. **See more**
- The U.S. House Appropriations Committee budgeted \$1.5 million for a Department of Agriculture and Food and Drug Administration campaign to boost consumer acceptance of biotechnology in fiscal year 2018. That amount would be 50 percent less than the \$3 million allocated for the effort this year. **See more**
- There were several noteworthy stakeholder actions in Africa. The Nigerian National Biosafety Management Agency reportedly signed a strategic memorandum of understanding with the government to regulate GMOs. **See more** A coalition of South African anti-GMO groups asked supporters to submit comments by Aug. 5 opposing a Monsanto application for GM maize approval. **See more** And a new group - the Socio-Economic Resource Network for Africa - has been formed to promote the responsible development of agricultural biotechnology. **See more**

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North America

Report: House Appropriations Committee report provides explanation of accompanying bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for fiscal year 2018, calls on USDA and FDA to continue efforts to educate the public on biotech

News: Politico Pro reports House appropriators put aside \$1.5 million for USDA and FDA efforts to improve consumer acceptance of biotech in fiscal year 2018, a 50 percent cut from this year's allocation, House Appropriations Committee called for continued efforts to educate the public on safety and benefits of biotech

Commentary: Food Navigator guest writer, CEO of Center for Food Integrity, says only a few days left still to comment to USDA on how to implement GMO labeling law; adds changing consumer interests, lack of transparency, poor marketing gave GMOs a bad name among many consumers, a mistake that should be avoided with gene editing

Commentary: Science 2.0's Hank Campbell responds to Paul Thacker's attack on biotech industry, calls out Thacker for "flacking for organic industry", lack of journalistic credibility; details his ties to U.S. Right To Know and attacks on Keith Kloor and others

Commentary: Natural News accuses "fake" news media of touting purple rice "because it's GMO" while ignoring anti-cancer benefits of non-GMO purple carrots; claims public "growing increasingly skeptical"

of GMOs

News: Smithsonian Magazine reports USDA recently approved release of GE diamondback moths for field trials in upstate New York; notes Gizmodo's Kristen Brown says if approved by state authorities, it will be first wild release of a genetically modified insect in United States

More North America items

Africa

Announcement: African Centre for Biodiversity announces it has written submission to Department of Health regarding draft regulations for maximum residue levels for glyphosate on GM soybean, summarizes evidence that low dose exposure to glyphosate, glufosinate and 2,4-D can cause serious health disorders

News: Deutsche Welle reports many experts believe proper food management and sustainable growth are keys to feeding growing global population; referencing GMO seeds, Bayer Crop Science spokesperson says growth can only come from innovative practices that "glean more from each acre - without disrupting natural resources"

News: Nigerian news outlets report National Biosafety Management Agency signs strategic memorandum of understanding with government to regulate GMOs; NBMA director general says it will ensure agencies "speak with one voice" on biosafety issues

News: African news outlet reports on launch of Socio-Economic Resource Network for Africa following African Biosafety Network of Expertise planning meeting; group will strategically address responsible development and use of agricultural biotechnology

Commentary: South African anti-GMO/food sovereignty groups ask supporters to submit comments by Aug. 5 opposing Monsanto application for approval of genetically modified maize, claims pesticides used on the crops would cause cancer and harm bees

More Africa items

Asia

News: Thai news site reports ISAAA says many countries cultivating GM crops, with over 90 percent grown in U.S., Canada, Brazil, Argentina and India; adds GM crops help reduce pesticide use by 19 percent, increasing income for farmers, helping preserve biodiversity

News: India fashion magazine amplifies reports on Bangladesh's plans to cultivate genetically modified cotton

News: UAE news site reports GM pink pineapple available commercially in U.S. following FDA approval last year; color of pineapple changed using lycopene, responsible for red in tomatoes and watermelon

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Former environment minister of Paraguay, chair of Friends of the Earth International endorse European Soya Declaration that increases soy production from certified sustainable production systems, arguing expansion of GM soybean has led to deforestation, biodiversity loss and increased pesticide use

News release: Green Party MEP praises Parliament committee vote against import of Dow GM soybeans, claims herbicides used on them are dangerous to human health; urges member states to oppose proposal in separate vote July 12

News release: Testbiotech fears many EU member states will abstain in vote on import of GM soybeans, opening way for EU Commission to approve the imports despite Parliament environment committee wanting imports rejected due to concerns about pesticide residues

Interview: French media site talks with photographer Mathieu Asselin on his photographic essay that focuses on Monsanto's effect on environmental and human health; he urges boycotts against foods made with Monsanto products

News release: Rome mayor Virginia Raggi recently met with Vandana Shiva, Raggi noted they were proud to host the anti-GMO environmentalist, and spoke about negative consequences of CETA trade agreement

News: Agence France-Presse reports on anti-GMO demonstration in which 30-40 Volunteer Reapers blocked entrance to the port of Sète and the Saipol biodiesel factory, activist Jacques Dandelot highlighted goal of denouncing import of GM rapeseed from Argentina and Brazil for use in biodiesel

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Reuters reports Argentinian seed producers say delays enacting law regulating royalty payments for use of second-generation seeds are hampering investments; current framework allows farmers to reproduce and use seeds without paying intellectual property rights

Commentary: Bolivian news outlet contributor examines long history of human plant improvement, dispels fallacy that transgenics are disconnected from thousands of years of human plant breeding, notes there are many more types of GMOs than those with glyphosate tolerance

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Syngenta Mexico General Director Javier Valdés' assessment that after 20 years of use, there is no indication that GMOs are dangerous to human health, he also noted that products designed for use with GMOs are perfectly safe when used according to label instructions

News: Latin American news outlets report Vatican says GM ingredients allowed in unleavened bread served during Holy Communion; adds guidance necessary as Eucharistic bread and wine can be found in supermarkets and on internet

Commentary: Brazilian news outlet contributor examines benefits of certain diets for health, promotes organic and agroecological diets, noting the systems are better for the environment and avoid use of agrochemicals

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News: Food & Wine reports Queensland University of Technology scientists developed GM bananas with double amount of vitamin A to reduce childhood blindness, illness, death; Ugandan farmers could grow new fruit as soon as 2021

News release: Queensland University of Technology promotes research producing biofortified banana rich in pro-vitamin A; research backed by \$10M Gates Foundation grant, aims to improve nutritional content of bananas in Uganda

[More Oceania items](#)

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From: Jay Byrne
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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - July 10, 2017
 Date: Monday, July 10, 2017 9:01 53 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology highlights included the release of another paper questioning a recent study suggesting CRISPR techniques could cause unwanted mutations and discussions of GM crops at a Bangladesh agriculture seminar.

- Researchers from Harvard University and Massachusetts General Hospital published a pre-print of a paper criticizing the recent study identifying unintended mutations resulting from CRISPR gene editing. In the paper, the team suggests the mutations identified in the mice were already there and the location of the mutations suggest they could not be the result of CRISPR. [See more](#)
- A demonstration today by activists in France reportedly blocked imports of GM rapeseed from Brazil and Argentina. [See more](#)
- A Bangladesh newspaper reported on a Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council seminar that featured presentations by representatives from the International Service for the Acquisition of Agro-biotech Applications who promoted GM crops as a means to increase food production and nutrition. [See more](#) In a separate article, the same news outlet noted that about 6,000 farmers are cultivating Bt eggplant, which has motivated the country to conduct field trials of GM potatoes, Bt cotton and Golden Rice. [See more](#)
- Ongoing reaction to the Vatican's announcement that GMOs are acceptable as ingredients in Eucharist hosts included a Center for Research on Globalization opinion piece arguing the decision raises questions about the integrity of the ritual by endorsing distortions in the genetic code of life. [See more](#)

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, [click here](#)

North America

Review: Researchers from Harvard and Massachusetts General Hospital release early draft of paper contradicting findings that using CRISPR gene editing technology can cause unintended mutations, researchers found variables within original study that influenced results and recommend revising original conclusions

News: United Press International reports on popularity of GM pink pineapple on Instagram, highlights USDA's approval of the fruit, produced by Del Monte and Dole

[More North America items](#)

Africa

Report: Valentin Beauval of French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM writes report on superiority of Algerian farmers' cereal varieties over Green Revolution varieties, recommends implementation of participatory breeding programs

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

Interview: Indian news outlet interviews agriculture scientist Vasanth Thimakapura, he notes GMOs have been used for the past 20 years with no negative health effects, believes opposition to Bt eggplant and cotton has no scientific basis, notes organic practices can not meet production needs

News: Pakistan newspaper reports Dadu district farmers drafted document opposing seed amendment act, claiming genetically modified seeds could negatively impact the environment and biodiversity while jeopardizing their livelihood

News: The Times of India reports 18 scientists write to Prime Minister Modi endorsing concerns about GM mustard, claiming it would create male sterility in other crops and saying required herbicide use is health hazard, costly, will lead to resistant weeds

News: The Financial Express reports on Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council seminar in Dhaka, quotes ISAAA officer who says GM crops are being used to increase nutritional values and can help meet 50 percent increase in food demand expected by 2050

News: Bangladeshi finance news outlet reports there are around 6,000 farmers cultivating Bt eggplant, according to Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC), in light of its success, Bangladesh is now conducting field trials of GM late blight resistant potato, Bt cotton and vitamin-A enriched Golden Rice

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Commentary: British Journal of Photography promotes photographer's "Monsanto: A photographic investigation" gallery show in France and accompanying book, noting company's "pressure on farmers to use patented GMO seeds;" photographer says he is not an activist and tried to stick to facts

Commentary: French newspaper commentary expresses concern about monopolization of agriculture industry amid three major mergers, claims agriculture has been proven to play role in climate change, loss of plant and animal biodiversity

News: Italian news outlet reports on Rome Environmental Sustainability Councilor Pinuccia Montanari's statement praising recent visit by anti-GMO activist Vandana Shiva, highlighting discussion on negative impacts of CETA trade agreement on Italy's production system, health and environment

News: Italian news site reports activist Vandana Shiva will participate in flash mob to protest plan to close Rome's drinking fountains; organizers call on city administration to "respect the human right to water and take measures against the drought that do not violate the concept of climate justice"

Commentary: Responding to Vatican approval of GMO bread for Eucharist, international activist and pioneer of UK organic farming Julian Rose expresses "shiver of horror when one links together the hundreds of cases of priestly pedophilia, the sacrilegious ingestion of symbolic body and blood and the promotion of GMO"

News: French news outlet reports on group of anti-GMO volunteer reapers' recent action blocking entry of commercial port of Sète and the Saipol factory, in opposition to import of GM rapeseed from Brazil and Argentina for manufacture of biodiesel

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Chihuahua news outlet reports on assessment by attorney René Sánchez Galindo that transgenic maize has not been detected in the area since 2015, highlighting previous complaints by Greenpeace about GM maize cultivation in spite of restrictions, Pro Transgenics Alliance demands government authorization

News: Brazilian news site reports country's National Technical Commission on Biosafety approves commercial use of world's first GM sugar cane; new variety resistant to sugar cane borer, crops main pest, and considered safe for environment and people; more insect- and herbicide-resistant crops planned

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News: Australian science news site highlights independent study by researchers from Harvard and MIT that contradicts findings of study claiming CRISPR technology creates unwanted mutations

News: U.K.-based Evening Standard reports researchers from Queensland University of Technology developed GM "super banana" rich in pro-vitamin A which could "save the lives of the hundreds of thousands of children who die from this deficiency every year"; notes researchers hope bananas will be self-sufficiently grown by Ugandan farmers as early as 2021

[More Oceania items](#)

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From: Jay Byrne
 To: Wray-Cohen, Diane - FAS
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - July 10, 2017
 Date: Monday, July 10, 2017 4:03:46 PM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

A field study published in the journal *Science* that used inconsistent data to make the conclusion that neonics are harmful to bees continues to draw the attention of science communicators. In this week's newsletter, we highlight a *Townhall* piece by Paul Driessen of the Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow and one by plant pathologist Alma G. Laney that take a closer look at the study's data and conclusions.

The "Food Evolution" documentary also continues to be a hot topic, with articles from University of California-Davis researcher Alison Van Eenennaam and a group of five "Science Moms" responding to critics of the film. The Non-GMO Project is the subject of two other commentaries: Kevin Folta points out that the group wrongly criticized a food aid shipment of seeds to Haiti and U.S. Farmers and Ranchers CEO Randy Krotz explains that the group's verification process is simply a business venture that confuses consumers.

To view items on this newsletter, first log in on [Bonus Eventus Community](#) page. To create an account, fill out the Request Membership form on the front page of the site. To share articles, click on the Twitter icon.

Please [contact us](#) if you have any questions.

In This Issue

[Stakeholder Spotlight](#)
[Stories Worth Sharing](#)
[What's Trending?](#)
[Calendar highlights](#)

Stakeholder Spotlight: Better World Cameroon



With promotion of agroecology as a growing political force at international governmental organizations like the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, regional members of

Stories Worth Sharing

[Paul Driessen: Authors, reviewers of neonic field study violated scientific integrity guidelines by excluding data](#)

[Alma G. Laney: Methods, interpretation of data off in neonic study that actually shows "no clear impact" on bees](#)

[Alison Van Eenennaam: Academics wrong to sign off on letter criticizing "Food Evolution" without even seeing it](#)

[Science Moms: Ideology behind objections to "Food Evolution" documentary jeopardizes evidence-based regulatory process](#)

[Richard Roberts: After 30 years of safe GMO usage, it's time for NGOs to admit they're wrong](#)

[Randy Krotz: Non-GMO verification a business venture that spreads confusion and inaccurate information](#)

[Kavin Senapathy: Court orders Swedish marketers to stop using misleading video suggesting organic diet will reduce pesticide intake](#)

[Greg Henderson: "Hormone-free" and "Antibiotic-free" labels a ruse by food marketers preying on ignorant consumers](#)

the International Federation of Organic Movements (IFOAM) are upping their anti-GMO, anti-pesticide and general anti-Western rhetoric.

Better World Cameroon is one example of such local groups helping promote this movement.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.

[CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES](#)

[Kevin Folta: Dangers of "uninformed, misplaced" activism on display with opposition to seeds sent for food aid that aren't even GMOs](#)

[Andrew Porterfield: Don't believe the myths – long-term safety studies on GMOs do exist](#)

[AGDAILY: U.S. honeybee population not as dire as you might think](#)

[Michelle Miller: "Incredibly fishy" for IARC to consider discredited Seralini study but not well-respected glyphosate safety study](#)

[Jim Mulhern: Resistant bacteria unfairly blamed on agricultural antibiotic use](#)

[CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING](#)

What's Trending?

[European Commission approves import of five GM cotton and maize varieties; soy on agenda for Wednesday meeting](#)

[Attorneys general from six states file lawsuit seeking to force U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to ban chlorpyrifos](#)

[G-20 reaction features spike in advocacy commentary, news and event announcements promoting agroecology policy](#)

[European Commission committee approves criteria to define endocrine-disrupting chemicals; Parliament has 3 months to act](#)

[Syngenta reportedly settles Viptera lawsuit with Nebraska farmer](#)

Calendar highlights

July 11	July 12	July 14
European Food Safety Authority webinar on next generation sequencing (NGS) in GMO applications	Californians for Pesticide Reform rally at state EPA headquarters	Slow Food Nations conference in Denver
July 14-15	July 16-20	July 16-24
Fall armyworm workshop for east Africa	11th European Conference on Precision Agriculture	International Conference of La Via Campesina

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR](#)

<p>Stakeholder database</p> <p>More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate</p>	<p>Monitoring portal</p> <p>Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.</p>	<p>Bonus Eventus community</p> <p>Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.</p>
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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - July 7-9, 2017
 Date: Sunday, July 9, 2017 9:02:32 PM

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Atrazine Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Weekend monitoring highlights included the Center for International Environmental Law publishing a report claiming a trade deal between the EU and Canada (CETA) would threaten EU member states' ability to effectively regulate pesticides. The report highlighted how the EU and Canada differ on substances considered hazardous, including atrazine.

For a more extensive compilation of recent atrazine-related items, [click here](#)

New developments

Report: Center for International Environmental Law report claims EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement threatens EU and Member States' ability to effectively regulate pesticides; notes EU and Canada can differ on substances considered hazardous, including atrazine

Commentary: Oregon Organic Coalition chair's op-ed in Oregon newspaper advocates embracing organic agriculture to ensure more sustainable farming opportunities; claims would-be organic farmers can't afford to risk contamination from atrazine, glyphosate by corporate landowners

Commentary: Natural News' Mike Adams promotes his new mini-documentary on liberals' "progressive science contradictions," highlights how liberals say pesticides are dangerous to human health while denying atrazine alters sex expression and feminize organisms

News release: Regional Parliament of Veneto, Italy announces Regional Council Pentastellato introduces motion to complete census of wells for pollutants, including for atrazine, endocrine disruptors

News: Argentinian news source reports Inta Biological Resources Institute study finds pesticides in 8 out of 10 captured fish in Pergamino basin; notes study found little detection of the herbicides tested (atrazine and acetochlor)

[More atrazine items](#)

More Bonus Eventus Resources

Stakeholder database

More information on the people and organizations influencing the atrazine debate.

Events calendar

See where atrazine news could be happening next. Or let allies know about an upcoming event.

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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - July 7-9, 2017
 Date: Sunday, July 9, 2017 9:00:56 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Global biotechnology highlights included a report that Syngenta settled a lawsuit with a Nebraska farmer. Media reported Australian researchers are developing a GM banana for Ugandans.

- *Bloomberg* reported Syngenta settled a Viptera-related lawsuit with a Nebraska farmer, but a law professor said the settlement might not have implications for other cases. Meanwhile, *The Progressive Farmer* reported trial dates have been set in seven other states. [See more](#)
- *Newsweek*, *Xinhua*, the *Australian Broadcasting Corp.*, and other media reported researchers from Australia's Queensland University of Technology developed a vitamin A-fortified GM banana to meet nutrition needs in Uganda. The project has been financed by the Gates Foundation. [See more](#)
- International media reported the Vatican announced that GMOs are acceptable as ingredients in Eucharist hosts, but the wafers cannot be 100 percent gluten-free. [See more](#)

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North America

News: Western Producer reports Canadian ag groups want federal government to cancel registration of GM alfalfa, test all imports of US-grown alfalfa seed, have all GM alfalfa field locations made public 'so farmers can protect their fields and crops until all GM alfalfa varieties are taken off the market'

News: Canadian news site reports Prince Edward Island Green Party leader accuses agency, AquaBounty of "regulatory acrobatics" in GE salmon facility approval; says change in plans should require new environmental assessment

News: Agri-Pulse reports on USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's approval of release of GE diamondback moths for trials in upstate New York cabbage fields, with goal of decreasing moth population, highlights opposition from Center for Food Safety and Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York

Commentary: Natural Blaze contributor voices concern about Canadian Cancer Society's assessment that nearly one in every two Canadians will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime, highlights correlation between increased cancer rates and increased GMO consumption

Commentary: UC Davis animal geneticist Alison Van Eenennaam criticizes letter signed by 45 Berkeley scientists in opposition to food evolution documentary, noting most of them haven't seen it, also criticizes article by Zen Honeycutt against the film, taking issue with her claims about misogyny

Commentary: Kevin Folta writes for Medium, laments anti-GMO response to shipment of 150 tons of corn seed to Haiti by Mexico's CIMMYT, notes the seeds are not even GM as activists claimed, explains how the incident demonstrates ways in which opposition to GMOs can hurt people

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Andrew Porterfield examines myth that there are no long-term safety studies on GMO safety, notes the only studies demonstrating harm have been rejected as flawed, lists several studies showing no adverse health effects, summarizes what various regulatory agencies require

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Ugandan news site reports Ugandan government determined to pass biosafety bill through Parliament to safely use biotechnology to help alleviate poverty

News: Zimbabwe news site reports Vice President's wife urges food processors to avoid GMOs, claims GM food causes "adverse health" problems

Interview: Nigerian news site The Nation questions NABDA director Lucy Obagdu, who says GM crops could help Nigeria produce enough food to feed itself and to export

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

Commentary: Biotechnology Innovation Organization amplifies CNBC's coverage of collaboration between Dow Chemical and Chinese government to educate the public on safety and importance of biotech foods

Video: Agriculture expert V.R. Kaundinya delivers TEDx talk in India on role biotech crops can play to adjust to climate change and growing populations, believes they can offer solutions to environmental problems, important to provide cheap food options for future population

Commentary: Activist writes in The Hindu op-ed that GMOs have "unintended effects," cause long-term problems such as cancer, claims glyphosate is endocrine disrupter

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News release: Oxitec amplifies National Institute of Public Health and the Environment's findings that GM mosquito poses no risk to human health or environment, supports safety conclusions from France's High Council for Biotechnology, Brazil, and U.S. regulatory agencies

News: French news site reports University of Florida researchers get grant to develop cow that will adapt to higher temperatures during global climate warming

News release: Luxembourg ag minister awards Steven Druker the "Luxembourg Peace Prize for Outstanding Promotion of Environmental Peace;" Druker claims biotech companies "ignore risks and scientific facts" with help from USDA

News: Food Ingredients First reports final decision on GM maize authorizations for cultivation lies with EU Commission President Juncker, after member states failed to reach a consensus over the past decade, highlights Friends of the Earth Europe food campaigner Mute Schimpf's call on Juncker to reject them outright

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Commentary: Paraguayan news site contributor says Trump administration threatens to take countries to WTO if they do not abide by science on GMOs; says it's curious for a government who rejects science regarding global climate change

Commentary: ETC Group's Silvia Ribeiro writes La Jornada op-ed, amplifies Nature Methods article claiming CRISPR causes unintended mutations, says gene editing can be used to create weapons of mass destruction

News: Mexican news site reports activists accuse Mennonite communities of planting GM soy illegally, using pesticides, claim the actions damage organic honey and contaminate the water

Commentary: Biodiversidad warns pulp, paper industries pushing for GE tree commercialization, but have bad effect on local communities by making droughts worse due to high volumes of water usage and are highly flammable

Commentary: Scientist Mary Mangan criticizes Non-GMO Project's opposition to CIMMYT's seed program for Haiti, noting they lied about the seeds being GM, she tweets several of their major clients to inform them that Non-GMO Project can't tell GMO from non-GMO

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News: Newsweek reports Australian scientists with Gates Foundation funding have created vitamin A-fortified GMO bananas that 'could save the lives of hundreds of thousands of children' in Africa each year; researchers hope their bananas will be grown by Ugandan farmers by 2021

News: Australian Broadcasting Corporation reports vitamin A-enriched genetically modified bananas, funded by the Gates Foundation, being grown in Uganda by Queensland researchers hoping to save thousands of children's lives in East Africa

News: New Zealand news outlet reports JR Simplot applying for approval from FSANZ to export products made with GM potatoes into Australia and New Zealand; Soil and Health Association of New Zealand opposes application; FSANZ assessment found GE potatoes safe

[More Oceania items](#)

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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - July 6, 2017
 Date: Thursday, July 6, 2017 9:02:56 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Global biotechnology highlights included an announcement that a European Commission committee will discuss GM soy products. African Centre for Biodiversity published articles based on a seed policy meeting with other NGOs. Indian news outlets continue commentary and reporting on GM mustard commercialization.

- The European Commission appeal committee announced it will meet Wednesday (July 12) to discuss commercial approval for products containing GM soy. Meanwhile, the EU Green Party and French NGO Inf'OGM expressed dissatisfaction with the commission's approval of the import of five GM crops. **See more.**
- The African Centre for Biodiversity published several articles on seed sovereignty after it co-hosted a seed policy meeting with the Zimbabwe Seed Sovereignty Program. The event featured discussions by Third World Network members and the Seed Freedom Movement, and it could be a sign of future advocacy and active campaigning. **See more.**
- The *Tribune News Service* reported a group is organizing a Saturday (July 8) protest against GM mustard in northern India. A group of scientists wrote Prime Minister Narendra Modi asking him to stop the GM mustard release and investigate how the crop could harm farmers economically. Geneticist M Sivanandham told a news outlet that GM mustard oil is completely safe. **See more.**

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North America

Commentary: Hawaii blogger defends documentary Food Evolution; says passion for GM papaya is not propaganda and criticizes claims by Marion Nestle

Commentary: Kansas farmer writes Today's Producer op-ed expressing dismay about TV ad for GMO-free pet food; criticizes food processors for perpetuating fears about GMOs in order to sell more product at a higher price point

News: Midwest Center for Investigative Reporting reports federal class-action lawsuit filed by migrant farm workers alleges Monsanto violated fair labor standards; workers helped produce corn in Illinois, Michigan, and Missouri

Commentary: Anti-pesticide blogger Colin Todhunter writes for Global Research, criticizes link between agrochemical companies, the media and governments, amplifies claims about negative impacts of pesticides by former EPA employee Evaggelos Vallianatos, activist Rosemary Mason, and recent UN Rapporteur report

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News release: ReliefWeb posts FAO release previewing July 18-20 event in Rome gathering

international experts to discuss how to combat African fall armyworm outbreak

News: South African engineering news site reports Competition Commission orders Dow to sell maize line to third party, register GM crop line in South Africa in order to continue merger with DuPont

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on recent remarks by Ahmadu Bello University's Dr. Abdulrazak Ibrahim in support of biotech, he noted products of biotech have no negative impact on humans or the environment, highlighted importance to sustainable ag development, boosting production and reducing poverty

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Indian news site claims GM mustard approval "shrouded in secrecy," says it will harm human health, environment, won't profit farmers

News: The Hindu Business Line reports biotechnologist in India confirms oil from GM mustard plants is safe to consume

Commentary: Sri Lankan news site contributor says MOLNAR group tries to radicalize farmers by pitting traditional ag vs. modern ag, depicted as serving capitalists, taking advantage of public fear of GMOs despite high-yielding, low-water consuming, GM crops

Announcement: European Commission releases document summarizing negotiating results of Economic Partnership Agreement between the EU and Japan at time of agreement in principle in July 2017, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures chapter will improve predictability in trade without changing standards on hormones or GMOs

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: French NGO Inf'OGM says EU Commission approved GM crops after most member states voted against the products, and EU Parliament opposed them

News release: The Greens/European Free Alliance voices opposition to five GMO import authorizations for food and feed use, objecting to lack of support from Parliament or Member States, they call for changes to ensure total transparency in the authorization process

News: Following a heated debate about amendments to the Genetically Modified Organisms Act, Croatian news source reports local parliamentarians stand firmly against the breeding of GMO products in the country

News: German newspaper features Bayer chief executive Werner Baumann and his "tough tests" ahead completing its acquisition of Monsanto

Interview: Nobel laureate Richard Roberts tells Spanish news site NGOs should admit they're wrong about GMOs given 30 years of safe use, stop conflating Monsanto and GMOs, says Europeans fear industrial farms will drive family farms out of business

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Argentine news site reports Vandana Shiva asks court to participate in lawsuit against Monsanto's Intacta soy as "friend of the court," wants to testify the GM crop damages environment and human health

News: Ecuadoran news site reports Nobel laureate Richard Roberts says GMOs proven safe through 30

years of use, former Nobel winner says he "finds it criminal" to say GMOs are harmful

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News: New Zealand farming news outlet reports JR Simplot applies to export GM potato products into New Zealand, notes labeling laws don't require most GE ingredients to be listed on packaging; Soil & Health Association concerned about long-term and cumulative health effects

[More Oceania items](#)

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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - July 4-5, 2017
 Date: Wednesday, July 5, 2017 9:01:19 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Global biotechnology highlights for Tuesday and Wednesday included approval of genetically modified corn and cotton varieties by the European Commission.

- The European Commission announced it approved five varieties of GM corn and cotton. The commission gave a green light to a cotton strain developed by Monsanto and another by Bayer, plus maize strains developed by Syngenta and Dow AgroSciences. [See more.](#)
- A *Legal Newsline* commentary noted the jury's verdict in favor of Kansas farmers, who accused Syngenta of negligence for releasing its Viptera seed before Chinese approval, essentially requires companies "to indemnify farmers against the actions of Chinese regulators." [See more.](#)

Reminder: to access the full text, archives and monitoring dashboard resources you need to log in to the [Bonus Eventus community portal](#) using your email address and personal password. Please contact us if you need any assistance or support.

For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, [click here](#)

North America

Commentary: Biotechnology Innovation Organization amplifies Kent Messer's recent article in Delaware News Journal on role of fear in motivating consumer decisions, arguing fear-based labels do more harm than good, Messer calls for transparency and truth in GMO labeling

Commentary: Garden Culture contributor criticizes FDA's GMO consumer outreach campaign, arguing tax dollars shouldn't be used for "pro-industry propaganda," believes it doesn't matter if GMOs are scientifically safe because they are unnatural and not "normal"

Commentary: Science writer Jeremy Cherfas criticizes recent paper by Kevin Folta on shifting focus in plant breeding to consumer desires such as increased flavor, notes many breeders already work closely with chefs and consumers, believes the paper is "fundamentally reductionist"

Commentary: Quartz contributor examines challenges ahead for Amazon's new grocery venture, highlights growth in organic industry, although supply is not keeping up with demand, Maggie Monast of Environmental Defense Fund notes Amazon's purchase of Whole Foods may give farmers more incentive to shift to organic

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Kenyan business news outlet reports on Ag Cabinet Secretary Willy Bett's warning that maize yields could drop by 20-25 percent due to fall armyworm invasion, Bayer East Africa donates Sh10 million in pesticides to help combat the pest, which Bayer's Eric Bureau noted threatens food security and farmers' incomes

News: Kenyan ag secretary says maize production could drop by up to 25 percent this year due to fall armyworm, asks for chemical companies to consider huge discounts for small farmers in speech where

he received \$10 million in farm chemicals from Bayer to combat the pest

News: Ugandan news outlet reports Parliament again defers debate on National Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill, due to need for further consultations, according to deputy speaker Jacob Oulanyah

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

Announcement: India Department of Biotechnology announces study indicating GM rice developed by National Institute of Plant Genome Research can improve uptake of natural phosphorous from soil, reducing need for artificial phosphorus fertilizers

News: The Times of India reports research finds pink bollworm develops resistance to Bollgard-II Bt cotton in several cotton-growing states; central government asked by state ag official for "clear set of guidelines" to deal with situation

News: The Hindu reports Telangana police director announces creation of 16 task force teams to curb food adulteration in state, includes plan to strengthen seven existing forces against spurious seeds, fertilizers and pesticides

News: Indonesian news site reports CropLife Indonesia Chairman Midzon Johannis says crop biotechnology benefits include improved output, crop recovery, durability, higher vitamin levels, and pest and disease resistance; Johannis adds biotech crops are useful to maximize existing land

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Commentary: GMWatch's Claire Robinson criticizes letters from Intellia Therapeutics and Editas Medicine regarding Nature article on unintended mutations in CRISPR mice, points to other studies demonstrating off-target effects, argues scientific studies should not be retracted based on impact on companies' bottom lines

Commentary: French news outlet contributor voices opposition to GMOs, claiming biotech companies developed sterile seeds to force farmers to buy new seeds each year, claims arguments about feeding the world are propaganda, criticizes President Macron's support of CETA, which he argues will pave the way for GMOs

Commentary: Spanish anti-GMO NGO Ecologistas en Accion responds to recent criticism by University of Valencia professor J. M. Mulet Salort, who accused the group of "ecoterrorism," defends their actions against GM field trials to prevent cross-pollination

Report: Social Science Research Network paper proposes moderate GMO regulations post-Brexit, argues that while UK should not deregulate GMOs to the extent the US has, it should adopt more moderate rules than the EU, allowing it to take advantage of growing GM crop market, especially GM wheat

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Argentine news source reports Vandana Shiva appears before country's Supreme Court to testify in effort by NGO to block Monsanto's Intacta GM soybeans; Shiva calls for public hearings to hear opinions of independent experts on GMOs

News: CropLife International profiles plant biologist developing biotech sugarcane resistant to sugarcane borer and Brazilian sugarcane farmer as part of #foodheroes series

News: Ecuadorian news outlet reports on plans by environmental collective "Transgenic Free Ecuador" to file suit regarding unconstitutionality of recently passed seed law, highlights the group's claims about

negative impact of GM crops on soil health, pollinators and other beneficial insects

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian news outlet reports on dairy industry frustrations as GM high-energy ryegrass and virus-resistant clover have still not been released after nearly 20 years of research due to public opposition to GMOs, they have potential to boost milk production by 25 percent, and earn farmers up to \$750 extra per hectare

News release: GE Free NZ warns "alarm bells ring over threat of GE trees", claims GE eucalyptus tree nurseries owned by ArborGen are "direct threat" to ecosystems and biodiversity; criticizes government for "lack of accountability"

News release: New Zealand's Soil and Health Association, an organic membership group, warns GE potatoes "set to sneak into our food"; criticizes Food Standards Australia New Zealand for approving "every single application for GE food lines", notes GE potato application open to comment until July 7

More Oceania items

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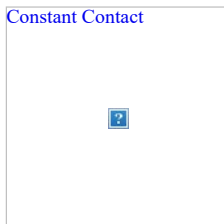
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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology monitoring featured limited activity, particularly as the United States observed its Independence Day holiday.

- University of Florida scientist Kevin Folta posted a blog responding to critics who have claimed the "Food Evolution" documentary is propaganda. Folta highlighted a letter recently co-signed by 45 individuals who called themselves "experts" and suggested it is wrong to refer to science as propaganda because it invalidates the "authentic representation of science" and impugns scientists who participated. He also noted critics of the documentary have been unwilling to engage in a constructive dialogue despite his open invitation. **See more**
- Media outlets including the Xinhua news agency provided ongoing coverage of a recently published study detailing the potential of a genetically modified purple rice that would be rich in antioxidants and potentially reduce the risk of cancer. **See more**

Due to the Independence Day holiday, your next Global Biotech Snapshot will be sent on Wednesday, July 5. Please visit the monitoring portal for updates in the meantime.

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North America

Commentary: Horticulturist Folta takes "experts" to task for calling documentary "Food Evolution" propaganda, says he has a problem with calling science propaganda as it impugns integrity of scientists involved and harms application of technologies that could be helpful to people and environment

Commentary: Hoosier Ag Today president Gary Truitt argues Bayer's purchase provides opportunity to "deep-six the Monsanto brand" and give activists a less visible target to smear, also suggests pulling dicamba commercials

Commentary: AlterNet contributor lists 10 most contaminated foods to throw out, includes bagels containing glyphosate from desiccated or GM grain, in addition to produce on EWG's Dirty Dozen list

[More North America items](#)

Africa

Report: International Food Policy Research Institute releases Global Food Policy Report highlighting progress in food security and nutrition, as well as a commitment to sustainable development

News: Kenyan news site reports scientists say Virus Resistant Cassava for Africa Plus disease-resistant and nutritionally-enhanced cassava varieties present opportunity to address country's food crisis; can be available to farmers in about three years

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

Commentary: Third World Network sends email blast informing subscribers US EPA has been called on to begin monitoring synergistic effects of pesticides following inspector general's report

News: Xinhua reports Chinese scientists have created a GMO purple rice that is rich in antioxidants and has the potential to 'reduce the risk of cancer and other ailments'

Commentary: Arguing GMO food is taking over the market despite "many dangers to health and environment," consultant writes piece in India Today to favorably highlight local family's 2.5 acre "natural farm" where indigenous vegetables are cultivated; claims new GM seeds needed each year

News: Vietnam News Agency reports Chinese scientists create GM purple rice with anthocyanin compounds noting health benefits of reduced risk of cancer, heart disease, diabetes; researchers intend use GM technique to produce nutrients for medicine

News: Indian news site reports scientists plan limited open field tests of GM self-limiting mosquitoes to fight mosquito-borne diseases after Aedes Aegypti mosquito responsible for dengue and chikungunya outbreaks has survived fumigations

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Commentary: Austria's Der Standard highlights importance of CRISPR technology; notes uncertainty in regulation, use in organic farming; mentions low consumer understanding, role of media in shaping public opinion

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Mexico-based Excelsior reports conservationists in Cancun blame Mennonite communities' use of pesticides and non-organic fertilizers on transgenic crops for damaging organic honey

Commentary: Venezuela's TeleSUR piece by La Via Campesina reps addresses G20 Summit in Germany this week; criticizes G20 agricultural policies as bad for peasant farmers globally; claims GM crops risky; asserts farmers' rights to manage seeds

Commentary: Mexico's El Economista news site features Monsanto's work on GM crops to feed growing population; quotes Monsanto reps on importance of technology to secure food supply, farmers see benefits of reduced costs, reduced use of pesticides, fertilizers

Interview: Speaking with Argentinian news site, activist Vandana Shiva blasts industrial agriculture; blames Roundup, Roundup Ready soybeans for epidemic of cancer; claims Monsanto attacks patent laws, national sovereignty through seed patents

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

There were no noteworthy developments during today's monitoring of Oceania. Please click the link below for the latest items.

[More Oceania items](#)

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 To: [Wray-Cohen, Diane - FAS](#)
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - July 3, 2017
 Date: Monday, July 3, 2017 4:02:49 PM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

A long-awaited European field study examining the impact of neonics on bees in the United Kingdom, Germany and Hungary was published this week, attracting headlines claiming the pesticides "decimate" bee colonies. As Jon Entine and Henry Miller point out in articles published in this week's newsletter, what the media - and the study's authors - ignored was that 97 percent of the data points in the research showed no impact on honeybees.

Other pieces question U.S. funding of the Ramazzini Institute and its "dubious science," argue that conventional farmers should be praised instead of vilified by organic industry marketing interests and advocate for the use of biotechnology in Zambia.

In the What's Trending section, you'll find links to recent coverage and stakeholder activity related to the proposed Waters of the United States revocation, tomorrow's possible committee vote on the European Commission's proposed criteria to define endocrine-disrupting chemicals and a new study on CRISPR techniques.

To view items on this newsletter, first log in on [Bonus Eventus Community](#) page. To create an account, fill out the Request Membership form on the front page of the site. To share articles, click on the Twitter icon.

Please [contact us](#) if you have any questions.

In This Issue

[Stakeholder Spotlight](#)
[Stories Worth Sharing](#)
[What's Trending?](#)
[Calendar highlights](#)

Stakeholder Spotlight: Genetic-ID



Genetic-ID played a key role in creating the U.S. and international markets for Non-GMO labeled foods.

Based in Fairfield, Iowa, the company has deep ties to the quasi-religious Maharishi movement and its wide array of for-profit organic, natural and alternative health

Stories Worth Sharing

[Jon Entine: Claims by authors of Centre for Ecology & Hydrology study, media unsupported by research data](#)

[Ron Arnold: Trump administration, Congress must prevent Ramazzini Institute's "dubious science" from influencing agriculture policy](#)

[David Zaruk: Farmers deserve to be thanked, not vilified by organic industry as "irresponsible and dangerous"](#)

[Julie Kelly: Average Americans would be hurt by Tom Colicchio's idea to subsidize expensive organic food that lacks health benefits](#)

[Science Codex questions methodology of Purdue University study built around idea of neonic "death cloud" lingering for 12 hours](#)

[Andrew Porterfield: Monarch butterflies threatened by climate change, drought and predators - despite NGOs' focus on glyphosate](#)

[Henry Miller: Neonic study researchers ignored 97 percent of data showing no impact on bees](#)

[Zambia Daily Mail: Biotechnology is a "game-changer" in president's](#)

business interests. Genetic-ID's founder, John Fagan, serves as a "raja" for food purity in the movement's global government for world peace.

Genetic-ID's founding marketing director was Jeffrey Smith, the promoter of Maharishi yogic flying who later went on to help lead anti-GMO advocacy and mandatory labeling campaigns.

Genetic-ID is a key business partner with the non-profit Non-GMO Project whose butterfly embossed seals, based on Genetic-ID backed certifications, now festoon thousands of products in U.S. supermarket aisles.

To learn more about Genetic-ID, [CLICK HERE](#).

[CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES](#)

[national development plan](#)

[Joseph Perrone: Anti-glyphosate groups benefiting financially from California campaign to list glyphosate as carcinogen](#)

[New Zealand entomologist: Each country should make own policy on regulating neonics; Australia, New Zealand correct to avoid ban](#)

[Leah Dorman: Empathy plays key role in communicating science on responsible antibiotic use](#)

[Calestous Juma receives Breakthrough Institute's Paradigm Award for thought leadership in biotechnology](#)

[American Council on Science and Health releases "Little Black Book of Junk Science"](#)

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What's Trending?

[European Commission's latest proposal to define endocrine-disrupting chemicals set for July 4 vote](#)

[European neonic field study conducted in U.K., Germany, Hungary stirs debate after producing mixed impacts on bees](#)

[University of California-San Diego study shows CRISPR can be used without off-target effects](#)

[Associated Press report indicating EPA chief met with Dow CEO before chlorpyrifos ruling draws ire of NGOs](#)

[U.S. Environmental Protection Agency moves to rescind Obama administration "Waters of the United States" rule](#)

Calendar highlights

July 3-4	July 4	July 6-8
Plant genome editing and genome engineering conference (Vienna)	European Commission Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed considers EDC proposal	CGIAR Kenyan conference on impact of investments in agricultural research
July 8-12	July 9	July 11
International Conference on Biotechnology and Agriculture Engineering	Apiculture New Zealand national conference	European Food Safety Authority webinar on next generation sequencing (NGS) in GMO applications

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Global biotechnology monitoring highlights over the weekend included the Uganda Parliament reintroducing a biotechnology and biosafety bill, and Malawi seed companies urging the government to adopt GM crops to increase farm yields.

- The Ugandan Parliament brought a biosafety bill to the floor more than three years after it had been tabled. The Science and Technology Committee submitted two reports after two Parliament members disagreed with the majority report recommending the bill. **See more.**
- *Capital Radio* in Malawi reported seed companies urged the government to approve GM crops to allow for more trade within the African continent. The country has completed field trials for cassava, bananas, cowpeas and cotton. **See more.**

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North America

Commentary: EconoTimes contributor examines growing number of Americans that don't trust scientists on issues such as GMOs, a problem that is worsening with social media, highlights New York University's Division of Medical Ethics founding director, Arthur Caplan's belief that scientists can improve communication

Commentary: Sustainable Pulse reports on USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service's publication of 30 questions to facilitate drafting of GMO labeling requirements, criticizes recently passed law as ineffective, reproduces question list

News: Agri-Pulse reports on Ag Secretary Perdue's recent visit to China to promote resumption of beef trade, as well as to ramp up pressure on country's need to reform its biotech approval process, Syngenta's Michel Demare hopes China will make the necessary reforms now that ChemChina has acquired the company

Commentary: Arthur Caplan and Kelly Folkers of NYU write for Time magazine, they explain why GE mosquitoes would be a safe, effective way to combat spread of diseases such as zika, they lament that public fear of GMOs is hindering use of the technology to save lives

Commentary: Moms Across America founder Zen Honeycutt writes for Alternet, criticizes Food Evolution documentary, claims the filmmakers failed to honor their agreements and took her statements out of context, argues it ignores the truth of mothers who have witnessed their children's health improve by avoiding GMOs

Commentary: LA Times contributor Kenneth Turan describes the documentary "Food Evolution" as "persuasive rather than political" as it discusses the GMO controversy; notes the film may not change minds, but will cause you to consider how you decided on your position

Commentary: GLP contributor Andrew Porterfield says it will take 'more than a village' to feed the world; makes the case that a combination of high-tech, GM and organic methods is the key to dealing with global hunger

[More North America items](#)

Africa

Commentary: Nigerian Tribune journalist counters argument by scientist Ify Aniebo that GMOs are not tested for safety, notes scientists have observed its safe use over several years and verify no unsafe toxins exist in GM food and are the same as non-GMO counterparts

Commentary: AATF's Evelyn Situma notes Kenyans are turning to drought-tolerant maize to fight poverty; says good farming practices and access to high-yielding, drought- and disease-resistant varieties will boost productivity, incomes and sustain Kenyan farmers' livelihoods

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) Director General Rufus Ebegba's reiteration of need for biotech regulation, noting the purpose of NBMA is to ensure that biotech is not misused and to protect human health and the environment

News: US government's Feed the Future program reports on recent media training workshop in Malawi entitled, "Journalism Ethics in Agriculture: Avoiding Fake News"

News: Ugandan news outlet reports on Parliament's resumed debate on Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill 2012, Science and Technology committee presented two reports, the first of which supported the bill, noting several GM trials are in advanced stages, the minority report raised concerns about cross pollination

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

Commentary: The Indian Express notes protesters gather to oppose GM mustard, other biotech crops, op-ed claims Bt cotton's "ill effects on ecology are for all to see;" demonstrator says they have "right to demand safe food"

News: Indian news site Business Standard reports seed companies such as Monsanto want India to continue licensing plant breeders

News: Agri-Pulse reports on Ag Secretary Perdue's recent visit to China to promote resumption of beef trade, as well as to ramp up pressure on country's need to reform its biotech approval process, Syngenta's Michel Demaré hopes China will make the necessary reforms now that ChemChina has acquired the company

News release: President of Indian seed industry group Seedsmen Association, Shri A.S.N Reddy, emphasizes differences between India's Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights (PPVFR) act and the Indian Patent Act (IPA), which does not allow plants, varieties and seeds to be patented, argues PPVFR protects breeders and farmers' rights

News: Agri-Pulse reports ChemChina, Syngenta have goals for change in light of completion of acquisition, including push into Asia-Pacific markets, but also share plans to keep some things the same

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Commentary: French science radio program examines "the end of GMOs," pointing to data indicating that GM crop adoption rates are down, claims they have not lived up to promise of ending world hunger, the program features experts in plant genetics and agronomy

News: Reuters reports BASF to consider buying seed assets that rivals are putting up for sale to win antitrust approval for mergers, saying bargain prices could persuade the German company to overcome reluctance to expand into the seeds industry

News: German news source reports on new European rules for animal and plant patents; says loopholes still exist from which "mainly large corporations profit"

News: French news source reports local judge relaxes fines against Confederation Paysanne militants for protest last July in front of Monsanto factory

News: Politico Pro EU reports on Bayer's formal request for EU approval of its \$66 billion takeover of Monsanto, the EU's Competition Commission has until August 8 to decide whether to approve the deal or open an in-depth inquiry, environmentalists and petitioners call on Commissioner Margrethe Vestager to block it

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Yucatan state legal counsel, Carlos Pavón Flores' statement that Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation (SCJN) must issue resolution in September declaring Yucatan as a GE-free zone, voicing confidence that arguments presented are sufficient

Commentary: Guatemalan news outlet contributor highlights benefits of organic farming, claims GMOs will fail to increase yields as effects of climate change worsen, believes organic foods are more nutritious, and that GMOs carry potential health risks

Commentary: Op-ed by ETC Group's Silvia Ribeiro in La Jornada amplifies Nature Methods study showing unintended mutations from CRISPR-Cas9 use; Ribeiro says existing bio-security rules insufficient for the technology, and "only sensible" approach is to not allow release of any GE organism

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

Commentary: Alana Mann of University of Sydney and Australian Food Sovereignty Alliance writes for The Conversation, claims industrial ag practices such as using GMOs and pesticides are not sustainable, amplifies recent UN rapporteur report on pesticide use

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Today's global biotechnology monitoring highlights included a study that shows improvements to CRISPR methods can prevent unintended mutations. Chem-China-Syngenta executives want to double the company's size. A Nigerian biotech official was charged with financial fraud.

- A University of California-San Diego research team published a study revealing how changes to CRISPR mechanics improve genome-splicing technology so it doesn't yield "off-target" effects. The research comes after the *Nature Methods* study finding CRISPR can cause unintended mutations, and it may address industry and consumer concerns. **See more.**
- With the merger finalized, ChemChina-Syngenta executives are discussing plans for the company's biotech sector. Syngenta's new chairman, Ren Jianxin, told the Asian news site *Nikkei Asian Review* that the company wants to double in size and is considering acquisitions in the seed sector, adding that it sees India and Africa as major growth markets. **See more.**
- *News Agency of Nigeria* reported that Nigeria's Economic and Financial Crimes Commission arrested National Biotechnology Development Agency director-general Lucy Ogbadu on fraud charges. According to reports, about N23 million (about \$73,000) was allegedly illegally diverted to Ogbadu from the Bayelsa State Director of Bio-resources Development Centre. **See more.**

Reminder: to access the full text, archives and monitoring dashboard resources you need to log in to the **Bonus Eventus community portal** using your email address and personal password. Please contact us if you need any assistance or support.

For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **[click here](#)**

North America

News release: UC San Diego research team has identified myriad structural changes that activate and drive CRISPR-Cas9, with goal of providing a framework for designing a more efficient and accurate genome-splicing technology that doesn't yield "off-target" effects

Commentary: USRTK publishes "Hall of Shame" profile on Genetic Literacy Project's Jon Entine, calling him a "central player" in agribusiness PR campaign on GMOs, pesticides; highlights Entine's defense of atrazine, Syngenta feud with Tyrone Hayes, Monsanto-sponsored boot camps

Commentary: Cultural critic for California news site notes "Food Evolution" doesn't address "many injustices committed by Monsanto," but does present convincing argument for biotech, how anti-GMO movement may prevent positive outcomes from GM products

Report: National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine report recounts proceedings of recent Government-University-Industry Research Roundtable, with focus on mistrust of science, keynote speaker Shawn Otto pointed to rising objections to GMOs and vaccines in spite of lack of evidence of harm

Commentary: Joan Conrow points out hypocrisy in anti-GMO activists' criticisms of Food Evolution documentary, noting activists frequently spread information that is "unfair, unbalanced and deceptive," amplifies Kevin Folta's blog post criticizing Marion Nestle's reaction to the film

Commentary: Karen Batra of Biotechnology Innovation Organization criticizes Danone's "One Planet, One Health." campaign, noting that plans to eliminate GMOs runs counter to goals of sustainability, pointing to several environmental benefits of the technology, and emphasizing consensus on safety

Commentary: New York Times "Okja" review says film portrays issue of the food industrial complex and protests against factory farming and genetic engineering "through a callous, utilitarian lens, as sources of food"

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Kenya's Mediamax reports farmers in Nakuru dealing with new potato pest even as maize growers continue to fight armyworm attacks; agriculture extension officers told farmers to spray Ortran pesticide to contain the worms

News: News Agency of Nigeria reports on arrest of National Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA) Director-General Lucy Ogbadu over alleged N23 million fraud

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Chemical & Engineering News reports Syngenta plans to expand into emerging markets, particularly China, following ChemChina deal; aims to strengthen its number three position in the global seeds business and increase investments in yield-improving crops

Commentary: Nepalese news outlet contributor highlights importance of intellectual property rights, arguing that ag innovation is key for increasing productivity and food security, points to challenges of farmers' rights and access to new agro-biotechnological innovation and seeds in Nepal

News: Indian news outlet reports on farmers organization Kheti Virasat Mission's (KVM) launch of state-wide campaign against Punjab government decision to allow second-stage field trials of GM maize, KVM also opposes GEAC's approval of GM mustard

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Interview: Okja director Bong Joon-ho tells BBC no one has proven GMO safety; notes Okja's physical appearance gives a nod to the controversial GMO debate

News: Politico reports EU Patent Office decides to no longer grant patents on common obtained by an 'essentially biological breeding process;' notes the decision will make it harder for large agri-businesses to patent common vegetables

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Commentary: Mexican news site says despite federal government attempts to get around beekeepers' legal challenges, claims evidence shows pesticides used with GMOs damages human, environmental health

News: Latin American Press reports illegally cultivated GM corn in Bolivia threatens to contaminate native varieties

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News: Australian news site reports WA Parliament member asks state government to create fund to compensate farmers who lose organic certification due to GM canola contamination

More Oceania items

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From: [Jay Byrne](#)
 To: [Wray-Cohen, Diane - FAS](#)
 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - June 28, 2017
 Date: Wednesday, June 28, 2017 11:31:09 PM

FAST ACCESS: MONITORING \ STAKEHOLDERS \ COMMUNITY

Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology monitoring highlights included the U.S. Department of Agriculture soliciting comments on GMO labeling. Canadian NGOs urged the Prince Edward Island environment minister to reject a facility to grow GE salmon. Malawi seed companies say they want to sell GM seed. An Indian state government approved a GM corn field trial.

- The USDA published 30 questions to solicit comments from stakeholders to inform the public on its GMO disclosure rule. The questions inquired whether consumers would prefer certain technologies or labeling formats. A USDA official told trade media the rule is moving forward but noted a July 2018 due date presents an aggressive timeline. [See more](#)
- Canadian environmental groups are calling on Environment Minister Catherine McKenna to halt development of an AquaBounty facility to grow GM salmon in Prince Edward Island. Activists claim the fish could contaminate the wild fish population. [See more](#)
- Seed companies in Malawi are asking the government to approve GM crops because they believe biotechnology will help improve farmers' yields. The nation has completed field trials on GM cassava, bananas, cow peas and cotton. [See more](#)
- An Indian news site reported the Punjab state government approved a multinational corporation to conduct second-stage field trials of GM maize. Some farming groups opposed the decision, claiming GMOs are detrimental to human health and threaten the natural gene pool. [See more](#).

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North America

Commentary: Henry Miller writes for Genetic Literacy Project, examines ways in which Russia uses anti-GMO activists to undermine US biotech and science, highlights assessment that both US Right to Know and Russia oppose US technology for financial gain, points to ties between Ronnie Cummins and RT

News: Reuters reports U.S. ambassador hopes China will approve more varieties of GMO corn for import after Dow, Monsanto strains approved

Announcement: Moms Across America announces debut of its first film, "Communities Rising," examining the threats of GMOs and pesticides, thanks contributors and urges supports to watch and share

News: Georgia news outlet reports on recent University of Georgia Plant Center symposium where Food Evolution director Scott Hamilton Kennedy appeared as a guest speaker, UGA plant biologist Jim Leebens-Mack echoes Kennedy's hope that the film will help increase public understanding of science behind GMOs

News: Washington Post reports NAS report to take on "future of food," to feed 9 billion people by 2030 by overcoming climate change, lack of water, other obstacles; report is due before farm bill expires

More North America items

Africa

News: South African ag news source reports sustainability NGO Hivos re-ignites debate over GMOs in Zambia by advising consumers to shun the foods, notes criticism of Zambia in 2002 when country refused international GMO food aid during famine

News: Zambia Daily Mail reports Cotton Development Trust eager to begin confined trials for GM cotton, but Biosafety Act must be amended and trust will need to set up institutional biosafety committee and implement awareness effort to overcome potential obstacles

Commentary: Nigerian blogger accuses Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Monsanto of intentionally introducing maize pests in Nigeria to force farmers to adopt Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) GM maize

More Africa items

Asia

News: Press Trust of India reports Chinese scientists created GM purple rice that can reduce the risk of certain cancers, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and other chronic disorders; notes previous attempts to engineer "anthocyanin production" in rice have failed because the underlying biosynthesis pathway is highly complex

News: Reuters reports U.S. ambassador hopes China will approve more varieties of GMO corn for import after Dow, Monsanto strains approved

Commentary: Op-ed in Calcutta Telegraph argues India's farmers should get an opportunity to express their opinion on GM crops; suggests something needs to be done before the new seeds "cause another spate of farmers' suicides"

Interview: Monsanto China president Yong Gao tells Nikkei "sharp increase" in R&D spending ahead after Bayer's acquisition, believes China will become dependent on imported corn as its production declines; expresses concern about social media spreading bad information on GMOs

More Asia items

Europe

Interview: "Okja" director Bong Joon-ho tells French news outlet that his lawyer told him not to say multinational Mirando in his film alludes to Monsanto, says armed militiamen are "inspired by real patrols financed by some companies"

Interview: Dutch news site questions "Okja" director about the movie, says size of genetically modified "monster pig" symbolizes corporate greed

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Argentina-based Diario Panorama describes "Okja" film as satirical parable about capitalism that contrasts pure nature with all-powerful Wall Street

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Australian agribusiness consultant argues farmers risk falling behind competitors without

investments in R&D; notes potential biosecurity risks include incursion of Varroa mites that could devastate bees

News: New Zealand farming publication reports U.S. field trials are underway on New Zealand-based AgResearch's GM ryegrass designed to cut urinary nitrate leaching and reduce methane emissions; company believes grass could be available to farmers in 8 years

Study: Australian Academy of Science presents decadal plan for agriculture, notes Australia must embrace ag innovation, including genetic engineering, but must work to educate public that biotech applications are mutually beneficial

More Oceania items

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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - June 27, 2017
 Date: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 9 01:29 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

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Today's global biotechnology monitoring highlights include plans for a meeting in Europe on plant breeding patent law, a U.S. product recall related to non-GMO status and a new study on the development of antioxidant-rich rice.

- On Wednesday (June 28), the 38 contracting states that make up the European Patent Office will meet in The Hague to discuss the future interpretation of existing prohibitions in European patent law on the breeding of plants and animals. The NGO No Patent on Seeds believes the current proposal contains too many loopholes that will increase in the number of patents granted on conventional breeding and submitted a letter to the office demanding changes to the policy. [See more](#)
- Target has announced plans to pull Hampton Creek products from its shelves, noting some may be mislabeled as non-GMO. The decision last week continues to generate discussion among food and organic industry news outlets. [See more](#)
- A Chinese government-funded study published in *Molecular Plant* identifies new genetic engineering approach capable of delivering multiple genes at once, which researchers successfully used to develop antioxidant-rich purple rice. The study was amplified today in a *Daily Mail* article noting the research could help reduce the prevalence of certain chronic disorders, including cancer. [See more](#)
- In advance of its streaming release Wednesday, the Netflix-produced film "Okja" is receiving international attention. News outlets, including *Salon* and *Gizmodo* published reviews of the film, highlighting its anti-meat and anti-corporate messages and comparing the fictional company in the film to Monsanto. Additional global discussion is likely following the film's release. [See more](#)

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North America

Commentary: Natural News contributor claims new documentary "Food Evolution" is latest "chemical industry propaganda" branded as science; claims Genetic Literacy Project's Jon Entine is behind project, who functions more as "corporate PR campaign for biotechnology companies like Monsanto"

Interview: Food Tank interviews vice president of NGO A Growing Culture, who believes smallholder farmers can increase biodiversity through regenerative farming practices, launching #IStandWithFarmers videos to change way world views smallholder farmers

News: Delish reports Target being cautious by removing Hampton Creek food products, some of which were supposedly improperly labeled as non-GMO; Hampton Creek says they're confident the non-GMO products are properly labeled

Commentary: New Jersey film reviewer suggests while film Okja is not for children, it's "definitely a treat" for anyone with deeply held concerns about genetically modified organisms, factory farms or animal welfare

Commentary: Bayer research manager questions why foods made with biotechnology cannot also be

organic, believes plant breeding methods like gene editing can improve seeds for organic food production

Commentary: American Council on Science and Health president notes U.S. Right to Know blogger trying to discredit Neil DeGrasse Tyson for narrating "Food Evolution," highlights University of Minnesota professor's presentation explaining how parasites, not trace levels of neonics, are bigger issue for honeybee health

Event: American Council on Science and Health to release new book, "Little Black Book on Junk Science," at National Press Club news conference (June 29)

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian Tribune reports OFAB scientist believes GM rice modified to tolerate salt could be beneficial to Nigerian farmers who are unable to compete with prices from imported rice, current rice suffers low yield from insect and pest infestation

Review: Land Use Policy publishes analysis concluding Africa cannot reap the same level of benefit from the Green Revolution as Asia, cites case studies on efforts to increase rice production in Ghana

Report: USDA GAIN Report predicts GM Gypsophila cut flowers may be first commercial GM products in Kenya given plant's "non-controversial nature" in terms of food and environmental safety; application submitted to National Biosafety Authority for open field trials/environmental release

Commentary: IFPRI reports senior researchers from Environment and Production Technology Division provided technical training to economists and graduate students from several African nations who collected data for Rapid Economic and Environmental Assessment component of Programs for Biosafety Systems; data will be used for "ex ante economic and environmental assessment" for at least 10 priority GM crops

More Africa items

Asia

News: Economic Times reports U.S. asks India to reduce trade obstacles in negotiations to increase trade engagement, cites India's labeling rules for GM foods as among the onerous conditions imposed by the country

News: The Hindu reports Japanese researchers have found external application of vinegar can prepare plants to better fight droughts; researchers claim finding allows for "less expensive way to impart drought tolerance than genetic modification"

News release: Researchers with RIKEN Center for Sustainable Resource Science use newly discovered biological pathway to induce greater tolerance for drought-like conditions "simply by growing plants in vinegar"; study leader says "less expensive technologies" must be developed because GMO plants not always available

News: Local news source reports former ICAR Director at India's National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources urges Punjab Agricultural University students and scientists to "use hidden potential of plant genetic resources"; says genetic diversity essential for improving crop productivity

News: Korean news outlet reports on recent emergency debate held by Representative Yoon Soh-won with subject, "Emission of genetically engineered oilseed rape and solution plan"

More Asia items

Europe

News: Anti-GM German news site reports Kansas court says Syngenta must pay nearly \$218 million to U.S. farmers in Viptera lawsuit; Syngenta "rejected the allegations" of sales losses and plans to appeal

News release: German NGO No Patents on Seeds criticizes European Patent Office's proposed changes to rules on plant breeding patents, claiming loopholes will lead to expanded patenting of plants and animals, arguing there is no clear distinction in the proposal between conventional methods of breeding and GE

News: German news outlet reports on reactions to European Patent Office's planned changes to plant breeding patent rules, under which GMOs will remain patentable as before, highlights opposition from Arbeitsgemeinschaft Bauernlicher Landwirtschaft (AbL) and "No Patents on Seeds"

News release: French anti-GMO group Faucheurs Volontaire (Volunteer Reapers) call for support of 15 members on June 29 court date for "dangerous parking," noting it is a good opportunity for a reminder of need to oppose all GMOs and imports

News release: Luxembourg government says following unanimous vote by Chamber of Deputies opposing GM corn cultivation, country asked European Commission to oppose GMO cultivation; government will maintain GMO cultivation ban in Luxembourg, control them more effectively

Study: Swiss anti-GMO NGO shares research indicating CRISPR-Cas9 much less precise than previously assumed, says researchers Columbia University showed genetic system not only intersects at desired site in genome, but can trigger hundreds of unplanned mutations

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Local news source reports city of Loja, Ecuador joins effort to prevent entry of transgenic seeds and crops; leader of the Agroecological Network of Loja calls transgenic products "monocultures" that increase use of toxins and pesticides

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Gizmodo Australia writer reviews "Okja", finds movie forces viewers to rethink humans' relationship to animals and how people will lie to protect their own interests, Netflix release on June 28

More Oceania items

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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - June 26, 2017
 Date: Monday, June 26, 2017 9 04:54 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

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Today's global biotechnology monitoring highlights included reporting on a study that found unauthorized genetically modified bacteria in a vitamin B2 feed additive and ongoing reaction to the "Food Evolution" documentary premiere.

- A March study in *Food Chemistry* that identified unauthorized genetically modified bacteria in a vitamin B2 feed additive was highlighted in a piece on Independent Science News, noting this type of feed contamination is illegal in Europe. [See more](#)
- The "Food Evolution" documentary continues to generate online activity and stakeholder response. Today, Marion Nestle announced she will block all future comments on her blog after receiving 870 comments from "GMO trolls" in response to her post about the documentary. Institute of Food Technologists past president Colin Dennis spoke about the film with *Food Manufacture* magazine in advance of the NGO's annual meeting starting today, which features a screening of the film. [See more](#)
- Coverage of Danone's new "One Planet. One Health" sustainability initiative included comments from CEO Emmanuel Faber that the company is weeks away from transitioning its Danimals yogurt smoothie line to non-GMO. [See more](#)

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North America

[Commentary: Hawaii farm blogger applauds "Food Evolution" documentary as true story of biotechnology instead of "just propaganda" as anti-GMO activists claim; notes planned showing July 12](#)

[Announcement: Cornell Alliance for Science reports Breakthrough Institute gives Paradigm Award to Harvard professor Calestous Juma for work, thought leadership in biotechnology](#)

[Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Andrew Porterfield reports monarch butterfly population decline due to factors such as climate change, droughts, and predators; not primarily because of glyphosate as Center for Food Safety argues](#)

[Interview: Food Manufacture interviews Institute of Food Technology past president Colin Dennis about Food Evolution documentary, he hopes the film will encourage positive dialogue on importance of sound science in the global food system](#)

[Commentary: Live Science contributor touts recent advances in fight against ten diseases that "demonstrate CRISPR's capabilities"; highlights work of several California labs trying to harness CRISPR technology to tackle citrus greening](#)

[Commentary: CropLife Media Group senior online editor highlights risks of planting non-Bt corn to manage costs; notes Bt technologies offer cost-effective and proactive protection, quotes Dow AgroSciences' Brad Hopkins who says planting corn without Bt technology "may seem like a good decision on paper, but farmers should consider what that could mean for their operation during the](#)

season"

[More North America items](#)

Africa

Commentary: Lecturer at Catholic University of Eastern Africa writing in Daily Nation claims Kenyan government needs to approve GM corn to help provide resistance to armyworm pests, environmental sustainability through less pesticides, and food security for Kenyans

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: The Tribune reports activists in India rallied and signed postcards to Prime Minister Modi opposing GM mustard and pesticides; movement carried out under the name "Sarson Satyagrah" plans rallies regularly

News: The Hindu reports GMO-Free India official Kavitha Kurugante says state governments should "assert their views" in GM mustard debate as they will be "bearing the fallout" of Union government's decision on GM crops; Kurugante claims public consultations on issue "have been farcical" and India is self-sufficient with mustard

News: Feed Navigator reports on Food Chemistry study which identified an unauthorized GM Bacillus subtilis production strain in a vitamin B2 feed additive imported from China, highlights discrepancy with which strains the Chinese manufacturer claimed to be using

News: Vietnamese news outlet amplifies positive growth of biotech crops noted in ISAAA update; agriculture ministry denies report some Vietnam companies imported GM sugarcane varieties for testing

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: Dutch news outlet reports Syngenta must pay 7,000 Kansas farmers \$217.7 million to compensate for losses caused by Chinese rejection of its GM maize variety, total damage in the US may reach \$6 billion

Commentary: Jonathan Latham and Allison Wilson write for Independent Science News, examining German enforcement laboratory discovery of GE bacteria in riboflavin vitamin supplements intended for animal feed use, which is illegal under EU law

News: Bulgarian news outlet reports on Draft Food Act which will raise penalties for business operators with products deemed dangerous to human health or that are not properly registered, including fines for food products produced with GM ingredients

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Commentary: Contributor to Argentina-based Misiones Online says while biotechnology has positively impacted food production, effects of transgenic foods on human health are "not so beneficial"; among other harmful impacts, claims GMOs have led to increased chemical contamination, emergence of new allergies, antibiotic-resistant genes and liver damage

Commentary: Mexican news outlet contributor speaks out against Monsanto's GM maize, argues that while some GM applications are beneficial, Monsanto's GM maize and glyphosate pose risks to human health and biodiversity, and increase control of multinational companies

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

[More Oceania items](#)

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From: Jay Byrne
 To: Wray-Cohen, Diane - FAS
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - June 26, 2017
 Date: Monday, June 26, 2017 4:04:28 PM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

This week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter features new questions about the integrity of the International Agency for Research on Cancer after a deposition revealed it ignored information on the safety of glyphosate in its widely publicized assessment of the herbicide as a potential carcinogen. Articles below question whether the organization can be a fair judge of carcinogens when it knowingly ignores significant evidence.

Following last week's New York debut of the documentary "Food Evolution," a number of news outlets and science communicators have provided favorable reviews - including one by *The New York Times* concluding that GMOs "may be a **force for good**." Another premiere is planned in Los Angeles this week. If you're interested in hosting a screening, [click here](#).

Other articles examine Sri Lanka's glyphosate ban, the potential of biotechnology in Nigeria and the consequences of spreading unfounded fears about CRISPR.

To view items on this newsletter, first log in on [Bonus Eventus Community](#) page. To create an account, fill out the Request Membership form on the front page of the site. To share articles, click on the Twitter icon.

Please [contact us](#) if you have any questions.

In This Issue

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[Stories Worth Sharing](#)

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[Calendar highlights](#)

Stakeholder Spotlight: The Cornucopia Institute



Created with assistance from Organic Valley, The Cornucopia Institute is a Wisconsin-based that

Stories Worth Sharing

Joseph Perrone: "Severe intellectual dishonesty" afoot in IARC excluding key study on glyphosate safety

Kavin Senapathy: "Food Evolution" documentary combats "information deficit" that leads public to fear GM foods

Brian Darling: Public deserves "accurate judge" of cancer hazards as IARC's credibility comes into question

John Hinderaker: "Astonishing" revelation that IARC official covered up own finding to declare glyphosate unsafe

St. Louis Post-Dispatch: IARC "has some explaining to do" if it excluded key glyphosate safety study because there was "too much evidence"

Veteran U.S. beekeeper: No. 1 enemy for honeybees is the Varroa mite; neonics safer than older pesticide sprays

Rekha Rachakonda: Fearmongering about CRISPR could "prove disastrous" for agriculture, medicine

Steve Milloy: U.S. NIEHS director Birnbaum will continue to feed

advocates for strict adherence to USDA organic practices.

Seen by some as a possible nonprofit front for Organic Valley, the institute frequently engages in public relations campaigns and uses other tactics that end up benefiting Organic Valley. This year, The Cornucopia Institute issued a **scorecard** on organic dairies that drew attention from The Washington Post and National Public Radio.

It has also been vocal in demanding response from USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue to the recent investigation into **fraudulent organic imports** detailed in The Washington Post. More generally, it regularly amplifies messaging in opposition to pesticides, GMOs and rBST.

To learn more about The Cornucopia Institute, [CLICK HERE](#).

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["chemical alarmism" as long as money keeps flowing her way](#)

[Owen Roberts: Canadian honeybee population continuing to rise, although Varroa mites still pose a problem](#)

[Keith Kloor: To be successful, "Food Evolution" needs to create more "good faith conversation" about GMOs](#)

[Chandre Dharmawardana: Sri Lanka glyphosate ban "completely unwise," goes against mainstream scientific view that it is safe](#)

[Deepak Pental: Indian government should approve GM mustard if it "has guts"](#)

[Canadian newspaper recaps biotechnology boot camp at University of Guelph, "Food Evolution" screening](#)

[Lucy Ogbadu: Biotechnology can change traditional farming, ensure food security in Nigeria](#)

[U.S. Rep. Ted Yoho: Public needs more information on GMOs shown to be safe by Nobel laureates](#)

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What's Trending?

[European Parliament committee votes down proposals objecting to neonics ban](#)

[Kenya to consider GM maize field trials](#)

[Arkansas plant board moves to ban dicamba amid ongoing complaints about drift damage](#)

[U.S. court orders Syngenta to pay Kansas farmers \\$217M in class-action suit over Viptera corn](#)

[Environmental Working Group files lawsuit seeking release of documents on U.S. chlorpyrifos decision](#)

Calendar highlights

June 25-28	June 26	June 27-29
Institute of Food Technologists' IFT17 conference	European Food Safety Authority bee health symposium	U.S. Water Alliance One Water Summit
June 29	June 29	July 3-4
European Commission to release new antimicrobial resistance plan	European Food Safety Authority pesticide peer review experts teleconference on glyphosate	Plant genome editing and genome engineering conference (Vienna)

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - June 23-25, 2017
 Date: Monday, June 26, 2017 12:55:15 AM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Global biotechnology monitoring highlights over the weekend included a jury awarding \$217.7 million to farmers in their case against Syngenta.

- News services and international media reported a jury awarded 7,000 Kansas farmers \$217.7 million in the first verdict against Syngenta in lawsuits over the release of its Viptera variety before it was approved by China. Syngenta officials said they plan to appeal the decision and that it will harm farmers as companies will be forced to delay releasing new, innovative products. [See more.](#)
- Commentary on the "Food Evolution" documentary continued as the film debuted Friday in New York. *The New York Times* film critic Daniel Gold wrote that it "posits an inconvenient truth for organic boosters." A University of California-Berkeley agroecology professor and the Center for Food Safety's Andrew Kimbrell called the film "propaganda," while Keith Kloor wrote in *Slate* that while the documentary's science is sound, he doubts it will change people's minds. [See more.](#)
- The Kenyan news site *Daily Nation* reported that Parliament members are seeking controlled field trials of GM maize and Kenyan scientists want to begin a field trial on a GM maize resistant to a common stalk borer. MPs noted Kenya's GMO ban does not apply to research. [See more.](#)

Reminder: to access the full text, archives and monitoring dashboard resources you need to log in to the [Bonus Eventus community portal](#) using your email address and personal password. Please contact us if you need any assistance or support.

For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, [click here](#)

North America

News: CBC reports Prince Edward Island environment minister approves two GMO salmon facilities; PEI Salmon Council opposes decision without national review of GM animals, fearful decision sets precedent for more GM animals

News: Ag Information Network reports on recent discovery that IARC did not consider Agricultural Health Study data which found no association between glyphosate and non-Hodgkin lymphoma, and ag groups' criticism of USDA's proposed changes to biotech regulatory framework

Commentary: Organic farmer writing in Nevada newspaper sees nothing wrong in GM foods, but objects to unsustainable corporate ag system that forces farmers to survive economically by using GMO seeds, pesticides that poison soil, water

Video: Molecular biologist Nina Fedoroff gives TED Talk on potential ways of controlling Zika, notes insecticides have not proven very effective in preventing its spread, she promotes use of biological controls, highlighting Oxitec's GE mosquitoes, she laments opposition in the US

Commentary: Organizer for Indigenous Environmental Network's Save Our Roots campaign to stop GE trees writes for EcoWatch, claims GE eucalyptus trees will negatively impact the environment and indigenous communities, advocates application of Precautionary Principle

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Nigerian news site reports anti-biotech group expresses "palpable fear" of GMOs to National Assembly, notes scientists believe GMOs have positive effect on environment, government set up National Biosafety Management Agency to protect against harm from biotechnology

News: Zambian news site reports Dutch development group HIVOS concerned about Zambians buying GMOS rather than "healthy foods," blames "unhealthy food" for diseases

News: Kenyan news outlet reports on severe maize losses in Nakuru county due to fall armyworm invasion, farmers Hamish Grant and Mary Njoki are counting losses, as pesticides have proven ineffective due to resistance

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

Commentary: Anti-biotech NGO Inf'OGM notes U.S. trade rep uses "weapon of science" to open Chinese market for GMOs, notes market disruption due to Chinese delay in approving Viptera; questions if US will use same tactic with EU

News: India news outlet amplifies Jayson Lusk's National Bureau of Economic Research working paper stating GE corn could lead to better output, also more likely to mitigate risks from weeds and insects based on 28,000 observations in 800 counties across US

Commentary: PeerScientist contributor notes while the impact of the CRISPR revolution cannot be overstated, any attempt by the vocal anti-science crowd to 'regulatorily hobble' CRISPR products 'could prove disastrous' not just for agriculture but for people with untreatable conditions

Commentary: Ranjit Devraj of Science and Development Network writes for AsianScientist, examines ways in which release of GM mustard has been hindered by opposition from scientists, activists and politicians, highlights developer Deepak Pental's assessment of potential yield advantages

Commentary: Vandana Shiva writes for Indian news outlet, criticizes 2017 Budget's allocation of Rs 10 lakh crore for agricultural credit, claiming it will be used to push farmers further into debt by encouraging purchase of GM seeds and associated chemicals from multinationals, speaks out against GM mustard

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News release: Testbiotech notes German ag ministry to discuss new breeding techniques, notes US exempted gene-edited mushrooms without assessing the product, claims CRISPR often produces unintended changes in plant, animal genomes

Commentary: German news site profiles Marc Van Montagu early GMO scientist, views on opposition to GMOs; Van Montagu says GMOs have potential to fight malnutrition, end slavery in Africa, South America; says GM technology separate from monopolies

Commentary: Contributor for French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM points to data indicating recent drop in applications for GM field trials in the EU, with only 61 applications filed between 2013-2017, voices concern about CRISPR applications, highlights Spain's research on GE tobacco plants

Commentary: Inf'OGM contributor reports on "hidden" GMOs in France and Europe due to mutagenesis, says impossible to know how many hectares cultivated with rape and sunflower

Campaign: Review of two visions of opposition to GMOs in Switzerland posted by StopOGM Switzerland; struggles "very divided", one side focusing on "counter-expertise, information and lobbying", other side

denounces pacification and focus includes "various clandestine actions"

Campaign: NGO Inf'OGM reports on anti-GMO protests in Belgium, headquarters of Flemish Institute of Biotechnology "remains the main target of a movement that is firmly rooted in the condemnation of technocratic innovation policies"

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Bolivian news site reports agricultural chamber group says producers call for country to reactivate Biosafety Committee to resume GMO debate; group says by not using GM crops that fight aggressive pests, Bolivia suffers low productivity and loses opportunities for new markets and more jobs

Commentary: History professor analyzes proposed changes to Argentina's seed law on Biodiversidad en América Latina y El Caribe, says multinationals pushing for law based on "extractive model"

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during this weekend's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

[More Oceania items](#)

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

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Today's global biotechnology monitoring highlights included discussion on Amazon buying Whole Foods, commentary on the "Food Evolution" documentary, and NGO Corporate Europe Observatory criticism of the European Commission for encouraging and approving biotechnology industry mergers.

- Amazon's purchase of Whole Foods generated GM and organic food discussion. Natural News repeated a rumor that Jeff Bezos plans to turn Whole Foods into a "GMO retailing hub," claiming Bezos is "100% pro-Monsanto" and pro-GMO. *Politico Pro* reported University of California's Glenda Humiston urged U.S. House of Representative members to invest in organic and sustainable agriculture research, claiming the deal means organic food prices will skyrocket. **See more.**
- Coverage on the "Food Evolution" documentary included a *Business Insider* piece on the film segment on how a Cornell scientist saved the papaya industry with genetic engineering. Kevin Folta responded to Marion Nestle's claims she wanted her comments in the film to be cut after she saw how they were used. Folta also promoted the film in his "Talking Biotech" podcast by interviewing the film's director, Scott Hamilton Kennedy, and UC-Davis' Alison Van Eenennaam. **See more.**
- Anti-biotechnology NGO Corporate Europe Observatory featured an article stating the three large agribusiness unions will negatively impact farmers, wildlife, biodiversity, and food prices, but rather than discourage the mergers, the European Commission encourages them. **See more.**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **[click here](#)**

North America

Commentary: Henry Miller and Robert Wager in Journal of Commercial Biotechnology respond to activists about molecular genetic engineering advancements beyond herbicide-tolerant crops

Commentary: Colin Todhunter writes for CounterPunch in opposition to Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), claiming it will result in "corporate hijack" of Indian agriculture, highlights IP controversy surrounding Bt cotton, and rise in farmer suicides

Commentary: Joseph Perrone of Center for Accountability in Science writes for Hawaiian news outlet, argues recent Reuters article uncovers "severe intellectual dishonesty" in IARC's review of glyphosate, notes glyphosate is inexpensive, effective and less harsh than alternatives

Commentary: Organic Consumers Association newsletter promotes lawsuit against Sanderson Farms over natural label, petition; promotes regenerate campaign, local efforts to ban Roundup, protect pollinators; claims factory farming "a filthy business, fueled by Monsanto's endless stream of contaminated GMO animal feed"

Commentary: Researchers in Journal of Commercial Biotechnology say China is missing out on biotechnology advantages, recommend country clarify contradictory regulations and speed up development of GM technology for more competitive international trade position

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Calling biotech "game-changer," Zambia Daily Mail editorial says launch of Seventh National Development Plan, with emphasis on economic diversification, will place agriculture at "heart of the matrix"; calls on policymakers to implement President Lungu's push for science and technology to accelerate agriculture's contribution to GDP

News: Kenyan news outlet reports over 1.9 million acres of maize crops in 40 counties are affected by fall armyworm attack, assistant director of Agriculture, Stanley Kipkoech delivered 1,700 liters of pesticides to Nakuru farmers

More Africa items

Asia

News: Associated Press reports food exporters, including US, EU, Japan and Australia, are "stepping up pressure" on China to scale back food import controls; notes requirement for each food shipment to have inspection certificate from foreign government adds to complaints Beijing reducing market access

Commentary: Philippines business news site contributor notes GMOs have a 20-year safety record, seen as solution to feed growing population during global climate change, and are supported by USDA, WHO, AMA

News: In response to unconfirmed reports claiming a company was "importing GM seeds," Jordan news agency Petra is reporting Jordanian Agriculture Minister Khaled Hneifat says GMO seeds will not be allowed into Kingdom

News: The Times of India reports Vandana Shiva urges farmers to develop seed banks instead of buying from corporations because GM crops are hazardous to farmer health, Shiva also calls on government to ban multinational companies from selling seeds and fertilizers

News: The Economic Times reports with GM mustard decision pending, Mahyco Hybrid Seeds Company executive Usha Zehr says India government's approach toward GM technology "more emotion-based" than fact-based; Zehr cites case of Bt cotton falsely blamed for farmer suicides

News: Vietnamese news site says people favor organic food because they don't use genetic modification, pesticides, other chemicals, claims those things can harm human health and organic food is healthier

More Asia items

Europe

News release: European Food Safety Authority announces publication of supplementary guidance on allergenicity with goal of strengthening risk assessment of GM plants, with consideration for new scientific and regulatory developments

News: Local news source reports Luxembourg urges EU to oppose GMOs, sends letter to the EC confirming its rejection of authorizations for GM maize varieties

Announcement: EFSA Journal publishes supplementary guidance on specific topics for allergenicity risk assessment of GM plants

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news site reports that since Monsanto no longer will sell GM soy, Mexican farmers opt to

plant regional variety but say GM soy is more profitable due to fewer inputs to fight weeds

News: Ecuadoran news site reports farmers, agricultural groups protest against change to law that allows GMO research in Ecuador, says citizens' health should be priority

News: Brazilian news site report fast-tracked GM sugarcane approval causes prosecutors to examine potential conflicts of interest at biotech agency CTNBio; notes conflict of interest clause not yet adopted

More Latin America items

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Oceania items

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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - June 21, 2017
 Date: Wednesday, June 21, 2017 9:02:55 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology monitoring highlights include expectations that U.S. trade representatives will press for a streamlined approval process for biotechnology in NAFTA discussions with Mexico, and will press for more GM crop approvals from China. Commentary continued on the *Nature Methods* article on CRISPR causing unintended mutations. The Food Evolution documentary, narrated by Neil deGrasse Tyson, will premier in New York on Friday. Vandana Shiva said there will be a nationwide protest in India over GM crops.

- *Reuters* reported that during NAFTA discussions with Canada and Mexico, U.S. trade reps are expected to seek a more streamlined approval process for biotech products. **See more.** *Politico* reported that U.S. trade rep Robert Lighthizer told a Senate committee that the U.S. is pressing China to approve six pending biotech crop varieties, noting China agreed to a 100-day action plan set to end July 16. **See more.**
- Intellia Therapeutics, a company focused on curative genome editing treatment for diseases, responded to the *Nature Methods* article on unintended mutations in CRISPR/Cas9 mice, pointing out flaws in the study design and data analysis. *Retraction Watch* concluded the issue raises questions on how critics and authors should engage with ideas as they develop. **See more.**
- The documentary "Food Evolution" continues to generate commentary, including a blog post by Marion Nestle, who criticizes the documentary as GMO propaganda, and said she asked the filmmakers to remove her comments from the film. The documentary's producers announced the New York premier scheduled for Friday. **See more.**
- *Press Trust of India* reported Vandana Shiva said the Indian government allows multinational companies to introduce toxins in the form of GMOs. Shiva also said there would be a nationwide protest against GM crops on Aug. 15. **See more.**

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North America

Campaign: Over 100 US ag and farming organizations sign letter to Ag Secretary Perdue, highlighting shortcomings in USDA's proposed revisions to biotech regulatory framework, voicing concern that regulation of breeding process regardless of risk will hinder innovation

Commentary: March Against Monsanto contributor calls out Kavin Senapathy for claiming Non-GMO Project labels are "meaningless" in Forbes article; believes Senapathy is one of many ghost writers Monsanto hires for its Let Nothing Go campaign to sway public opinion on GMOs

Interview: U.S. Rep. Dr. Ted Yoho talks about GMO misconceptions with Southern Farm Network Today colleague Tony St James; Yoho notes over 100 Nobel laureates did retrospective study concluding "GMOs are safe," emphasizes one cure for citrus greening in his home state of Florida "is going to be a GMO"

Campaign: Global Justice Ecology Project amplifies sign-on campaign asking USDA stop commercial approval of GE eucalyptus plantations; highlights eucalyptus fires in Portugal and Chile as rationale for stopping US plantations

Commentary: Writing in Huff Post, Ecojustice activists promote NGO's participation in federal review of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, note committee agreed to NGO's recommendations for national drinking water standards, EDC regulations, transparent GMO assessments

Commentary: Kevin Folta praises 2016 documentary "Food Evolution," calls it "fact-based response to the avalanche of misinformation" that "has penetrated social ranks through the internet, but also through art and film"

More North America items

Africa

News release: ACBio warns field trials for Dow's herbicide-tolerant, GM maize underway in South Africa, claims there will be environmental and human health consequences

News: Tanzanian news outlet reports on three-day workshop by African Agricultural Technology Foundation with journalists, researchers and government officials from five African countries; workshop aimed to "enhance skills, capacity and knowledge to journalists to effectively report on agricultural biotechnology issues"

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on remarks at ag forum by Lucy Ogbadu, Director General of National Biotechnology Development Agency; she asserts biotech's potential to ensure food security, improve nutritional quality of food, and minimize pesticide use

More Africa items

Asia

News: Financial Express reports India's authority for protection of plant varieties is set to dispense with requirement of a no-objection certificate (NOC) from patent-holders for use of their genetically modified traits; notes move may "trigger fresh litigation" and plant trait patents of companies like Monsanto may be "rendered hollow"

Commentary: Public policy and sustainability professor writing in The Hindu says government needs more transparency in regulatory process, adding country's current apprehension about GM crops partially due to safety tests conducted by same parties applying for commercialization

Interview: Deepak Pental, catalyst behind GE research for seeds and plants in India, tells BM BusinessWorld "ball is in the court of the government" and if it "has guts" it will approve GM seeds

News: India news outlet reports Food Safety Standards Authority of India establishing regulations making it mandatory for companies to label products containing GMOs; regulations expected to be ready in "a couple of months"

More Asia items

Europe

News: Politico Pro EU's morning ag news roundup reports on EFSA's push to adopt new rules for independence of scientific experts, upcoming European Patent Office meeting to discuss Commission objections to patent rules for seed breeders, and Parliamentary environment committee's vote on neonics

News: UK's Financial Times reports China's demand for meat likely to make soybean most widely cultivated crop in US

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news site reports landowners claim Mexico's environmental protection agency PROFEPA harasses community forest companies that use sustainable practices but does little to stop illegal deforestation caused by illegal logging and GM soy cultivation

News: Bolivian news site reports NGO Probioma notes four samples in markets identified as glyphosate-resistant GM maize, although it was allowed temporarily; ag chamber president says farmers will ask for continued access to improved seeds due to good yields

News: Mexican news site reports Monsanto will not sell GM soy seed in Mexico; notes it did not sell GM soy in municipalities where the Supreme Court had forbidden its cultivation

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News: European-based potato trade news site reports FSANZ approves GM potato lines for Australia, New Zealand; calls GM product "as safe as its conventional counterpart"

[More Oceania items](#)

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 Date: Tuesday, June 20, 2017 9 04:57 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology monitoring highlights included:

- A *Politico Pro* report suggested the Grocery Manufacturers Association and the Food Marketing Institute's SmartLabel program is a likely solution to the federal GMO labeling mandate, arguing the groups' initiative to enroll 34,000 products by year's end will make a stronger case to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. GMO labeling was the topic of an op-ed published by the editor of *Food Processing*, who argued that regardless whether you love the initiative, a reversal of the labeling mandate would frustrate consumers and return the debate to the state level. **See more**
- Several stakeholders shared their comments on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's proposed policies on gene-edited animals and plants and the USDA biotechnology regulatory rules. Among them, a coalition of anti-biotech groups submitted comments claiming the FDA should not approve any new GE animals while the lawsuit over its handling of GE salmon is pending. The Biotechnology Innovation Organization also published its comments, recommending new plant and animal varieties developed using genome editing applications that offer a more precise way of cross-breeding should not receive different policies than varieties developed with traditional breeding methods (**see more**). American Farm Bureau Federation and other ag organizations are urging USDA to revamp its biotechnology regulations, saying "major changes" are needed to ensure innovation is encouraged. **See more**
- The European Food Safety Authority issued a draft policy on agency independence, which addresses input from its public consultation, including Corporate Europe Observatory's conflict of interest report. The agency rejected the European Parliament proposal to change the definition of conflict of interest, which prompted CEO to issue a response voicing disappointment. EFSA is expected to vote on the revised independence policy tomorrow. **See more**
- The "Food Evolution" documentary continues to generate online commentary. Forbes contributor Kavin Senapathy praised the documentary for bringing together science of agriculture, plant breeding with the psychological, social and moral context of the GMO debate. Meanwhile, Natural News' Mike Adams called the film a propaganda piece and pledged to publish critical profiles of its participants on his new website, FoodEvolution.news. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: American Sugarbeet Growers Association praises "refreshed" GMOAnswers.com website; says improved platform will better serve consumers in many ways, including use of enhanced search functionality to enable visitors to find answers to most-asked questions

Commentary: "Farm Babe" Michelle Miller writes for AG Daily, dispels myth that only organic farmers care about biodiversity, points to several environmental benefits of GMOs, which enable no-till conservation systems

Commentary: Student contributor to LA Times High School Insider touts Environmental Media Association-Clover Sonoma partnership to engage small-scale communities about "food justice" and

"dangers of GMOs in food production"; highlights group's "It's Up To Us" PSA starring Jordana Brewster, Carter Oosterhouse, Amy Smart and Baron Davis

Commentary: Mercola argues subsidized factory farms and industrialized agriculture harming environment, health of Americans, responsible for increases in chronic diseases and pollution, asserts CAFOs harm lung function of neighbors; he touts agroecology to ensure food security, protect human health and environment

News: The Progressive Farmer reports legal experts believe court's granting of recent motion filed by Syngenta attorneys in ongoing Viptera trial "does seem significant" and could "limit punitive damages"

Campaign: Institute for Responsible Technology email promotes "How to Get Roundup Out of Your Community" webinar as part of campaign against glyphosate; notes IARC classification of the herbicide as "probably carcinogenic;" IRT's Jeffrey Smith to discuss GMO health risk at July 3 summit

[More North America items](#)

Africa

Commentary: Natural Blaze contributor criticizes New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition's (NAFSN) work in Tanzania, accusing the program of colonialism, objects to changes in Tanzania's seed law that would criminalize traditional seed exchange

News: Nigerian news site reports nation's Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development "cleared air on public fear" against GMOs, saying ministry only adopts use of hybrid seeds "not GMO"

Commentary: University of Pretoria science professor writes op-ed in Kenyan news outlet, says Kenya's path to food security is through biotechnology, adds "politicians had better learn and provide leadership for technological change"

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Food Navigator Asia reports India Food Safety and Standards Authority intends to make it compulsory for food manufacturers to disclose details of GM ingredients; notes regulator also set to launch "food safety index" with each state judged on enforcement of food laws and consumer awareness of related issues

Interview: Former Cabinet Secretary TSR Subramanian tells The Hans India Bt cotton has ruined the country's crop diversity, wants GM mustard disallowed due to impact on health and biodiversity

News: South Korean news outlet reports on discovery of illegal LMO rapeseed and concerns the seeds will spread, adds long-term impact on human health and environment is "not certain"

News: Indonesian news outlet reports country experiencing a land crisis, highlights CropLife Indonesia and how biotechnology can maximize current land space with more efficient pesticide use and improved yields

News: Financial Express reports India's Maharashtra state government asks for verification Monsanto's Bollgard-II Bt cotton is resistant to pink bollworm after farmer complaints

Announcement: Convention on Biological Diversity reports Kuwait acceded to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety on June 1

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Announcement: John Innes Centre joins Alliance to Accelerate Crop Improvements in Africa to help fast-track scientific advances achieve food security and to work with small-scale farmers on continent using new technologies

Commentary: Slow Food research director Cinzia Scaffidi suggests cheap foods, tidy fields rendered by glyphosate use on GM crops are not worth environmental, human health costs; seeks support of anti-glyphosate citizens initiative

News: German ag news site reports Green party releases platform for Bundestag election, announce organic farming as "guiding principle," stress desire to ban neonics, glyphosate, reduce pesticide use, genetic engineering

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Commentary: Biodiversidad en America Latina y El Caribe amplifies declaration from IV International Congress of Socio-Environmental Health in Rosario, Argentina; corporate agriculture blamed for environmental devastation and hunger and for turning farmers into "corporate slaves"

Commentary: Brazilian news outlet contributor speaks out against rise in anti-science views against GMOs and vaccines, and in defense of homeopathy, highlights scientific consensus on GMO safety, accuses Greenpeace of ideologically poisoning the West, thus preventing developing nations from accessing technology

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

Commentary: New Zealand-based professional food microbiologist John Brooks tells readers not to be so quick to reject transgenic food; notes human body contains "many foreign genes" and says some vegetable crops are "naturally transgenic"

News: Australian Broadcasting Corp. reports on Australian Academy of Science's strategic plan for next decade of agricultural science, plan includes better engagement with public on acceptance of GM crops

[More Oceania items](#)

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From: Jay Byrne
 To: Wray-Cohen, Diane - FAS
 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - June 19, 2017
 Date: Monday, June 19, 2017 9:04:52 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology monitoring highlights included:

- Today was the last day for comment on proposed changes to U.S. biotech regulations. *Politico Pro* amplified the American Soybean Association's praise of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's proposal regarding products produced from geneediting and criticism of proposed changes to noxious weed rules. Center for Food Safety and Friends of the Earth issued a joint release announcing almost 100,000 people and 65 environmental, farm and consumer groups submitted comments to USDA and the Food and Drug Administration regarding proposed changes to biotech regulations, claiming the new rules will result in weakened oversight. *Politico* reported it is uncertain what lays ahead once the USDA reviews the comments. **See more**
- An Italian news agency is reporting that MEPs are developing a resolution promoting production of GM-free soy in Europe. Agriculture ministers could sign it during meetings July 17-18. **See more**
- *Mint* reported the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India is working on final GM food labeling guidelines. **See more** Meanwhile, the Parliamentary sci-tech standing committee is requesting the National Institute of Nutrition conduct a comparative analysis of the nutritional values of GM and non-GM sorghum, using samples from a variety developed by samples of the crop developed by the Hyderabad-based Indian Institute of Millets Research. This may signal sorghum is the next GM crop up for consideration after mustard. **See more**
- The Brazilian Senate Committee on Agriculture and Agrarian Reform is set to vote Wednesday (June 21) on the House GM labeling bill, which would allow producers to omit GM labels on products containing less than 1 percent GMOs. One of the committee senators was quoted saying GM foods are "a reality for over 15 years" and there is no proof GMOs "cause direct harm to human health." **See more**

Reminder: to access the full text, archives and monitoring dashboard resources you need to log in to the **Bonus Eventus community portal** using your email address and personal password. Please contact us if you need any assistance or support.

For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **click here**.

North America

Video: After receiving a letter telling him that hundreds of his petunias would have to be destroyed because they were GE varieties, Missouri Farm Bureau president posts video in which he touts the benefits and safety of genetic engineering, and its safety, and violently destroys the plants

Commentary: Washington law firm partners argue disclosure of GMO-derived ingredients or rBST-fed milk cows "unrelated to curing deception" does not get a First Amendment pass; sellers forced to disseminate a negative message are "prevented from shaping their own market communications"

Commentary: Contributor to Insider Monkey blog says while some ingredients in beer, including GMOs, might give consumers the "heebie-jeebies," GMOs are "not as bad as the internet wants us to think"; notes genetic modification allows scientists to create more resilient crops with better yields

News: Public News Service reports Wisconsin agricultural institute is developing corn seeds "to help farmers who want to grow organic corn"; research director notes "one of the biggest challenges is developing seed that will resist contamination from cross-pollination" with GMO corn

Commentary: Response to "Food Evolution" on Food First blog signed by list of academics and others calls documentary "a piece of propaganda" manufacturing scientific consensus; says funding from Institute of Food Technologists constitutes conflict of interest, adding science abused to "mislead corrupted regulators and citizens" about GM crop safety

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian news site reports civil society group, New Initiative for Credible Leadership calls on federal government to support research, development of biotechnology, genetic engineering to bring country out of recession, support food security

Commentary: President of Africa Arise for Change Network praises NABDA director general for allowing the agency to embrace biotech, argues those who share President Buhari's "Change Agenda" deserve the support of the private sector to "explore greater depths of biotechnology at NABDA"

Commentary: Daily Monitor contributor amplifies Crop Biotech Update noting farmers urged Tanzania's government to hasten GM approvals to save them from crop failure; says "we also have similar issues in Uganda" with GM solutions to potato, banana, cassava and maize diseases, but laments farmers can't grow the crops due to biosafety bill delay

News: Rwandan news source reports government has prioritized agriculture as "main driver towards achieving the country's development goals"; highlights importance of biotechnology to improve productivity and food security

Video: Stephen Greenberg of African Centre for Biodiversity speaks at Food Systems of the Future public talk, objecting to privatization of knowledge in agriculture, such as intellectual property and seeds, and arguing that large-scale, centralized systems are not necessary for food security

News: Namibian news outlet reports senior Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) official advocates continent adopt biotechnology to help farmers and increase yields; official says GM crops have potential to drive Africa's industrialization but regulatory hurdles need to be decreased

Report: African Centre for Biodiversity publishes new report entitled "The GM maize onslaught in Mozambique: Undermining biosafety and smallholder farmers," raises concerns about changes in Mozambique's biosafety legislation to allow for GM maize field trials, claims it will make traditional seed exchange illegal

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indian news site reports anti-GM coalition sends letter urging environment minister to reject GM mustard claiming it is not safe, beneficial or needed; activists allege testing, appraisal, clearance processes were fraudulent

Commentary: India environmental magazine notes end of Monsanto Bt cotton in Burkina Faso, guidance from farmers in India to record declining crop quality; claims farmers in India paid more for seeds, required more pesticides; asserts Burkina Faso case will make GM adoption harder in neighboring countries

Commentary: In The Quint, Society for Hunger Elimination founder calls for approval of GM mustard in India while not hesitating to withdraw the crop "if there are defects"

Commentary: GM Free India asks minister of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to get biosafety feedback from state governments and independent experts before making final GM mustard decision; claims crop does not offer yield superiority and glufosinate is unsafe neurotoxin

News: The Indian Express reports parliamentary panel questions need to develop GM sorghum, requests comparative analysis of nutritional values of GM and non-GM varieties

News: Mint reports Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is working on final GM food labeling guidelines; notes while companies are not currently required to declare presence of GM ingredients in food items, "a lot of imported processed foods have GM items"

News: Indonesian news station reports on CropLife Indonesia event in Jakarta; officials highlight biotechnology's potential to improve agricultural output and help country reach food self-sufficiency while using less farmland

Campaign: GRAIN calls for members to join campaign against Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) between 16 Asia-Pacific countries; warns land will be grabbed, seeds privatized, GMOs may proliferate, pesticide use increase

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Commentary: Testbiotech claims agrochemical and biotech companies have too much control over EFSA risk assessment, calls for research funding by companies to be capped and two-year cooling off period for experts to join EFSA

News: Italian news agency reports EU soybean declaration will be brought to meeting of agricultural ministers July 17-18; seeks to reduce dependence on imports, promote GMO-free, organic soybeans

News: German news outlet reports environment minister believes CRISPR-Cas9 gene-editing kits could potentially lead to bacterial infections and is asking German government to immediately halt distribution of kits

News: Agrow reports U.S. EPA confirms approval of Monsanto's GMO insect-resistant RNAi-based MON87411 maize for commercial planting; notes EPA has granted conditional approvals for four commercial products containing MON87411 with expiration dates of June 30, 2022

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Chile biotechnology advocacy group lists 284 technical and scientific institutions that recognize safety, potential for benefit of GM crops; notes majority in Europe where there are greatest obstacles to commercialization

Commentary: Bolivian news site writer reviews recent efforts to effort to expand GMO crops in Bolivia; claims health, social, political, economic, environmental problems in countries with GMO crops and questions influence of industry

Commentary: Latin America news agency writer introduces debate on GMOs from agroecology perspective; notes opposition to biotechnology by "experienced scientists," religious groups, European public

News release: Embrapa, Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation, researcher wins international Forest Biotechnologist of the Year 2016 at IUFRO Tree Biotechnology Conference; involved in sequencing of eucalyptus genome

News: Brazilian senate reports Committee on Agriculture and Agrarian Reform can vote on House bill allowing producers to not label products containing less than one percent GMOs; committee senator says GM foods "a reality for over 15 years" and no proof GMOs "cause direct harm to human health"; tolerance limit important because almost impossible to guarantee GMO free

More Latin America items

Oceania

Report: Slow Food Hobart publishes report on GMOs in Tasmania, highlights challenges for GMO-free producers in Tasmania presented by new breeding techniques, emphasizes importance of ensuring that GM products are properly labeled

Review: TheReelBits editor calls Bong Joon-ho's science fiction film "Okja" a "rally cry" against mass food production interests; gives film focused on fallibility of GMO "super pig" 4 out of 5 stars, film screened at Sydney Film Festival and releases in U.S. and Australia in August

More Oceania items

More Bonus Eventus Resources

Stakeholder database

More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

Events calendar

See where news could be happening next. Or let allies know about an upcoming event.

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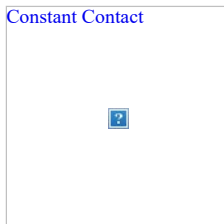
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From: Jay Byrne
 To: Wray-Cohen, Diane - FAS
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - June 19, 2017
 Date: Monday, June 19, 2017 4:04:15 PM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

After a showing at a biotech boot camp event earlier in the month, the ["Food Evolution" documentary](#) is set for a bigger premiere in New York and Los Angeles this week. Narrated by Neil deGrasse Tyson, the film explores the science of biotechnology and the thoughts of its supporters and opponents.

This week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter opens with a review of the film by University of Florida molecular biologist Kevin Folta (it has also received press from [Entertainment Weekly](#)). There are also pieces on scientists asking the European Commission president to approve GM maize varieties, a closer look at the PG Economics research on the impact of the first 20 years of genetically modified foods and a new report on questionable tactics by the International Agency for Research on Cancer.

To view items on this newsletter, first log in on [Bonus Eventus Community](#) page. To create an account, fill out the Request Membership form on the front page of the site. To share articles, click on the Twitter icon.

Please [contact us](#) if you have any questions.

In This Issue

[Stakeholder Spotlight](#)
[Stories Worth Sharing](#)
[What's Trending?](#)
[Calendar highlights](#)

Stakeholder Spotlight: Organic Consumers Association



The Organic Consumers Association has drawn criticism in recent days for its controversial funding of the U.S. Right to Know campaign, which targets pro-science academics with Freedom of Information Act

■ Stories Worth Sharing

[Kevin Folta: "Food Evolution" documentary shows anti-GMO movement "willing to bastardize science"](#)

[Henry Miller: U.S. should withdraw from UN Human Rights Council over pesticides report based on "delusional musings" of NGOs](#)

[Plant scientists ask European Commission president to support approval of three GM maize lines after EFSA found no risk](#)

[Graham Brookes: PG Economics report shows crop biotechnology allows farmers to grow more while using less pesticides and land](#)

[Andrew Porterfield: Research shows neonics don't deserve to be called "most deadly" pesticides for bees](#)

[Josh Bloom: Reuters report on IARC excluding exculpatory glyphosate data shows group's "blatant dishonesty" Part 2](#)

[Stuart Smyth: Interference by environmental NGOs delays adoption of GM crops, harming food security, climate and the poor](#)

[Julianna LeMieux: Scientists seek edits or full retraction of Nature Methods paper on unintended CRISPR mutations](#)

[German university promotes review of papers on impact of EDCs, notes "disturbing trend" of research aimed at influencing policy](#)

campaigns and attacks on their reputations.

The association is one of the most aggressive North American anti-GMO activist groups and also has active campaigns against crop protection products, including glyphosate and neonics. It is among the NGOs involved in this week's planned anti-neonic protest at the Kroger shareholders meeting.

OCA is led by Ronnie Cummins and benefits from donations from many organic and natural products companies, with revenues of at least \$2 million to \$3 million in recent years.

To learn more about the Organic Consumers Association, [CLICK HERE](#).

[CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES](#)

[Joe Guenther: Exploring different standards for GMOs, organic classification for grapefruits and potatoes](#)

[Hank Campbell: Obama-era revisions to biotech regulatory framework are "food-science policy worth keeping"](#)

[U.S. judge rules Arla Foods must stop advertising campaign demonizing rBST with "misleading claim"](#)

[Alex Berezow: Study shows plants produce nearly all of the pesticides people consume; only way to avoid pesticides is to stop eating](#)

[OFAB's Rose Gidado: Biotechnology proven safe despite propaganda from NGOs intended "to create fear, outrage, anxiety and mistrust"](#)

[CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING](#)

What's Trending?

[European Parliament votes to ban pesticide use in ecological focus areas](#)

[U.S. NGOs ramp up pressure on Kroger to change neonic policy, plan protest at shareholders meeting during National Pollinator Week](#)

[U.K. Crop Protection Association report estimates glyphosate ban would cost British farmers nearly £1 billion annually](#)

[U.S. comment period on biotechnology regulations set to close](#)

Calendar highlights

June 18-21	June 19-22	June 23
American Meat Science Association Reciprocal Meat Conference on antibiotic resistance	Biotechnology Innovation Organization international conference	Institute for Future Environments workshop "Debunking myths: Developing communication and engagement strategies for advanced biotechnology"
June 25-28	June 26	June 27-29
Institute of Food Technologists' IFT17 conference	European Food Safety Authority bee health symposium	U.S. Water Alliance One Water Summit

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR](#)

Stakeholder database

More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

Monitoring portal

Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.

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 Date: Sunday, June 18, 2017 10:20:31 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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This weekend's global biotechnology monitoring included reports the Trump administration will challenge other countries' regulations restricting GM crop exports. India's new environmental minister will meet with activists before making a decision on GM mustard.

- *Sustainable Farming* magazine reported U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer will "attack overseas regulations" restricting GM products from being imported. Lighthizer said the U.S. will bring cases to the World Trade Organization if GM crops are restricted and insist that any barriers be scientifically based. **See more.**
- *The Hindu* reported new Indian Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan will meet over the next month with environmental groups and others opposed to GM mustard commercialization. Previous minister Anil Madhav Dave also met with activists, but died the next day. **See more.**

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North America

Commentary: [Dr. Nina Fedoroff writes for Agri-Pulse criticizing USDA and FDA proposals for revising biotech regulatory framework, argues it makes things even more complicated and burdensome, urges readers to submit comments by June 19 deadline](#)

Interview: [Marketwatch interviews CRISPR developer Jennifer Doudna, following publication of Nature study demonstrating unintended mutations in gene-edited mice, Doudna voices concern about unintended consequences, especially with gene drives](#)

Commentary: [Writing in Huff Post, USRTK's Carey Gillam calls "flawed" Reuters story reporting IARC scientist hid glyphosate study from IARC panel industry propaganda, suggests documents were "spoonfed" to reporter by Monsanto litigators, journalist has tangential ties to industry](#)

Commentary: [Natural News contributor criticizes Kavin Senapathy's recent Forbes article against non-GMO Project labels, argues that 3,000 brands wouldn't go to the trouble of having 43,000 products verified if consumers didn't want to know about GMOs in their food, accuses her of being a Monsanto "shill"](#)

News: [Agriculture.com reports on Trump administration plans to attack overseas regulations restricting GM crop exports, according to US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, noting a top priority is removing trade barriers](#)

Commentary: [Organic Consumers Association claims "consumers are winning" fight against Monsanto, cites health-related lawsuits against Monsanto; EPA "refuses" to rule on glyphosate license renewal; EPA investigation of alleged corruption; FDA resumes testing food for glyphosate](#)

Commentary: ["Farmer's Daughter USA" Amanda Zaluckyj writes for AG daily, criticizes recent video by organic dairy farm Clover Sonoma featuring B celebrities warning parents against GMOs, highlights](#)

scientific consensus on GMO safety, urges supporters to call Clover Sonoma and complain about parent-shaming

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Nigerian online forum contributor writes post on dangers of GMOs in Nigeria, claims the Biosafety Bill will only benefit multinational corporations and not Nigerians

News: Zambia Daily Mail reports Malawi is field testing Bt cotton because the local variety is expensive, requires too much pesticide, harming environment and human health

Commentary: Kenyan newspaper editor warns readers genetically modified wheat "makes it produce radiations" that are unnatural and "damages health," re-posts commentary by Eke Cyprian focused on the "three inherent dangers" with the chemistry of wheat

More Africa items

Asia

News: India news site reports food safety agency plans to label GM food as Environment Ministry considers GM mustard commercialization

News: Bangladeshi news site reports farmer planting Bt eggplant generates high demand because crop is grown without pesticides or chemical fertilizers

News: Times of India reports on Vidarbha farmers' shift to cotton following disappointment in poor rates in other ventures, Kishore Tiwari of Vasantrya Naik Shetkari Swavalamban Mission (VNSSM) warned against increasing cotton area, noting pests are already demonstrating resistance to Bt cotton

Study: Household surveys in China show Bt cotton is efficient at controlling bollworms, has not led to secondary pest outbreaks and has benefited both adopters and non-adopters since its introduction 15 years ago

News: China Daily reports on government approval of two new US GM crop varieties for import, Wu Laping of College of Economic and Management at China Agricultural University pointed to mutual benefits, noting it will help meet China's growing demand for grain and contribute to US growth

More Asia items

Europe

News: French news outlet reports on Volunteer Reapers' action in butcher department of Intermarché in Pamiers, with goal of raising awareness of GMOs in French meat, highlights trial regarding vandalism of glyphosate product containers

News: EurActiv reports on Corporate Europe Observatory study which found that 46 percent of European Food Safety Authority panel members have at least one financial conflict of interest with a regulated company, highlights concerns about validity of EFSA's glyphosate safety assessment

Campaign: Friends of the Confédération Paysanne launch fundraising campaign for comic book about "hidden GMOs" aimed at bypassing GM regulations; release planned for end of September during "Semaine Paysannesen"

News: Italian news site reports demand in Europe for non-GM soy is increasing, with Italy accounting for more than half of all soybeans grown on continent

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Autonomous University of Mexico's Dissemination of Science director says scientists in academia, government, industry, civil groups are diligent to ensure GMOs are safe, give benefits with lowest possible risk

News: Mexican news site reports on struggle between activists and agribusinesses over GM crop cultivation, Monsanto official maintains law is sufficient to protect native maize; activist notes lawsuits extend the battle indefinitely

Commentary: Argentinian news outlet contributor examines global concerns about GE trees, highlighting potential negative impact on biodiversity, bees, and indigenous communities

Commentary: Ecuadorian news outlet contributor calls on Ecuador to embrace biotech research, speaks out against false belief that "natural" is better

Commentary: Latin America Observatory of Environmental Conflicts (OLAC) posts declaration against Chilean forest model and GM trees as part of World Environment Day

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

Event: Pesticide Action Network-affiliated expert Meriel Watts to give July 4 presentation to Whangarei, New Zealand audience on ways pesticides, industrial chemicals and waste cause harm to human health, environment, waterways

Commentary: South Australian farmer writes for Global Farmer Network, calls for end to GMO moratorium in her state, arguing it has nothing to do with safety, and referring to concerns about corruption of South Australia's green image as "nonsense," highlights several benefits of GM crops

[More Oceania items](#)

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More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - June 15, 2017
 Date: Thursday, June 15, 2017 9:52:44 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology monitoring included amplification of Corporate Europe Observatory's report claiming nearly half the experts on European Food Safety Authority panels have conflicts of interest. NGOs issued calls to action for members to contact the U.S. Food and Drug Administration urging more strict GMO regulation.

- An article by *Le Monde's* Stephane Foucart claimed conflicts of interest, as reported by Corporate Europe Observatory, "undermine" EFSA. CEO's report states that 46 percent of the 200 experts serving on 10 panels have "direct or indirect conflicts of interest." EFSA responded that the experts' financial interests are carefully evaluated and that CEO's figures "are misleading." **See more**
- The Organic Consumers Association and Friends of the Earth asked supporters to sign a petition and send a form letter opposing the rollback of regulations for GMOs. OCA asked for signatures by June 19, the close of the comment period on FDA's draft guidance on the regulation of gene-edited plants and animals. **See more**

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North America

[Commentary: Co-director of U.S. Right to Know writes in Huffington Post claiming "Food Evolution" documentary comes off as "corporate propaganda" by focusing only on pro-GM scientists, questions safety of glyphosate and impact GMOs would have on banana wilt in Africa](#)

[Commentary: Michael Stebbins of Biotechnology Innovation Organization amplifies recent PG Economics study demonstrating economic and environmental benefits of biotech, as well as GMO Answers volunteer expert Esther Ngumbi's recent article in Medium examining ISAAA's most recent report](#)

[Commentary: GMO Free PA concerned about commercial release of GM sugarcane and effect on environment and human health from PET plastic bottles made from sugarcane ethanol](#)

[Commentary: Marc Brazeau of Food and Farm Discussion lab calls for reframing of debate over sustainability of organic vs conventional agriculture, notes impact gap between organic ag and conventional systems employing conservation practices is huge, believes analysis should focus on conservation in both types of systems](#)

[News: Honolulu Civil Beat reports on lawsuit by Kauai residents and organizations against the state and Syngenta, demanding that Syngenta stop growing GMOs on public land until it has conducted an environmental assessment](#)

[More North America items](#)

Africa

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Africa during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the

latest items.

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: North America media report China approved two new GM crops and renewed 14 other GM crop varieties; planting GM crops still prohibited but U.S. executives hopeful China will loosen restrictions over time

News: Asia-based media report China approved Dow's Enlist GM corn and Monsanto's Vistive Gold GM soy varieties for import, along with renewing 14 other GM crop varieties, approvals are good until 2020, several other varieties will be decided on within the next few weeks

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Interview: Russian news site reporter interviews Russian chemist Pyotr Obraztsov, says GMOs are harmless, but journalists report on supposed GMO dangers because it's more interesting than saying they are safe

News: European produce news site reports number of field tests on GM potatoes growing, as US, Spain, and UK experiment with GE potatoes

News release: EU Green Party claims products of new breeding techniques are not as precise as advertised, amplifying recent Nature study demonstrating unintended mutations in CRISPR mice, argues new techniques should not be deregulated when well-suited GMO regulations already exist

News: Italian news site reports soy association official says non-GMO soy cultivation grew 15 percent in Italy over last year, notes room for growth to be self-sufficient

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Mexican news site reports Mayan beekeepers denounce "escalation of violence and harassment" of indigenous communities after the consultation on GM soy cultivation mandated by Supreme Court

News release: Spanish NGO GRAIN and collective of eight Latin American organizations announce release of documentary entitled "Seeds common property or corporate property?" highlights focus on importance of native seeds and negative impact of agribusiness and transgenic seeds

News: Mexican news site reports Monsanto official notes GM, hybrid seeds and crop protection products are expensive to bring to market, so company needs long span of success' Inter-American Institute for Cooperation official notes GM crops more expensive for farmer but also have more yield, more profits

Commentary: ETC Group's Silvia Ribeiro in La Jornada warns about negative economic, environmental and health impacts of agricultural biotech, fertilizer and machinery mega-mergers; claims "everything indicates" machinery companies will buy "genetic giants" after first round of mergers, aiming to "impose a highly automated agriculture with very few workers"

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

[More Oceania items](#)

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 Date: Wednesday, June 14, 2017 9:03:45 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Note: After a temporary outage that blocked access for some users today, the Bonus Eventus Monitoring Portal should be available again. Please notify us if you have any trouble. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Today's global biotechnology monitoring included news that China approved two GMO crops for import and a U.S. poll indicated 69 percent of those surveyed have serious concerns regarding the Bayer-Monsanto merger.

- News sites including *Reuters* reported China approved two new GMO crop varieties for import - Dow's Enlist corn and Monsanto's Vistive Gold soybean - after a recent trade deal with the U.S. In response, Dow announced its Enlist GM corn variety will be available to growers in the U.S. and Canada for 2018 season. **See more.**
- Public Policy Polling published results of a new U.S. poll finding 69 percent of respondents have "very serious concerns" about the Bayer-Monsanto merger, with the majority concerned about increased chemical contamination of farmland and an increase of GMOs in food supply. The findings were promoted by Friends of the Earth, which issued a release arguing the U.S. should take aggressive action against corporate monopolies. **See more.**

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, **[click here](#)**.

North America

Commentary: In Forbes, Stanford's Henry Miller argues UN special rapporteur criticism of pesticides and genetic engineering "parrots the delusional musings of organic industry-funded NGOs," suggests U.S. should withdraw from UN Human Rights Council

Interview: Speaking to New York City Food Policy Center, Charles Benbrook claims industry uses resources to directly influence research to produce desired outcome; talks GMOs, pesticides, antibiotic use and resistance, water pollution

Commentary: Molecular biologist at American Council on Science and Health highlights scientists calling for edits or full retraction of Nature Methods paper claiming CRISPR-Cas9 technique causing mutations because the paper contains numerous flaws

News: Gizmodo reports scientists are questioning results of paper claiming CRISPR-Cas9 caused thousands of unintended mutations, raising concerns about misidentifying genes, mislabeling genetic defects and sample size; journal considering all concerns before responding,

News: Politico reports FDA has extended compliance deadline for its Nutrition Facts label update; notes decision comes after major food industry interests requested more time, citing GMO disclosure rule to be introduced in 2018

Video: National Academies of Science webcasts discussion of "Science Breakthroughs 2030" study on food and agriculture research, including discussion of plant biology research for the next decade

[More North America items](#)

Africa

Commentary: NGO Hivos responds to biotech advocate in Dutch news site, notes Hidde Boersma accuses NGOs of maintaining hunger in Africa by opposing GMOs; says GMOs increase crop yields only temporarily, makes farmer dependent on seed producers

News: Nigerian news outlet reports National Biosafety Management Agency director general refuted claims of GMOs affecting farms; only GM crops are experimental, not on farms

News: Vanguard reports OFAB "debunks" claims linking GMO foods with some diseases; OFAB Nigeria national coordinator says many seek to misinform the public on GMOs and that an effective communication strategy must be based on "scientific facts, not hearsay"

News: Nigerian news outlets report on executive director Nnimmo Bassey telling Health of Mother Earth Foundation stakeholder meeting that plan by GMO proponents would lead to food scarcity, Nigerian dependence on Monsanto, Syngenta and other chemical companies; claims biotechnology not needed to feed the country

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

Study: Syngenta researchers in China use CRISPR to delete DNA fragments in Indica rice

News: China Daily reports leading Beijing think tank researchers took tour of Kimberley Farms in Iowa; Chinese delegates sought to learn more about GMO technology and ability to retain young talent in ag sector, among other topics

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Commentary: Corporate Europe Observatory claims almost half of experts on EFSA panels had direct or indirect financial interest with companies being assessed, wants EFSA not to hire anyone who received money from company evaluated in past two years; notes pesticides panel vice chair has ties to ECPA

News release: Corporate Europe Observatory claims European Food Safety Authority's new independence rules starting June 21 not sufficient enough to deal with nearly half of experts on scientific panels in a financial conflict of interest situation with agribusiness

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Commentary: College of South Border members wrioted Mexican news site op-ed criticizing CIBIOGEM secretary for ignoring "reality of the scientific debate" on GMOs and claiming scientific community is united on biotech safety

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News: Australian Broadcasting Corp. reports Australia's competition regulator will not oppose merger between Dow and DuPont due to already planned divestments, regulator undertaking a similar review of Monsanto and Bayer merger

[More Oceania items](#)

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More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

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From: Jay Byrne
 To: Wray-Cohen, Diane - FAS
 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - June 13, 2017
 Date: Tuesday, June 13, 2017 9:00:29 PM

FAST ACCESS: MONITORING \ STAKEHOLDERS \ COMMUNITY

Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

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Today's global biotechnology monitoring featured news of potential legislative support for Bt eggplant in the Philippines, an update on U.S. plans to roll out GMO labels and an appeal for the European Commission to approve three GM corn varieties.

- Philippines Bureau of Plant Industry Director Vivencio R. Mamaril indicated that members of Congress are backing legislation that supports planting of biotech crops, which could open doors for the commercialization of Bt eggplant once it finishes field trials. [See more](#)
- *Politico* reported that a USDA official is anticipating a late fall or early winter release of its proposed GMO labeling rule, creating a tighter regulatory timeline for companies to meet the July 29, 2018, deadline. In related news, the FDA announced today it would push back the July 2018 compliance deadline for its long-awaited update to the Nutrition Facts label, which analysts believe may be a response to industry calls to align nutrition labels with the rollout of GMO labels. [See more](#)
- A coalition of plant scientists penned a letter to European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, asking him approve three GM maize lines for commercial cultivation after the European Food Safety Authority produced a favorable risk assessment. [See more](#)

Reminder: to access the full text, archives and monitoring dashboard resources you need to log in to the [Bonus Eventus community portal](#) using your email address and personal password. Please contact us if you need any assistance or support.

For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, [click here](#)

North America

Commentary: Founding director of U.S. FDA Office of Biotechnology writing in Wall Street Journal calls USDA decision to destroy GM petunias "gratuitously stupid" since they pose no threat to health or environment, believes degree of regulatory oversight should be proportionate to risk

Video: AgDaily shares "Learn GMO" series discussing differences, similarities between organic and conventional farming; series shows how organic farming uses pesticides, typically made from plants, that aren't always safe; series also explores why GE was left out of organic farming, and how it could help farmers be more organic

Letter to the editor: NAS Committee on Genetically Engineered Crops writes in Chronicle of Higher Education challenging assertions in prior article and refuting claims surrounding conflicts of interest

Campaign: National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine issues call for nominations for members of an ad hoc committee to examine potential use of biotech for mitigating threats to forest tree health, deadline for nominations is July 31, 2017

News: NPR reports on growing practice of biotech seed piracy, highlights Chinese scientists arrested for trying to bring biotech seeds to China from United States

Commentary: Scientist Sarah Hovinga on Bayer CropScience blog says "it just doesn't sit right with me that false information is out there" about something as important as GMOs; encourages readers to "talk

about the facts, constructively" and provides links to informational sites

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: MintPress News contributor criticizes changes in Tanzania's seed law, claiming the country must embrace seed patents, and criminalize traditional seed exchange, or risk losing foreign development aid, points to ties between New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition (NAFSN) and Monsanto

Commentary: Nigerian school administrator on business news site says Nigerians have to be mindful of GMO foods and go "as natural as possible" to ensure children are "not at risk" when they eat

More Africa items

Asia

News: Philippines food-focused news outlet reports members of congress support filing legislation to allow planting of biotech crops including Bt eggplant

News: Egyptian news outlet reports Jordan's Ministry of Agriculture claims the country exported non-biotech seeds to nearly 30 countries

Report: Coalition for a GM-Free India publishes report claiming that in the past 15 years of Bt cotton cultivation, yields have stagnated, pesticide use has increased, pests have developed resistance and agro-diversity has declined

News: Asian News International reports Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar criticizes both previous UPA and present NDA governments for promoting GMO seeds, which he claims are "the cause of diseases"

Commentary: Former university law professor in Malaysian news site argues GMO products should be labeled, laws on animal feed must require disclosure of GMO content and non-GMO options should be explored

News: South Korean science news site reports approved GMO imports have decreased five percent for second consecutive year due to decline in livestock production and remaining GMO inventory

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Group of plant scientists write to European Commission president to seek approval of three GM maize lines for commercial cultivation after EFSA found no risk involved and EU member states refused to make a decision

Commentary: Italy's Five Star Movement criticizes government response to questions regarding efforts to strengthen controls on GMOs, highlights importance of monitoring, looks forward to receiving concrete solution with numbers

News: Slovakian news agency reports Minister of Agriculture concerned about maintaining consumer confidence in organic products, establishing labeling of organic products and ensuring GMO residue not included

News: Science magazine reports breeders from Gottingen University in Germany have released seeds offering legal protection for open-source status; anyone can use the varieties but cannot prevent others from conducting research on derivatives

Commentary: German biotech news site says recent advances in gene-editing make GM crops safer and could overcome GMO stigma, but will need to address public concerns; adds traditional plant breeding

more time intensive, breeders have to ensure they aren't breeding out desirable characteristics

News: French news outlet reports on recent anti-GMO labeling operation carried out by Volunteer Reapers and Confédération Paysanne activists, in which activists put labels on several meat products in local stores, to create awareness about use of GM animal feed

Campaign: German NGO Sauvons la forêt (Save the Forest) launches petition to US government against approval of GE eucalyptus trees, claiming GE trees will have significant negative impacts on the environment

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: International news agency focused on socio-environment issues claims Argentinian regulatory agency approving biotech seeds made up of scientists and experts from same ag companies producing and marketing seeds, highlights impact group had on biotech crops in Argentina

Commentary: Spanish NGO GRAIN recounts recent Seed Seminar event in Mexico City, where participants reaffirmed commitments Declaration of Yvapuruvu and the South - South Declaration on Seed Laws, and working against threats posed by industrial ag practices

News: Brazilian news site reports federal court maintains conviction and fine of rural producer for growing 40 hectares of GM cotton in 2007 without authorization from National Technical Commission on Biosafety; risk to people, animals and environment not addressed in case

News: Mexican news site talks to plant geneticist Wayne Parrot and other experts about GM crops; Parrot argues despite social, labeling and trade barriers, sustainability "is going to be much easier with GMOs than without them"; other experts discuss outlook for GM crops in Latin America and Africa

News: Sputnik reports Ecuador passed law allowing transgenic seeds into country for research purposes, notes some groups say law "would violate the national Constitution"; adds former President Rafael Correa used constitutional exception involving "national interest"

More Latin America items

Oceania

Campaign: Australian Right to Know shares FOI request from citizen seeking documents describing how and when Office of the Gene Technology Regulator first became aware of unapproved GM petunias in Australia

News release: Responding to call for submissions of five lines of GE potatoes by Food Standards Australia New Zealand, GE-Free New Zealand says they are "threat to public health" and claims animals fed GE soy and corn have suffered kidney malfunction and developed tumors

More Oceania items

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Try it free today

From: Jay Byrne
 To: Wray-Cohen, Diane - FAS
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - June 12, 2017
 Date: Monday, June 12, 2017 9:04:23 PM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

A new peer-reviewed analysis of the first 20 years of genetically modified crop usage **found broad benefits** for farmers, food security and the environment. Released by PG Economics, the research is highlighted in a pair of pieces in this week's Favorable Outcomes Newsletter - one by Julie Kelly in *National Review* and another by Andrew Porterfield for Genetic Literacy Project.

Other articles note a Canadian screening of the "Food Evolution" documentary, criticize Walmart's recent stance against neonics and advocate for Ghana and other African countries to pursue biotech crops.

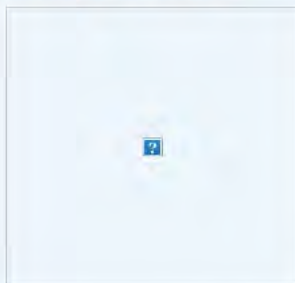
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In This Issue

[Stakeholder Spotlight](#)
[Stories Worth Sharing](#)
[What's Trending?](#)
[Calendar highlights](#)

Stakeholder Spotlight: Joseph Mercola



Omnipresent and in (his own) news every week, alternative health guru and purveyor of all-natural, organic cures Joe Mercola is a persistent critic of all conventional food production systems and a key financier of campaigns targeting GMOs for mandatory labeling or bans.

Stories Worth Sharing

[Andrew Porterfield: Peer-reviewed analysis finds GM crops boost farm income, alleviate poverty and help environment](#)

[Julie Kelly: Activists upset at Trump exiting Paris climate pact should see study showing GM crops reduce greenhouse gas emissions](#)

[Real Agriculture: "Food Evolution" documentary on GMO debate makes Canadian debut](#)

[Josh Bloom: Claims by Senef, Alliance for Natural Health that glyphosate will cause autism spike are "nonsense"](#)

[Nigerian journalist: African governments should end "era of dependence on food importation," pursue biotechnology](#)

[California Citrus Mutual: Walmart neonic policy will "directly contribute" to U.S. citrus industry decline](#)

[Cornell Alliance for Science encourages small-scale farmers in Ghana to consider biotech crops on case-by-case basis](#)

[Hank Campbell: Clear flaw in attack by Le Monde "pseudojournalists" on American Council on Science and Health](#)

[Center for Consumer Freedom: No antibiotics movement only means consumers "paying more for nothing different"](#)

A Chicago-area osteopathic physician who has been criticized by the regulatory, medical and scientific community, Mercola contributed more than \$1.1 million to the California GMO labeling campaign in 2012 and has hosted a "Right to Know GMOs" website on his Internet platform.

To learn more about Mercola, [CLICK HERE](#).

[CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES](#)

[International Bee Research Association science director: Changes in land use "the major driver" of bee decline](#)

["Abbey's Kitchen" video provides humorous take on why GMOs are safe and beneficial](#)

[CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING](#)

What's Trending?

[European Parliament to debate whether regulatory studies of glyphosate were rigorous and independent](#)

[Report: India's environment minister may soon make "final call" on commercialization of GM mustard](#)

[PG Economics report explores socio-economic and environmental impacts from GM crops](#)

[Brazilian biosafety commission approves commercial use of GM sugarcane](#)

[ChemChina announces progress in Syngenta acquisition, plans to delist shares](#)

Calendar highlights

June 13-15	June 13	June 15-17
World Health Organization Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health	USDA Biotechnology Regulatory Services public hearing on gene edited crops	Food Innovation Asia conference
June 16	June 18-21	June 23
USDA Biotechnology Regulatory Services final public hearing on gene edited crops	American Meat Science Association Reciprocal Meat Conference on antibiotic resistance	Institute for Future Environments workshop "Debunking myths: Developing communication and engagement strategies for advanced biotechnology"

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR](#)

<p>Stakeholder database</p> <p>More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate</p>	<p>Monitoring portal</p> <p>Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.</p>	<p>Bonus Eventus community</p> <p>Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.</p>
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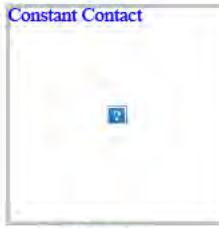
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 Date: Monday, June 12, 2017 9:03:12 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology monitoring included updates on India's consideration of commercialization of GM mustard, as well as anticipated policy updates on biotechnology regulations and GMO labeling in the United States.

- Opponents of GM mustard continue to urge the environmental ministry to reject commercialization of the crop. *The New Indian Express* reported that thousands of tribal women from Odisha state took to the streets Saturday to protest GM mustard seeds. Other India-based news sites covered a conference held in eastern India where local experts elaborated on why they are "wary" of GM mustard. Plant scientist Devinder Sharma was quoted as saying the proposed mustard was not as high-yielding as touted and it would "not drive an oil revolution." [See more.](#)
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture is holding listening sessions Tuesday and Friday on the rules governing the agency's approval of GM crops. The issue was at the center of an op-ed in the *Chicago Tribune* in which American Council on Science and Health president Hank Campbell endorsed the USDA policies proposed under the Obama administration, arguing these are policies Trump should not reverse. [See more](#) In other U.S. policy news, *Politico* reported USDA officials are expected to provide an update on GM labeling rules Tuesday at the International Dairy Foods Association's annual Regulatory RoundUP. [See more.](#)
- Filipino news outlets reported think tank Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (Searca) is calling for passage of biotech law to help facilitate use of agricultural technology and to improve food security. [See more](#)

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For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, [click here](#).

North America

Commentary: London, Ontario-based dairy and crop farmer writes op-ed on local news site saying he gets upset when he sees non-GMO label because it falsely implies his GM products are unsafe and less effective; adds those selling "natural" alternatives are trying to portray him and his family as "bad guys"

Commentary: University of Idaho emeritus professor of agricultural economics, writing in The Packer, notes while unregulated Rio red grapefruit marketed as organic was developed by mutagenesis, Innate potato using "green biotech," is heavily regulated and not allowed to be labeled organic

News: Science News reports study co-authored by U.S. EPA policy fellow and University of Maryland researcher analyzed over 20 years of data from Maryland corn fields, finding rising temperatures may help corn earworms develop faster resistance to Bt strain; more research needed to clarify how warming affects the pests

Study: U.S. researchers writing in Royal Society Open Science analyzed relationship of temperature change and Bt adoption to major pests; highlight challenges posed by climate change for Bt pest management and need to incorporate processes affected by climate change into Bt-resistance programs

Commentary: Auburn University postdoctoral researcher Esther Ngumbi writes GMO Answers post for

Medium, providing perspective on ISAAA's recent global biotech adoption report, she highlights many benefits of GM crops for smallholders, such as increased yield and ability to withstand negative effects of climate change

Commentary: American Council on Science and Health president shares recent outreach events, reflects on response to smear campaign against University of Florida's Kevin Folta for working with Monsanto

More North America items

Africa

News: Local news source reports parliamentarians are under pressure to pass Ugandan Biosafety Bill after parts of country experienced food shortages due to prolonged drought; claims local pro-GMO activists not telling Ugandans why developed countries bar engineered foods while advocating them for developing countries

Commentary: Alternative news site reports on Tanzania's amended seed legislation, under which Tanzanian farmers face fines or imprisonment for selling uncertified seeds, highlights claims that the law will increase multinational control and result in biodiversity loss

News: Nigerian news outlet reports stakeholders workshop organized by Health of Mother Earth Foundation claims small-scale farmers are unknowingly being given GMO seeds; anti-GM group calls for urgent action and warns of "grand design to wipe out organic seeds"

News: Kenya's Daily Nation reports GM rice that fights multiple pathogens performed better than conventional variety; researchers say this innovation could help in developing world where farmers without access to fungicides often lose entire crop to disease

Commentary: Zambia Daily Mail editorials editor laments science and technology is being overshadowed in country by student protests; says Zambia needs to invest more in scientific research "to give our farmers more options for increased harvest per hectare besides conservation and organic farming"

News: Kenyan news outlet reports on spread of fall armyworm to large seed farms, Trans Nzoia County Agriculture Chief Officer Mary Nzomo warns excessive pesticide use could compromise seed quality, she believes genetic modification could be a potential solution

More Africa items

Asia

News: Reuters reports China's soybean futures hit three-month highs despite current domestic oversupply on talk of "ramped up checks" on GM imports; adds prolonged crackdown will upset major exporters like United States and Brazil

News: Filipino news outlet reports on think tank Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture's (Searca) call for passage of biotech law to help facilitate use of ag technology and to improve food security

News: The New Indian Express reports thousands of tribal women from Odisha state took to streets Saturday to protest GMO mustard seeds; notes, as with Bt Brinjal, "agitators" want state government to ban the mustard and farmers fear potential adverse impacts on honeybees

News: Vietnamese news site reports Tay Ninh province selected by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to pilot program shifting from traditional farming to "high-tech" methods, including use of "safe and effective" pesticides

News: South Korean news source reports unapproved LMO rapeseed from Monsanto were grown in 56 farms across country; Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries said unapproved LMO rapeseed area will be specially managed; environmental groups worry about ecological disturbances

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Report: U.K. NGO Beyond GM publishes results of recent report on consumer opinion of GM foods in restaurants, 97 percent of respondents believe chefs and caterers should include information on GM ingredients on menus and websites

Interview: French news site talks with Vandana Shiva, who spoke at environmental festival in Paris; Shiva blasts Monsanto, Bayer, pesticides, GMOs for role in raw materials war in India and worldwide; claims significant abuses, death fault of multinationals' greed

News: Italian news site reports Hungary burns 1,000 acres of Monsanto GM corn to prevent cross-pollination with non-GM crops; notes Hungary's constitution prohibits GMOs to protect human, environmental health

News: Slovakian news site reports Slovakia supports European declaration against GM soybeans, notes country part of anti-GMO group Soja du Danube

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Mexican news outlet reports four states in country found to have planted GM corn despite nationwide ban; Pro Transgenics Alliance has lobbied federal government and Supreme Court to allow planting and commercialization of GM maize

News: Portuguese news site reports Brazil first country to approve commercialization of GM sugarcane; NGO pushes for no-GMO label in Portugal, group offers no-GMO certification, warns of unknown health, environmental risks, corporate control over food

News: Brazilian news outlet reports GM mosquito research project being launched to test success rate since field trials are technically not approved; regulatory agency has taken over two years to decide on possible commercialization

News: Brazilian news outlet reports on recent PG Economics study, Biotechnology Information Council (CIB) executive director Adriana Brondani confirmed statistics presented by the study, noting farmers who have adopted biotech crops have seen increased productivity

News: Argentina's Rosario Board of Trade (BCR) amplifies conclusions of PG Economics report on GM crops, highlights improved welfare for farmers in developing countries, pesticide reduction and improved yields

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

There were no noteworthy developments in today's monitoring of Oceania. Please click the link below for the latest items.

[More Oceania items](#)

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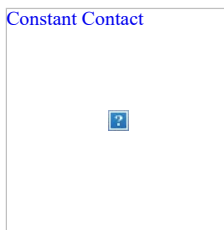
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From: Jay Byrne
 To: Wray-Cohen, Diane - FAS
 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - June 9-11, 2017
 Date: Sunday, June 11, 2017 9 02:04 PM

FAST ACCESS: MONITORING \ STAKEHOLDERS \ COMMUNITY

Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Global biotechnology monitoring highlights over the weekend included Brazil's National Technical Commission on Biosafety announcing its approval for commercial release of GM sugarcane. France's High Council for Biotechnology recommended using GM mosquitoes to battle disease but added the method should not be seen as a "miracle cure."

- Brazilian media reported regulatory agency CTNBio gave approval for the world's first GM sugarcane, which is pest resistant. An environment ministry representative, who voted against the approval, said research on the crop is flawed. **See more.**
- The French High Council on Biotechnology said the country should use GM mosquitoes as a "complementary" approach to fighting mosquito-borne disease, but cautioned environmental impacts should be addressed and there should be public input into the process. *Slate's* French edition questioned whether fighting disease justifies the potential for disrupting "ecological balance." **See more.**
- The Washington law firm Keller and Heckman reported on its blog that a USDA official says the agency will attempt to meet its July 2018 deadline requiring GMO labeling despite delays caused by the administration change. The agency also plans two public education programs, one educating consumers on what the GMO labels and symbols mean and another on GMO safety. *Organic Authority* reported that if the USDA does not meet its deadline, it could jeopardize the pre-emption of state labeling laws. **See more.**

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North America

Commentary: Ag news outlet contributor promotes new "Food Evolution" documentary, highlighting Mark Lynas' explanation of why it is difficult for scientists to win in arguments against activists, as well as his disappointment at difficulty in getting a television audience in the US and Europe

News: Canadian news outlet reports on recent meeting of biotech experts in Guelph to learn about biotech communication, Kevin Folta argued that the debate has "turned a corner," noting the debate is no longer primarily focused on GMO safety

Interview: Author and lifestyle expert, blogger Chalene Johnson interviews plant pathologist Steve Savage on the safety of GMOs, glyphosate, myths about organics, and how to read food labels

Commentary: Skeptical Raptor dispels myth that GM sugar is different from any other type of sugar, using images of structural formulas of sugar from three different sources

Video: Organic Consumers Association hosts #Resist and #Regenerate Meetup Webinar on YouTube to teach supporters how to use Meetup platform to organize within their own communities to get in touch with local politicians

Commentary: Natural and organic living web site contributor says GMOs such as pink pineapple not as safe as Del Monte wants us to think, claims genes can pass to human blood, WHO classifies glyphosate

as carcinogen; says government claims GMOs are safe but exposes us to unsafe food

Commentary: Dairy industry news outlet contributors examine ways in which manufacturers are preparing for new federal GMO labeling requirements, they note that if a facility processes both conventional and non-GMO milk, "changeovers during production should address the potential commingling of product lines"

[More North America items](#)

Africa

Commentary: EnviroNews Nigeria piece by public servant urges Nigeria to take advantage of GMO technology; calls for support of National Biosafety Management Agency established to regulate GMO crops; warns GMO protesters paid by chemical companies benefiting from large amount of chemicals needed for non-GMO crops

News: Nigerian news site reports Nigerian scientist criticizes Academy of Science on its GMO endorsement, claims neither the agency, US agencies, nor the companies do proper testing on GMOs, so those who eat them are lab rats

Video: Nigerian news outlet reports on recent anti-GMO protest calling for nullification of National Biosafety Act, features Nnimmo Bassey of Health of Mother Earth Foundation, Jackie Ikeotuonye of Andrew Bishopton Ltd and Sen. Bukar Ibrahim of Senate Committee on Ecology & Climate Change

News: International Potato Center reports first field observations of GM potatoes in Uganda show extreme resistance to late blight disease; late blight "responsible for production losses and high cost of fungicides almost everywhere the potato is grown"

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Malaysian news site reports Science & Technology minister says country should use biotechnology to increase crop production, generate more income for farmers

Commentary: Science professor writing in India Today claims debate on GMOs needs to transcend the debate over whose evidence on risk assessment counts and ask larger questions on how GMOs help create (or not) the desired agrarian future and food security

Commentary: UC Davis plant pathologist writes for Vietnamese news outlet, examines GMO debate, he emphasizes scientific consensus on GMO safety, and explains how the US has benefited from the technology, acknowledges some environmental and economic risks

News: Chinese news outlet reports scientists and government officials presented information promoting national biotechnology development, popularizing the knowledge of GM crops, guiding public opinion, raising public awareness

Commentary: India weekly news outlet amplifies claims from Union Minister for Women and Child Development that Monsanto forced GM cotton crops into India and their pesticides threaten bee population, use of pesticides ignored by government leading to human, bee deaths

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: French environment news outlet reports on High Council for Biotechnology's recommendation not to overlook GE mosquitoes as a possible control for disease carrying mosquitoes, noting use should be in addition to conventional controls

Commentary: Contributor to Czech news site examines Europe's "strict" moratorium of GM tomatoes

and petunias, reviews potential benefits, concludes "perhaps you see the absurdity" of the bans

Video: Italian television news site reports on protest in Rome by family farm group Coldiretti and Greenpeace to keep country GMO-free and to protect Made in Italy brand

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Commentary: Ecuadoran news site reports pros, cons, neutral aspects of GM crops, including producing affordable food, positive economic impact, better nutrition and being required to buy seed annually, potential for new allergies, reducing crop diversity

News: Brazilian news outlet reports on concerns about recent government approval of Sugarcane Technology Center (CTC) GM sugarcane variety, an Environment Ministry representative argued that CTC's safety assessments were flawed

Commentary: Lucía Sepúlveda of Campaign I Do not Want Transgenics in Chile/Pesticide Action Network writes for local news outlet, voicing opposition to public-private partnership promotion of GE trees, points to negative environmental impact of the trees themselves, as well as health and environmental risks of glyphosate

Commentary: Researcher writes in op-ed for Ecuadorian news outlet, welcomes approval of new seed law which allows use of GM seeds for research purposes, argues that GMOs are not bad in and of themselves, and that Ecuador should not be forced to fall behind in science

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News release: GE Free NZ amplifies findings of illegal GM petunias in New Zealand, uses finding to advocate for potato and tomato crops to remain GE Free for exporting

News: Australian legal firm focused on IP claims provides an overview of how to protect GM plants under Australian Plant Breeder's Rights Act and the Australian Patents Act

News: New Zealand Herald reports Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) sends potentially affected petunia seeds for lab testing after reports of GM petunias in Europe, the US and Australia, MPI's Peter Thomson noted there is "negligible" biosecurity risk from seeds and no risks to humans or environment

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 Date: Friday, June 9, 2017 1:04:19 AM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

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Today's global biotechnology monitoring highlights included Chinese news agencies reporting ChemChina's purchase of Syngenta is complete. South Korean media reported large amounts of unapproved GM rapeseed imported from China has been cultivated. French media reported the High Council for Biotechnology is due to release its final report on new breeding techniques by the end of the month, and one member said treating gene-edited products as GMOs would carry consequences.

- ChemChina announced it completed the deal to buy Swiss agribusiness Syngenta, and will begin a strategy to make the company go public once again "to realize long-term development and create greater value." **See more.**
- About 32.5 tons of unapproved GM rapeseed has been imported from China, according to Korean media. Much of the seed has been planted on farms in the country's 13 provinces. The government announced it is taking steps to correct the situation in which the unapproved seed was allowed into the country. **See more.**
- French media reported France's High Council for Biotechnology is due to issue its final report on new breeding techniques (NBTs) by the end of June. An HCB member said treating NBT-derived products as GMOs would complicate the authorization process so that only large companies would have the means to do so, prohibiting access for smaller companies. **See more.**

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North America

News: WIRED reports on CRISPR developer Jennifer Doudna's recent remarks at WIRED's 2017 Business Conference in New York, she noted potential use of the technology to cure genetic disease, emphasizing importance of creating consensus on responsible use, she voiced excitement about ag applications, especially in tomatoes

Campaign: Organic Consumers Association's Ronnie Cummins appeals to members to grow the Resist and Regenerate movement, claims to have 4,000 members across 241 chapters to work at the local and state level to advocate to ban Roundup, alleges environmental issues

Video: Canadian ag news site posts video by Abbey Sharp of "Abbey's Kitchen," who uses comedy to emphasize scientific consensus on GMO safety, and to highlight several benefits of the technology

Commentary: Columnist for progressive magazine highlights Montana seed exchange group's focus on biodiversity in contrast to profit focus by agribusiness giants; questions whether centralized seed banks are best way to safeguard world's food supply

[More North America items](#)

Africa

Announcement: US Feed the Future initiative highlights several best practices used by sub-Saharan

African countries that would benefit Nigeria's seed variety registration system, including requiring plant breeders to ensure traceability of reproductive materials

News: News Agency of Nigeria reports on National Agency for Food, Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) statement indicating it has not licensed any GM products in the country, and that any products available in the markets are illegal and should be reported to NAFDAC

News: Zambian news outlet reports on Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa's (ACTESA) promotion of GM cotton for farmers in the COMESA region, ACTESA Senior Policy Advisor Getachew Belay noted Bt cotton boosts yields and reduces pesticide use

Interview: Al Jazeera interviews South African researcher Jill Farrant on her work with drought-tolerant "resurrection plants" to help boost African food security, she believes those who oppose her research are ignorant about the subject, notes drought-tolerant plants are one of many important tools

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Indian news site note many farmers who commit suicide do so to prevent their families from losing home due to high amount of debt they are unable to repay

News: Law360 contributor Cara Salvatore reports Syngenta exec testifies that Chinese regulatory approval was 'not on the company's to-do list' before the launch of its Viptura GE corn seed variety into the US market

Commentary: Former head of Indian Agricultural Research Institute's Division of Entomology, Govind Gujar, and South Asia Biotechnology Centre's Bhagirath Choudhary write for local news outlet, debunking claims that GM mustard will negatively impact pollination and honey production

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Interview: UK horticulture news outlet interviews University of Leeds plant geneticist Peter Meyer, who developed the orange GM petunia that has been found distributed throughout international markets, he believes new ornamentals should be assessed on their characteristics, not on whether or not they are GMOs

News: French news sites report High Council for Biotechnology says country should use GM mosquitoes but should not view them as "miracle solution" against diseases

Event: EU Commission's Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed - Section on Genetically modified food and feed and environmental risk, will hold meeting on June 12 to discuss authorizing placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from GM soybean DAS-68416-4

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Colombian pro-biotech NGO Agro-Bio amplifies PG Economics report highlighting economic, environmental benefits from GM crops

News: Uruguayan news site reports human rights NGO and Ombudsman's Office ask National Biosafety office to extend risk assessment for 3 GMO varieties; ombudsman's office expresses concern assessment doesn't include the pesticide use

News: Reuters reports on Brazil's approval of commercial use of pest-resistant GM sugarcane variety, developed by CTC Centro de Tecnologia Canavieira SA, CEO Gustavo Leite noted it will take three years before the sugar reaches export markets

News: Mexican news site reports farmers association official says Mexico could plant GM cotton without worry regarding health effects since it is not eaten, and without contamination worry since there are no other cotton plants in Mexico

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News: New Zealand news outlet reports illegal GM petunia varieties detected in country after importer noted recalls taking place in Europe and US

Commentary: Australian anti-GMO group marks March Against Monsanto with call on government to undertake comprehensive biodiversity studies on four most common GM crops, applauds countries banning GM crop cultivation

[More Oceania items](#)

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology monitoring highlights included a report the Indian government may soon announce a decision on GM mustard commercialization. The Cornell Alliance for Science summarized speeches at the International Symposium for Biosafety on GMOs. Nigerian activists continued their call to ban GMOs in an appeal to the Nigerian Senate president. A Swiss legislative body voted down a bill that would have allowed biotechnology research in the country.

- Indian news outlet *Mint* reported Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan may announce his decision on GM mustard soon, noting the ministry prepared a list of stakeholders with whom Vardhan will meet in the next few weeks. Activists announced plans to intensify their protests in response. GM mustard developer Deepak Pental explained why biotechnology is important for India and dismissed activist concerns about GM mustard yields. [See more.](#)
- A Cornell Alliance for Science blogger and the Mexican news site *Conacyt* published articles on the International Symposium for Biosafety on GMOs' first day, noting speakers highlighted the need for effective communication on biotechnology. [See more.](#)
- Nigerian activist groups issued a letter to Senate President Bukola Saraki asking to repeal the National Biosafety Act and enact a GMO ban. Health of Mother Earth Foundation director Nnimmo Bassey claimed biotech crops are unjust, unsafe and unsustainable. [See more.](#)
- Swiss Environment Minister Doris Leuthard said agricultural technology scientists likely will leave the country after the Council of States defeated a bill that would have allowed biotechnology research. [See more.](#)

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North America

Commentary: In National Review, Julie Kelly questions how anti-GMO groups joining Bloomberg-led coalition to fight climate change will respond knowing GMOs proven to drastically reduce carbon dioxide emissions, cites PG Economics study highlighting global benefits for GM crops

Commentary: Organic Center responds to Quartz article stating organic cotton is worse for the environment than conventional, claims GM crops' use of glyphosate is harmful to environment and humans while organic plays a greater role in biodiversity conservation

Campaign: Friends of the Earth warns that the FDA is "rubber-stamping" new GE foods that it hasn't ensured are safe; asks readers to send a pre-written letter telling the FDA to regulate all new genetically engineered plants and animals

Report: Yale Law School Cultural Cognition Project report examines roles that "misinformation and misconceptions of science" play in political controversies over decision-relevant science, such as GM foods, argues that the problem is in a polluted science communication environment

Study: PLOS One publishes study by researchers from Purdue University seeking to quantify U.S. residents' acceptance of genetic modification across five potential uses; human medicine and human

health uses more highly accepted than food production**More North America items****Africa**

News: Ghanaian newspaper reports director of Cornell Alliance for Science encourages Ghana to consider biotech crops as tool for small-scale farmers on case-by-case basis, believes farmers around the world should have choice on adopting new technology to help with food security

Announcement: ISAAA reports Tanzanian farmers tell journalists they want government to hasten GE crop authorizations, say biotech crops will save them from crop failure

More Africa items**Asia**

News: India news outlet reports environment minister Harsh Vardhan likely to take final call soon on approving commercial cultivation of GM mustard, some farmer groups claim it is not needed nor safe

Commentary: Trade policy analyst writes in Deccan Herald, spotlighting National Biodiversity Authority's role in deciding acceptance of GM mustard in India; group is responsible for impact of modern biotechnology on biodiversity, can push government to consider available local alternatives

Announcement: ISAAA highlights recent Vietnam symposium on Current Advances of Genome Editing Technology and its Application in crop improvement, presentations revealed potential of genome editing technology in R&D in Vietnam and Japan for new crop varieties

More Asia items**Europe**

News: Agence France-Presse reports Haut Conseil des Biotechnologies recommends GM mosquitos as a complementary, long-term solution to help fight vector-borne diseases, but cautions environmental impact needs to be assessed

News: Swiss news site reports Parliament rejects bill that would have allowed scientific research on GMOs; parliament member says scientists will leave country to study elsewhere

News: Ukrainian news site reports PG Economics GMO study notes GM crops reduce agriculture's impact on the environment by reducing CO2 emissions and pesticide use

More Europe items**Latin America**

News: Sputnik reports lawyer says Uruguay needs biosafety law to regulate GM crops, agrochemicals; says moratorium would give time to ensure steps taken are in right direction

News: Mexican news outlet reports research professor found no significant differences between introgression of GM maize genes with native maize during a four-year experiment, claims Mexico should take advantage of biotechnology and request approval for planting GM maize

News: Peruvian news site reports Peruvian Association of Consumers and Users concerned regarding dairy association official's statements, say Peru citizens and their children unknowingly eat GMOs

More Latin America items**Oceania**

Announcement: ISAAA amplifies announcement Nuseed is seeking commercial approval from Australia's Office of the Gene Technology Regulator for GM canola; risk assessment plan for public comment available in October

Announcement: Australian Department of Health's Office of the Gene Technology Regulator announces discovery of unapproved GM petunias in Australia's horticulture market, and has issued inadvertent dealings licences to allow for their legal disposal, in addition to a series of fact sheets with summary of risk analysis

More Oceania items

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 Date: Tuesday, June 6, 2017 9:03:36 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

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Today's global biotechnology monitoring highlights included the introduction of a new GM labeling bill in Portugal, a series of demonstrations against GE trees in Chile and a new stakeholder response to the GM mustard debate in India.

- The Portuguese Green Party introduced a bill to require labeling of all products containing GMOs, regardless of the level of presence, arguing that consumers seeking a completely GMO-free diet may still be consuming them under current labeling laws. The bill was part of a series of environmentally focused laws introduced by the group that are stirring online discussion in the region. **See more**
- The International Union of Forestry Research Organizations' Congress of Tree Biotechnology is holding a meeting in Chile, which has prompted demonstrations from anti-biotech activists protesting the development of GE trees. The protest outside the conference is the first of a series of actions, meetings and discussions scheduled for this week, which aim to warn of the impacts of transgenic trees to the natural environment in Chile. **See more**
- Several India-based news sites reported the country's National Academy of Agricultural Science issued a resolution calling on the government to approve commercial cultivation of GM mustard so it can be used in the next winter season. The group of scientists includes Deepak Pental, the developer of the crop. Also, agriculture expert and Metahelix Life Sciences founder K. K. Narayanan published an op-ed in *Mint* today recommending India avoid following the same path with GM mustard as it did with Bt eggplant. **See more**

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North America

News release: Occidental College promotes book "What's So Controversial about Genetically Modified Food?" by sociology professor, book explores cultural and social ramifications of food and why GM foods aren't accepted despite being safe; June 14-17 conference on food issues and related topics also highlighted

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project contributor amplifies recent PG Economics report demonstrating widespread environmental and economic benefits of GM crop adoption, especially in developing nations, notes the report is in a peer-reviewed journal, unlike Danny Hakim's article claiming that the opposite is true

Event: Ontario news site reports debate between proponents of GMOs and organic growing methods will be subject of film screening and panel discussion at University of Guelph; panel includes Alison van Eenennaam, Mark Lynas, Kevin Folta and C.S. Prakash; film "Food Evolution" delves into scientific evidence behind GMOs and confusion surrounding food

News: The Kansas City Star reports Syngenta trial over unapproved GMO corn exports to China gets underway in Kansas City; notes local law firms involved in litigation for plaintiffs and Syngenta

News: Snopes says claims from YourNewsWire that Melania Trump banned Monsanto products from the

White House due to GMO health concerns are "fake news"

Commentary: Paste Magazine contributor praises Sonoma for becoming sixth California county to ban GM food cultivation; notes other "green-leaning rebel counties" have already banned GMO crops "for their questionable effects on health and the environment" and for their "central role in the global corporate monopoly game"

News: Politico reports USDA acting undersecretary for farm and foreign agricultural services Jason Hafemeister, in China to try and finalize terms to reopen Chinese market to U.S. beef exports, may get update on eight pending US biotech agricultural applications; notes favorable decision "could open the door for sales" to several biotech firms

News: Bloomberg BNA reports US Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue says GMO labeling rules are likely to have technology component like a QR code, people want disclosure but most don't want it to "the nth degree"

Campaign: The Garden Island reports on GMO Free Kauai's effort to engage new volunteers, notes upcoming June 14 meeting

Commentary: Grist's Nathanael Johnson recounts recent discussion with Penn State entomologist John Tooker, who argues that GMOs have increased insecticide use, explores negative impact of neonic seed treatments on beneficial insects, advocates finding middle ground between organic and industrial ag practices

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Nigerian news site contributor says biotechnology can help solve Africa's food insecurity and has been adopted by countries on continent to develop agricultural sectors, making them self-sufficient in food production and earning foreign exchange through agricultural exports

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Vandana Shiva writes for Seed Freedom, criticizing U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to pull out of Paris Climate Agreement, condemns modern industrial ag practices including use of GMOs, claiming they destroy soil health and biodiversity, promotes agroecology

News: Vietnamese news outlet reports PG Economics Institute study points to widespread benefits to environment and farmers, highlights reduced pesticide use and increased farmer income

Announcement: Third World Network announces its publication of book by its biosafety programme coordinator, Lim Li Ching, examining challenges in regulating synthetic biology, with special focus on synbio in context of Convention on Biological Diversity and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Dutch news site contributor says film "Well Fed" shows how world benefits from modern food production and genetic engineering, discounts Greenpeace's anti-GM stance; adds standing up for advancement of agriculture a welcome development

News release: Agri-Food Chain Coalition (AFCC) responds to EU Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis' call for promotion of science at recent COCERAL/UNISTOCK Conference, AFCC chair Roxane Feller noted existence of many innovative solutions for livestock and crop production, listing science promotion as a key objective

News: Dutch ag news outlet reports seed producer AgruniekRijnvallei is now ready to produce GMO-free cattle feed in compliance with Germany's VLOG standard, anticipating increased demand for dairy products from cows fed non-GMO feed, AgruniekRijnvallei already produces non-GMO poultry feed

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news site reports university researcher says environmental activism has become big business and decisions aren't always made on best available science; adds science says GM corn safe, sensible and the controversy is activist-generated

Interview: Mexican news outlet speaks with Sol Ortiz, executive secretary of Inter-Ministerial Commission on Bio-Security and Genetically Modified Organisms (Cibogem); Ortiz says country's over-regulation discourages research and causes researchers to leave country, calls for better communication to win public's trust

News: Mexican news outlet reports AgroBIO Mexico general director believes country is falling behind competitors who use GM crops, says biotech crops are proven to be safe, will increase yields and lower reliance on GM corn imports

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian agricultural news outlet reports CropLife Australia CEO using PG Economics report on environmental and economic benefits of GM crops to push Australian government to repeal unnecessary state GM crop moratoriums

News: New Caledonia news outlet reports on government extension of ban on GM imports, following favorable opinion of Advisory Committee on Plant Protection, the ban now includes all GM plants and seeds, in addition to animal feed products

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 Date: Monday, June 5, 2017 9:03:25 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology monitoring highlights included the release of an analysis on the benefits of GM crops and a new effort by the African Centre for Biodiversity to oppose the import of GM crops. In the United States, media previewed an Agriculture Department hearing on biotechnology regulations and a class-action lawsuit dealing with Syngenta's Viptera corn.

- PG Economics released its latest report on the global socio-economic and environmental impacts of GM crop use. The report found crop biotech has significantly reduced the environmental impact of agriculture over the last 20 years, as well as stimulating economic growth and helping to reduce poverty. The report was amplified on *Medium* by GMO Answers in a *Medium* piece on World Environment Day. **See more**
- *Politico* previewed the USDA's first of three listening on the rules governing biotech crop approvals, scheduled for tomorrow. Attendees will review proposed changes made by the Obama administration to reflect new forms of genetic engineering, as well as lower market barriers for products that don't pose risks. **See more** Among other U.S. developments, proceedings were set to begin today in the first of many lawsuits against Syngenta for its commercialization of Viptera in the U.S. before China approved the seed for import *Bloomberg* and *The Associated Press* previewed the case. **See more**
- The African Centre for Biodiversity published a report examining South Africa's import and export of GMOs, noting the implications of a drought on the country's maize exports. The NGO called on activists in Swaziland and Zimbabwe to follow up with their governments to ensure imported GMOs are milled properly and do not contaminate farmers' fields.. **See more.**

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North America

Commentary: BIO promotes U.S. launch of Food Evolution documentary (June 23); film explores pro and con sides of GMOs, how misinformation, confusion, fear used to overwhelm analysis

Commentary: Farmer's Daughter blog advises how to respond when a favorite product gets a "non-GMO" label; notes benefits of GMOs include "less pesticide use, increased yields, increased profits for farmers, targeted pest management, increased adoption of conservation tillage"

News release: As You Sow executive summary for "Roundup Revealed" report includes summary on IARC findings, the role of GM agriculture in driving glyphosate use, in contribution to weed resistance issues, and how pre-harvest uses of the chemical pose greater threats via pesticide residues; amplifies UN rapporteur report claiming pesticide-driven agriculture not necessary to meet world food demands

News: Bloomberg reports class action lawsuit by 7,000 Kansas farmers against Syngenta begins today; farmers in 14 additional states awaiting class certification decisions by Kansas judge; ADM and Cargill also accused Syngenta in separate lawsuits pending in Louisiana state court of allowing its seed to taint US corn; Syngenta asserts "its GMO seed wasn't responsible for price drops"

Commentary: Josie Peterson of Biotechnology Innovation Organization amplifies PG Economics' 2017 report, highlighting findings that biotech crop adoption has resulted in reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, reduced land use, and has enabled farmers to use conservation tillage practices

Commentary: Michael Stebbins of Council for Biotechnology Information writes GMO Answers post for Medium in honor of World Environment Day, amplifies PG Economics' 2017 report demonstrating positive impact of GMOs on the environment and the global economy

More North America items

Africa

Study: Researchers from China publish survey of Tanzanians in Journal of Animal and Plant Sciences to learn about public perceptions of GM foods in countries facing food shortages; findings suggest benefit perceptions might be precondition for supporting GM foods

News release: African Centre for Biodiversity issues alert regarding GMO exports to and from South Africa, highlighting increase in GM maize imports from the US due to recent drought, as well as South Africa's GM exports to Swaziland and Zimbabwe

Commentary: Tanzanian news outlet editorial praises Butiama Village women's groups promotion of ag biotech, highlighting Mikocheni Agricultural Institute's (MARI) development of disease-resistant cassava varieties

Report: African Centre for Biodiversity report examines export to and from South Africa of GMOs, highlighting recent increase in exports due to drought conditions, calls on activists in Swaziland and Zimbabwe to follow up with their governments to ensure imported GMOs are milled properly and do not contaminate farmers' fields, and to be wary of health risks

News: Reuters reports South Africa hopes to export 3.5 million ton maize surplus to Asian and Middle Eastern countries for animal feed after large yields lowered local prices; restrictions on GM maize imports in Africa forcing South Africa to look elsewhere

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Hindu reports National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, representing 650 of India's top ag scientists, calls for immediate release of GM mustard, saying biosafety and environmental concerns unfounded

News: Indonesian news site reports Governor Sri Sultan says government to invest in biotechnology research to improve food processing system; notes decreasing agricultural land with increasing population, importance of developing superior seeds, particularly for rice

News: Saudi Arabian news outlet reports Monsanto not allowed to work in Saudi market due to harm to human health from GM crops and because company did not complete country's required statutory procedures

Video: Seed Freedom amplifies Vandana Shiva's YouTube video denouncing Monsanto's damage to the environment and human health on World Environment Day, highlights start of campaign for the world to be poison-free by 2050

More Asia items

Europe

News: Portuguese news site reports Green Party to unveil package of environmental initiatives, including bills to extend label rules for GM foods, phase out agricultural glyphosate use, citing IARC

cancer warning

Interview: Italian policy-focused news outlet interviews pharmacology professor on Europe's refusal to accept science in decision making, hypocrisy of Italy's refusal to grow GM maize while importing it for animal feed, highlights data showing GM foods identical in nutritional value for less cost than organic

News: Le Monde reports on developments in CRISPR technology, highlighting DuPont Pioneer's innovations at its Iowa facility, highlights controversy surrounding association with GMOs, including concerns about IARC's review of glyphosate, as well as activists' concerns about recent Nature study demonstrating CRISPR's unintended mutations

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Mexican news site reports biosafety symposium on GMOs began today in Guadalajara; AgroBio Mexico president calls for science to be used as parameter for approvals of GMOs

News: Brazilian health-focused news outlet reports CRISPR-Cas9 gene-editing technology one method being examined to help country battle HLB in citrus; one researcher worries time from discovery to regulation could be too long

Interview: Bolivian news site talks with Probioma director about GMO crops, pesticide use; claims demand for non-GMO food rising; WHO, other studies show harm to human health from GMOs, pesticides; claims GMO seeds not capable of increasing crop yield

News: Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa) and Bahia Foundation announce launch of three new GM cotton varieties; products stand out because of "high productive potential" and are resistant to destructive caterpillars and glyphosate

News: Argentinian news site reports Del Monte will soon bring pink pineapples grown in Costa Rica, Hawaii to grocery stores with FDA permission to sell in the U.S.; pink pineapples have less of an enzyme that converts pink lycopene into yellow beta carotene

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

Commentary: GM Free Australia Alliance says it compiled GM-Free Shopping List to "celebrate the growing number of companies choosing to label their products GM-free or non-GM"; asks readers to "send us details" if favorite products not on list

Announcement: GM Free Australia Alliance highlights 2017 edition of its GM-Free Shopping List; spokesperson says latest edition acknowledges and promotes "growing list of brands whose GM-free status caters to consumers' right to choose non-GM foods"

[More Oceania items](#)

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More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

**Events
calendar**

See where news could be happening next. Or let allies know about an upcoming event.

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Try it free today

From: Jay Byrne
 To: Wray-Cohen, Diane - FAS
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - June 5, 2017
 Date: Monday, June 5, 2017 4:00:43 PM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

Is organic farming really better for your health and the environment? And are organic foods really worth the price?

In a series of five pieces in this week's newsletter, science communicators answer both of the questions above with a resounding, "NO!" Scroll down to read - and share - the articles from Steven Novella of the New England Skeptical Society, two writers with the American Council on Science and Health and Marc Bain of Quartz. Bjorn Lomborg of the Copenhagen Consensus Center also explores the issue in a video.

Other topics covered in this week's newsletter include GM mustard in India, the impact of the U.S. listing a bee as an endangered species and the anti-Monsanto bias of two *Le Monde* writers attacking glyphosate.

To view items on this newsletter, first log in to your profile on the [Bonus Eventus Community](#) page. If you have not yet created a Bonus Eventus account, simply [fill out the Request Membership form](#) on the front page of the site. To share articles, simply click on the Twitter icon.

Please [contact us](#) if you have any questions.

In This Issue

[Stakeholder Spotlight](#)
[Stories Worth Sharing](#)
[What's Trending?](#)
[Calendar highlights](#)

Stakeholder Spotlight: As You Sow



The shareholder action group As You Sow has been in the news recently for campaigns targeting animal antibiotic use, opposing GMOs and promoting regenerative, organic and agroecology food

■ Stories Worth Sharing

Steven Novella: Organic lobby's claims about health and environmental benefits "all demonstrably wrong"

Ruth Kava: Exempting organic pesticides from "Dirty Dozen" list another dishonest move by Environmental Working Group

Bjorn Lomborg: "Facts don't support" claims that organic food is healthier, better for the environment and worth premium price

Alex Berezow: Researchers from Germany, Sweden find organic farms use more land, have same carbon footprint as conventional

Quartz: Study finds organic cotton production uses more water, emits more greenhouse gases than GM cotton

The Indian Express: "Double standard" to long for latest tech in smartphones and cars while forcing farmers to use old methods

Paul Driessen: Bee's endangered species listing hindering development projects, federal agency "must nip this problem in the bud"

Kavin Senapathy: Non-GMO Project label "tells us absolutely nothing meaningful about a product or its ingredients"

systems over "industrial" production methods.

As You Sow has partnered with (including funding) groups including the Pesticide Action Network and the Maharishi Movement's Institute for Responsible Technology (Jeffrey Smith) to promote health risk claims linked to factory farms, commodity agriculture production, crop protection and biotechnology applications in food production.

On Tuesday, the NGO will team with the Center for Food Safety and Charles Benbrook to **release** "Roundup Revealed: Glyphosate in our Food System" report.

Learn more about As You Sow [HERE](#).

[CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES](#)

David Zaruk: With McCarthyesque tactics, Stéphane Horel of Le Monde shows she's an activist posing as a journalist [?](#)

John Masaba: Sub-Saharan countries should pay heed to study indicating climate change will impact production, plant GM crops [?](#)

Leah Doman: New York Times editorial provided "heartbreaking" level of misinformation about animal agriculture [?](#)

The Scottish Farmer: Even after Brexit, U.K. could be forced to follow EU rules on glyphosate, neonics that leave farming in "Dark Ages" [?](#)

Michelle Miller: Bette Midler's false claims about GMO seeds make her latest celebrity to misinform public about farming [?](#)

[CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING](#)

What's Trending?

Regulators dispute claims by IARC's Christopher Portier that data on glyphosate causing cancer was overlooked

Ecuador National Assembly votes to allow import of genetically modified seeds for research

U.S. activist groups urge supporters to submit comments to EPA opposing chlorpyrifos before Monday deadline

Nigerian government predicts food shortage of 5 million tons if armyworm outbreak is not addressed

Food Standards Australia New Zealand taking comments through July 7 on genetically modified potatoes

U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance issues "Agriculture in America Sustainability Report" on how farmers meet society's needs

Calendar highlights

June 5	June 6-7	June 6-13
United Nations World Environment Day	AgChem Summit 2017: Regulations for Biologicals	International Agency for Research on Cancer monograph meeting
June 6	June 6	June 7
As You Sow, Center for Food Safety, Charles Benbrook release report on glyphosate in food system	USDA Biotechnology Regulatory Services public hearing on gene edited crops	World Pork Expo in Des Moines, Iowa

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR](#)

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More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.

Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.

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From: Jay Byrne
 To: Wray-Cohen, Diane - FAS
 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - June 2-4, 2017
 Date: Sunday, June 4, 2017 9:02:30 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

This weekend's global biotechnology monitoring included scientists' reactions to a study published in *Nature Methods* that claims CRISPR gene editing causes hundreds of off-target mutations. Anti-biotech activists in Ecuador filed a lawsuit claiming changes to the country's seed law are unconstitutional. An Indiana farmer responded to singer Bette Midler's criticism of Monsanto's seed patent contracts.

- A geneticist and a biochemistry doctoral student critiqued a study published in the *Nature Methods* journal that claims CRISPR gene editing creates hundreds of unintended mutations. Geneticist Gaetan Burgio noted the experiment could have drastically reduced the number of off-target mutations in a number of ways. University of Washington biochemistry doctoral student Ian Haydon noted the study used unusual methods and there was an unusually high levels of enzyme activity. **See more.**
- After the Ecuadoran Assembly approved changes to the country's seed law that would allow biotechnology research, activists said they plan to file a lawsuit that will claim the law violates Ecuador's Constitution, which has a provision that the country is GMO-free. **See more.**
- Fourth-generation Indiana farmer Brian Scott responded to Midler's criticism of Monsanto's seed patent contracts, explaining that farmers agree with Monsanto's policies and profit from them -- which is why they buy seed from Monsanto. **See more.**

Reminder: to access the full text, archives and monitoring dashboard resources you need to log in to the **Bonus Eventus community portal** using your email address and personal password. Please contact us if you need any assistance or support.

For a more extensive compilation of recent biotech items, [click here](#).

North America

Commentary: Hank Campbell of American Council on Science and Health criticizes Whole Foods for posting lies about organic ag on its website, debunks Whole Foods' claims about organic pesticide use, notes conventional farmers care just as much about protecting human health and the environment

Commentary: Collective Evolution contributor begins series against Bill Nye's new Netflix show, with first article criticizing his episode on GMOs, claims GMOs have not been proven safe, links glyphosate to several health disorders

Commentary: Science teacher Stephan Neidenbach blogs that arguments that we already produce enough food to feed the world is not a reason oppose GMOs; notes GMOs would help Third World nations produce enough food to feed themselves rather than depending on aid

Commentary: USRTK's Gary Ruskin attacks Henry I. Miller, associating him with Phillip Morris and the tobacco industry, climate change denial, defending pesticides, and attacks on the organic industry

Commentary: Environmental Working Group writer claims regulations impacted by Trump risk food safety, healthiness including failure to draft a GM labeling law, a reversal of ban on pesticide allegedly linked to brain damage, dropping new rules to protect farm workers from pesticides

News: Southwest Farm Press reports Cotton Incorporated ag research head says cotton's effect on

environment continues to diminish, thanks largely to science and technology, including genetic engineering; adds biotechnology protects plants from insect damage, reduces energy consumption for cotton farmers

News: Business news site reports story claiming Melania Trump banned Monsanto products, GMOs from White House is fake news, says YourNewsWire is fake news site that plagiarized quotes from six-year-old Yes magazine article

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Nigerian news site reports ag minister holds emergency meeting with state ag commissioners to tackle spread of armyworms devastating country's maize farms; control formula using inorganic and organic chemicals being used to fight the pest

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) Director-General Rufus Ebegba's call for better collaboration between regulatory agencies and stakeholders, emphasizing importance of biotech in addressing emerging food security, social and economic challenges

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Saudi Arabian news sites report Ministry of Trade and Investment spokesman says the kingdom will not allow Monsanto to do business in Saudi Arabia

News: The Indian Express reports honey bee expert claims GM mustard will reduce bees' pollen, nectar collection due to reduction in flowering period, also will impact ability to produce non-GMO honey for export to EU, U.S.

News: The Hindu reports on opposition to GM mustard following GEAC approval, while many states have already rejected it, Karnataka has not yet begun the consultation process, Ag minister Krishna Byre Gowda noted they will consult scientists, biotech ministry, and the Chief Minister before taking a stance

News: Japanese news outlet reports on outdoor field trial of gene edited rice variety by National Agriculture and Food Research Organization, with goal of improving yield and grain size, it is not yet known whether Japan will classify the rice as GM, anti-GMO group Seikatsu-Club warned about cross contamination of other crops

News: Chinese news agency reports on EFSA publication of risk assessment guidance for infant foods, including regulation of pesticide residues

Commentary: Indian news site reviews debate surrounding approval of GM mustard, presents arguments in favor and against GMOs, criticizes GEAC for failing to adequately review safety of GM crops and related herbicides, concludes farmers should decide whether to grow GM crops

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: Politico Pro reports Luxembourg Parliament unanimously opposed approval for three GM maize crops, up to European Commission to make final decision

Commentary: Contributor for French anti-GMO NGO Inf'OGM argues recent Nature study demonstrating off-target mutations in mice modified with CRISPR-Cas9 is confirmation of Inf'OGM's previous articles on off-target effects of genetic modification, now republished with updated version

Review: Greenpeace Netherlands praises film "Well Fed" which revolves around GMOs; claims Greenpeace is not against biotechnology, but adopt precautionary principle "until it is sufficiently and

independently proven that a modified crop is also safe for humans, animals and the environment in the long term"

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Ecuadoran news site reports NGOs file lawsuit claiming revised seed law allowing biotech research violates constitutional provision that the country is GMO-free

News: Ecuadoran news site reports National Assembly approved entry of GM seeds into country for research by vote of 73 to 55, lawmaker who voted in favor said opposing knowledge and research is "a disservice to the country", opposition lawmaker said allowing entry is "unconstitutional"

News: Globo reports Mato Grosso State Soybean and Maize Producers Association believes 2017/2018 harvest may be at least 15 percent non-GMO grain compared to current 10 percent, due to price differentials

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian bioethics news site reports on recent Nature study led by Columbia University Medical Center researchers which found that CRISPR can introduce hundreds of unintended mutations in mice, co-author Stephen Tsang emphasized importance of using whole genome sequencing to find off-target effects

More Oceania items

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More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.

Events calendar

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From: Jay Byrne
 To: Wray-Cohen, Diane - FAS
 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - June 1, 2017
 Date: Thursday, June 1, 2017 9:01 07 PM

FAST ACCESS: MONITORING \ STAKEHOLDERS \ COMMUNITY

Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology monitoring included the Grocery Manufacturers Association requesting to push the Nutrition Facts label deadline back to May 2021, saying it would save industry money. Vandana Shiva asked Argentina's Supreme Court to hold a public hearing on GMOs.

- *Politico* reported the GMA asked for a delay in the Nutrition Facts label deadline to coordinate with the GMO disclosure standard, arguing it would save the industry about \$1.7 billion. [See more.](#)
- An Argentine news site reported Vandana Shiva appeared before the Supreme Court in the NGO Nature of Rights' lawsuit against Monsanto to prohibit the company's Roundup Ready 2 soybean. Shiva asked the court for a public hearing to allow independent experts to testify. [See more.](#)
- The Organic Consumers Association's weekly newsletter promoted the organization's Regenerate campaign, asking readers to boycott Scott's Miracle Gro because it is the leading distributor of Roundup in the United States and partnered with Monsanto to distribute genetically engineered grass seed. [See more.](#)

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North America

[Commentary: Canadian science blogger criticizes social media coverage of recent Nature study on unintended effects of CRISPR in mice, notes the findings simply demonstrate that more work is needed on the technology, notes anti-GMO activists have a twisted interpretation of the study](#)

[Commentary: "Farm Babe" Michelle Miller writes for Genetic Literacy Project, criticizing Bette Midler's recent criticism of Monsanto seed patent contracts on Twitter, praises responses from farming community, where farmers explained the wide range of choices they have, and explained why saving seeds is not idea](#)

[Announcement: GMO Free Kauai holding action meeting June 14 to grow its volunteer base and form smaller action committees; potential committees include GMO Free restaurant campaign and testing water/air for pesticides](#)

[Commentary: Biotech researcher Belinda Martineau posts response to Robb Fraley's recent Huffington Post piece on Bill Nye on her personal blog, echoing Fred Gould of NAS' GMO committee's opinion that Seralini's GM rat study should not have been retracted, argues Seralini's research demonstrates there are still unknown effects of GMOs](#)

[Commentary: PythagoreanCrank vegan blogger lobbies to end "GMO" term, says it isn't a scientific term, attracts conspiracy theorists](#)

[More North America items](#)

Africa

Commentary: Dr. Sylvester Oikeh writes CropLife International blog post highlighting policy changes in several African countries allowing biotech crop research and commercialization; examples include Ethiopia's Bt cotton trials and trials of Bt maize in Mozambique; says home-grown products "crucial in promoting biotechnology crops as a solution to Africa's food insecurity challenge"

Study: African Journals Online publishes findings by University of Arkansas, Agricultural Commodity Exchange researchers showing Ghanaians perceive cisgenic as different than GM rice, but not different than transgenic; researchers recommend government educate citizens about GM, different GM products to improve consumer acceptance

Commentary: CLI-supported Endocrine Science Matters publishes op-ed by CropLife Africa Middle East's Stella Simiyu discussing dangers of politics trumping science; claims passage of EDC criteria would further diminish "already small crop protection toolbox in Africa," result in trade losses

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

Study: AgBioForum publishes study by Colorado State University researcher suggesting Japanese government engage stakeholders such as scientists, farmers and consumer organizations on GM technology R&D and GM applications

Commentary: Indian Express columnist portrays debate over acceptance of GM mustard in India as "us" versus "them" philosophy with consumers hypocritically desiring latest electronic technology but forcing farmers to use traditional methods, despite country's GM rapeseed and canola oil imports; safety of GM crops highlighted

News: Indian economy news outlet reports on challenges ahead for GM mustard following Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) approval, highlights farmers' hope for commercialization to help increase yields, and concern about activists' opposition, scientists are concerned as well

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Commentary: Risk Monger David Zaruk criticizes Le Monde journalists' anti-Monsanto bias, prejudice against biotech and pesticides without considering how ban would affect farmers; and reprinting answers to Stephane Horel's "neo-McCarthyist inquisition" questions; adds that if Horel were his journalism student, she would fail

News: Reuters reports new French farm minister wants to see scientific evidence before making decision on EU license for glyphosate or expanding GM crop cultivation; minister says "if there is a proven risk, I think it is right to ban some products"

Commentary: Coldiretti notes World Biodiversity Day by noting Italy has lost 6,000 varieties of fruit in a century, but claims it made strides by banning GMOs to protect biodiversity

Study: European Food Safety Authority publishes review of previous EFSA conclusions on risk assessment of GM maize NK603, researchers conclude the previous conclusions "remain valid and applicable"

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Cuban news site reports during food sovereignty exhibition in Mexico, Union of Scientists Committed to Society president claims transgenics harm environment, human health and culture

News: Ecuadoran news site reports legislature will debate president's partial veto of seed law, which would change the law to allow biotech research; anti-biotech groups, politicians say they oppose

allowing biotech research in Ecuador, saying it will cause "extinction of native seeds"

News: Ecuadoran news site reports NGO Free Transgenic Ecuador Collective claims presidential veto of seed bill violates Ecuador's Constitution, which establishes that the country is free of GMOs; Assembly member says if country grows only ancestral seeds, it will not be competitive in global market

More Latin America items

Oceania

There were no noteworthy biotechnology developments in Oceania during today's monitoring. Click the link below for the latest items.

More Oceania items

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