

From: Jay Byrne
 To: Diane Wray-Cohen@fas.usda.gov
 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Aug. 30, 2018
 Date: Thursday, August 30, 2018 9:02 52 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 reports on debates regarding proposed changes to Argentina's seed law. World Food Prize officials announced the winner of the Norman Borlaug Award.

- Argentine news sites reported the Parliament's agricultural committee will begin debating proposed changes to the nation's seed law on Friday. The modifications would help protect intellectual property regarding seed innovation. Alejandro Munoz, Corteva's commercial vice president for Latin America, said he's been encouraged by discussions so far. [See more](#)
- At the Sustainable Development Goals Conference in the Netherlands, World Food Prize officials announced U.S. Department of Agriculture researcher Matthew Rouse will receive the Norman Borlaug Award for Field Research and Application. A news release from the organization noted Rouse's work in fighting the stem rust pathogen that affects wheat and barley crops. [See more](#)

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North America

Commentary: Washington Examiner investigative journalist Kevin Mooney claims Non-GMO project linked to bizarre "Maharishi cult" exerting control over food labels with misleading claims in violation of FDA, FTC, and USDA rules

News: Farm Journal's Pork examines pork industry response to growth of plant-based proteins, noting traditional meat producing groups are asking government to regulate lab-grown alternatives.

Commentary: Florida Grower editor Frank Giles writes for Growing Produce, points out irony in EU Court ruling on gene-edited crops, notes it favors large corporations that anti-GMO activists oppose, hopes Europe will follow the science

News: Farms.com reports on agricultural details of U.S.-Mexico trade deal, including provision to further biotechnology information exchange including gene editing, American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) President Zippy Duval hopes Canada will join

News: Science magazine reports researchers from the State University of New York plan to formally ask US regulators for approval to breed GE trees with their nonengineered relatives in order to save the American chestnut tree; notes if regulators approve the request, it would be "precedent setting" - the first use of a GM tree to try to restore a native species in North America

[More North America items](#)

Africa

Commentary: Rose Gidado of Open Forum for Biotechnology writes for Nigeria's The Guardian, declares victory in authorizations for Bt cotton, explains why Health of Mother Earth Foundation's arguments are

not science-based

News: Kenya's Business Daily reports on U.S. State Department trade-policy specialist Peter Haas' recent visit to Africa to promote government acceptance of GE crops in various countries, Haas described Ethiopia as a leader in African biotech crop adoption

News: Nigeria's Independent reports on Network of Entrepreneurial Women (NNEW) - Lagos Agribusiness Conference, stakeholders agreed that without agricultural innovation it will be impossible to ensure food security and increase youth participation

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

Commentary: Xavier Symons of Australia's BioEdge examines criticism surrounding Japanese Environment Ministry's recommendation that some gene editing methods be exempt from regulations, Consumers Union of Japan's Michiyo Koketsu questioned safety

Commentary: Third World Network amplifies Friends of the Earth's report on lab-grown meat, highlighting claims that lab-grown meat products have not been proven safe or sustainable, and criticism of lack of transparency

Commentary: Tu Van of Vietnam's Tinh Hoa amplifies Environmental Working Group report claiming that GMOs are not needed to feed the world and that using GM crops for animal feed is not sustainable

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Commentary: Telegraph contributor says lab-grown meat could alleviate increasing demand for food; notes it needs a fraction of as much land, will produce significantly lower levels of greenhouse gas emissions while "providing a cheaper, safer, healthier product"

News: Irish ag news outlet reports on growing investments in gene editing technologies in the U.S., while EU Court rules gene edited crops must be regulated as GMOs, researcher Barbara Doyle Prestwich noted the ruling will stymie research in Europe

News: U.K. news outlet reports on Adam Smith Institute's assessment that lab-grown meat has potential to improve environmental sustainability of production, noting a shift away from meat industry would reduce emissions by 96 percent and land use by 99 percent

Commentary: Swiss anti-GMO NGO Schweizer Allianz Gentechfrei amplifies three studies linking CRISPR-Cas9 and cancer risk, argues they raise doubts as to whether therapeutic applications of CRISPR-Cas9 are feasible in human medicine

News release: Germany's Bioeconomy Council calls on EU politicians to modernize the genetic engineering law in light of EU Court's ruling on gene edited crops, Council co-chair Christine Lang pointed to many beneficial breakthroughs possible using CRISPR

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Argentina's La Nacion reports Corteva Latin America commercial vice president Alejandro Munoz is encouraged by discussions on the Seed Law, highlighting plans to sell new soybean technology once an agreement is reached and Chinese approval is secured

Commentary: Writing for Costa Rican news source, University of Costa Rica professor says transgenic crops have failed, pose health risks, suggesting ag industry orchestrates propaganda campaign to hide GMO unfulfilled promises

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: GE-Free New Zealand promotes Jonathan Latham New Zealand speaking tour (Sept. 1-9) discussing politics around GE technologies, industry influences conflict with precautionary principle

More Oceania items

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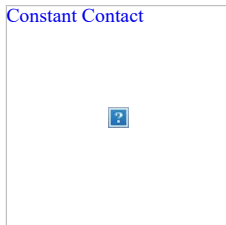
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Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included amplification of an activist letter criticizing India's oversight of GMO seed sales. In the U.S., the state of Missouri passed a law restricting the use of "meat" labels on plant-based and lab-grown foods.

- In a letter to the prime minister published Tuesday, Vandana Shiva urged the government to stop the illegal importation of GM foods. Shiva also warned that the illegal cultivation of herbicide-tolerant cotton was risking the health of farmers and consumers. *Indo-Asian News Service* amplified the statement, as did India's *The Tribune*; the latter noted that Shiva and other food activists would unveil a "People's Manifesto" on food sovereignty this World Food Day (Oct. 16). **See more**
- U.S. news outlets reported that Missouri passed a new law mandating that plant-based meat substitutes and lab-grown proteins not be labeled as "meat." Several news reports noted that federal regulators and commercial groups were hotly debating how to regulate lab-grown proteins and other synthetic biology products. Missouri's chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, the Good Food Institute and others announced a legal challenge to the law. **See more**

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North America

News: US media outlets report Missouri becomes first state to prohibit calling plant-based meat alternative "meat" on labeling; USA Today notes similar argument taking place on national level

Commentary: Gizmodo reporter notes Missouri excludes cultured, plant-based meat from using "meat" on labels; Finless Foods CEO says meat industry fighting environmental progress, reporter says it's hard to justify claim that cultured meat is different than meat from livestock

Announcement: The Good Food Institute, ACLU, Animal Legal Defense Fund, Tofurkey file suit against Missouri to protest ban on using "meat" on labels of food not from livestock, says state is favoring meat producers and infringes First Amendment rights

Commentary: Farm Babe blogger Michelle Miller about her speech at International Association for Plant Biotechnology Congress in Dublin, notes Irish farmers must spray potato crops many times with toxic fungicide due to blight disease even though a GM potato is highly resistant to the disease

News: Voice of America reports sweeping US-Mexico trade deal will keep tariffs on agricultural products traded between the two countries at zero and "seeks to support biotech" as well as other agriculture innovations

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Nigerian news site reports U.S. to start free trade agreements with African countries, official says U.S. to discuss biotech's promise for ag, health, other sectors

Commentary: Nkechi Isaac of Nigeria's Leadership profiles Patience Koku of Replenish Farms, who will represent Nigeria at the upcoming World Food Prize and Borlaug International Dialogue in October, Koku hopes Nigerian farmers will soon have access to GM crops

Event: Ghanaian news site reports journalist will speak Aug. 29 at inaugural Bio Africa Convention

Commentary: Joseph Opoku Gakpo of Cornell Alliance for Science examines former leader of Ghana's Peasant Farmers' Association, Mohammed Adams Nasiru's change in opinion on GMOs, after he received accurate information from the scientific community

News: Portugal's Lusa reports Guinean NGO Tiniguena voices concerns about multinationals' acquisition of large areas of arable land to grow GM crops, arguing it will put peasant agriculture at risk

Announcement: Tanzania's Sokoine University of Agriculture announces SUDAMEDIA journalist Calvin Edward Gwabara is overall winner of Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology's (COSTECH) 2018 Agricultural Biotechnology Journalism Awards

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Indo-Asian News Service reports on letter from Vandana Shiva urging India's Prime Minister to block illegal GM imports, herbicide-tolerant cotton seeds; adds Monsanto should be prosecuted for selling ineffective cottonseed

News: Indian news site reports Vandana Shiva, other activists urge Prime Minister Modi to ban "illegal GMO imports," claim GMOs threaten India's legal framework, farmers' livelihoods, public health, democracy; notes Anna Swaraj movement preparing "people's manifesto" for the future of food in India

News: Times of India reports criminal cases filed against 4 seed companies, including Bayer Crop Sciences, for selling Bt cotton seed alleged to resist pink bollworm, but farmers says the resistance claims are bogus; complaints are backed by Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghantana activists

News: India's Mongabay reports on Maharashtra cotton farmers' struggles to control pink bollworm, highlights resistance to Bt cotton, former Central Institute for Cotton Research director K.R. Kranthi warned about creating an "insecticide resistant monster"

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Commentary: GMWatch's Claire Robinson says GMO lobby's legal experts say only way to exempt new breeding techniques from GMO rules is to change the legislation

Commentary: Der Tagesspiegel reports that local biologist notes European Court of Justice's NBT ruling could mean Germany misses out on biological revolution; says Germany's Bioeconomy Council (Bioökonomierat) appealing to federal gov't to rewrite German and EU law

Commentary: EU law, intellectual property specialists write for New Breeding Techniques Platform, note EU Court of Justice ruling on NBTs in line with case law but note new legislation could modify the GMO directive

News: French newspaper reports Hulot pushed through GMO labeling law, extension of neonic ban, but disappointed by failure to ban glyphosate, pass legislation to preserve biodiversity, slow climate change

Commentary: Anthropologist, freelance journalist says EU's stance against GMOs, gene editing is immoral policy, keeps small holder African farmers from earning a decent living, notes those with abundance of food have "luxury of anti-science dogma"

[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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 Date: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 9:00:50 PM

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Today's global biotechnology developments included significant U.S. and European commentary on the European Court of Justice decision affecting new plant breeding techniques (NBTs).

- European news outlets *Novethic* and *European Scientist* published commentary reviewing the implications of the EU court's decision regulating NBTs. *Novethic* editorial writer Marina Fabre said the decision stymied seed company ambitions and called for the European Commission to solidify laws on the techniques. In a contrary opinion, *European Scientist's* editor-in-chief highlighted renewed activity from the anti-biotechnology group Faucheurs Volontaires (Volunteer Reapers) and said the court's decision blocked crucial science and encouraged a new round of anti-GMO debate. [See more](#)
- U.S. media outlets also published commentary on the decision. *Investor's Business Daily* carried commentary from researchers Henry I. Miller and Drew Kershen criticizing the legal framework for the EU court's decision and noting the potential negative consequences. Genetic Literacy Project contributor Andrew Porterfield, meanwhile, highlighted how gene-edited crops could benefit the environment by reducing food waste. An editorial in *Bloomberg* criticized the European approach to NBTs, adding that U.S. regulations were equally unsatisfactory, and called for a product-based regulatory assessment. [See more](#)

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North America

[Commentary: University of Oklahoma College of Law professor emeritus Drew Kershen and Henry Miller of Stanford's Hoover Institution write for Investor's Business Daily, explain why EU Court's ruling on gene edited crops does not make sense from a legal standpoint](#)

[Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Andrew Porterfield examines ways in which CRISPR can help reduce food waste, highlighting J.R. Simplot's licensing of CRISPR-Cas9 technology from Corteva and the Broad Institute to increase shelf life of fruits and vegetables](#)

[Commentary: Bloomberg editorial believes both Europe and the U.S. are misguided in their approaches to regulating gene-edited crops, noting EU policy stifles innovation while U.S. policy does nothing to reassure a concerned public, calls for more nuanced approach](#)

[Commentary: Alex Berezow of American Council on Science and Health examines Russia's attacks on American science literacy, highlighting RT's collusion with anti-GMO activists like Gary Ruskin of U.S. Right to Know](#)

[News release: Montana Farm Bureau says it's pleased at progress in NAFTA renegotiations, welcoming preliminary agreement between the U.S. and Mexico; Montana Farm Bureau's Nicole Rolf looks forward to policies regarding biotech that will be more fair for American farmers](#)

[More North America items](#)

Africa

Report: Report in Trends in Biotechnology examines how CRISPR can benefit public health, medicine, and agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa, highlighting potential applications and providing recommendations for successful implementation

News: Ghana News Agency reports two of its journalists, Prosper Kwame Kuorsoh and Philip Bagyiliko Tengzu, win awards at Open Forum for Agricultural Biotechnology (OFAB) Ghana National Media Awards 2018

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News release: Seed Freedom announces Vandana Shiva and Mohini Giri write letter to Indian Prime Minister Modi on illegal GMO imports, illegal cultivation of Roundup Ready Bt cotton and imports of Roundup laced pulses, pointing to U.S. Roundup litigation

News release: Forum of Indian Food Importers (FIFI) calls for more training and education to increase acceptance of biotech, noting spread of pseudoscience is hindering adoption of technologies needed to save water and boost food security

News: Philippines news outlet reports on annual State of the Nature Assessment (Green SONA) organized by Green Convergence, with the theme "Environmental monsters are back; Superheroes needed!," topics included dangers posed by GMOs

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Commentary: European Scientist Editor-In-Chief Jean-Paul Oury criticizes EU Court decision to regulate gene-edited crops as GMOs, notes that if Europe does not embrace technologies, other countries will step in to reap benefits of development and advancement

Commentary: Marina Fabre of France's Novethic welcomes EU Court ruling on products of gene editing, notes so-called "hidden GMOs" must now undergo the same assessment and labeling requirements, describes it as a blow to big agribusiness

Commentary: Matthias Bröker writes for Germany's Top Agrar, examines fear surrounding genetic engineering, believes many people measure it with double standards (subscription required)

News: Swiss news agency reports on initiative "For Food Sovereignty," highlighting its goals of boosting indigenous agricultural and promoting fair prices, while also banning GMOs, highlights opposition from the Federal Council

Commentary: IFOAM's Organic Without Boundaries blog features guest post by Lucille Ortiz of Philippine anti-GMO NGO MASIPAG, highlights efforts to free small-scale farmers from GMOs, pesticides and fertilizers and associated debt

News: Italy's Messaggero Veneto reports farmer Giorgio Fidenato faces 50,000 Euros in fines for planting GM corn, Fidenato indicated his plans to sue the state, and to put a preliminary question before the EU Court of Justice

Video: International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) posts short video on the International Symposium on Plant Mutation Breeding and Biotechnology, where over 400 experts from around the world will participate in discussion on potential to improve yield and quality

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: El Economista reports that UN Human Rights Commission Representative in Mexico reiterates demand that government consult with indigenous groups on development projects, highlights missteps in commercializing GM soy

Commentary: Victor M. Toledo writes opinion piece for Mexico's La Jornada, claims neoliberalism has co-opted environmentalism, criticizing promotion of technological solutions, globalization and dominance of corporations

Commentary: Professor at Costa Rica's Distance State University (UNED) writes for local news outlet, claims history of transgenic crops demonstrates their failure, claims they pose unpredictable risks, voices opposition to ag industry consolidation

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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 Date: Monday, August 27, 2018 9:02:23 PM

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Today's global biotechnology developments included news that a French activist group had broken into and blockaded a warehouse owned by agricultural company Triskalia.

- The French activist group Faucheurs Volontaires (Volunteer Reapers) announced that it had invaded a Triskalia warehouse in Côtes-d'Armor, demanding a "citizen inspection" of the company's pesticides and seed safety policies; the wide-ranging statement also criticized France's commercialization of mutagenesis-derived crops resistant to herbicides. In a new tactic, the activists accused Triskalia of contributing to deforestation and poor animal health by selling imported GM soy from South America. [See more](#)
- The inaugural BIO Africa Convention, organized by AfricaBIO, opened today in Durban, South Africa, and will run through Wednesday. Activist groups Biowatch South Africa and the African Centre for Biodiversity released a statement criticizing the event, claiming that the "Open for Business" theme encourages the exploitation of local biodiversity and excludes indigenous communities. [See more](#)
- In a statement highlighting the newly announced U.S.-Mexico free trade agreement, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue specifically noted that the deal includes policies on agricultural biotechnology to "keep up with 21st Century innovations." [See more](#)

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North America

News release: USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue issues statement praising President Trump for delivering on promise to renegotiate NAFTA, noting deal specifically addresses ag biotech to keep up with modern innovations

News: Gizmodo's Ian Graber-Stiehl examines how "bogus, eco-friendly" products trick consumers, explains organic doesn't mean pesticide-free, points out GMOs are sometimes modified in ways that require fewer pesticides

Video: Canada-based Know Ideas Media criticizes EU Court decision to regulate CRISPR as it does GMO crops, says it will adversely impact Africa, other regions; quotes David Zaruk who blames Commission for 'lack of courage'

Commentary: Jayson Lusk amplifies Ellyn Satter's 2007 article on hierarchy of food needs, describes his own updated version, in which as wealth increases, society cannot be expected to agree on primary food objectives, highlights knowledge gap on GMOs

Interview: In discussion with Forbes contributor, regional director for CIAT Africa expresses excitement about the impact of gene editing techniques on the future of plant breeding

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News release: African anti-GMO groups led by Biowatch South Africa and African Centre for Biodiversity issue statement of opposition to BIO Africa Convention, claims stakeholders whose resources and knowledge will be exploited are excluded

News: South Africa's IOL reports on Inaugural BIO Africa Convention in Durban (Aug. 27-29), hosted by Department of Science and Technology and bringing together a wide range of major biotech stakeholders from across the globe, to facilitate strategic collaborations

Report: Nigeria's National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) publishes an information manual, outlining NBMA's mandate and mission, and ways in which it serves to address potential adverse impacts of GMOs on human health and the environment

News: Nigeria's The Nation reports on food microbiology professor Ezekiel Tejumola Otunola's statement on sidelines of lecture at Ladoko Akintola University of Technology, he called for development of a bio-based economy and heavy investment in biotech

News: The Guardian (Nigeria) reports on success of two GM cotton field trials, Rose M. Gidado of National Biotechnology Development Agency (NBDA) noted its potential of being adopted in all cotton growing zones of the country, with maturity of 150 to 160 days

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

Announcement: Convention on Biological Diversity announces completion of first national workshop on Biosafety Clearing House under UNEP-GEF project for sustainable capacity building for effective participation in the BCH (BCH III) in Maldives

News: India news source reports local Union Minister for Women and Child Development favors the promotion of lab-grown 'clean' meat instead of its traditional counterpart, citing religious views on cows

News: Times of India reports 'desperate' farmers in the western part of the country are spraying rat poison to kill pink bollworm; says bollworm issue is linked with the failure of genetically modified Bt cotton seeds

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: France's Le Telegramme reports on Volunteer Reapers' action blocking the entrance to Triskalia's facility in Glomel, in opposition to marketing of industrial ag chemicals, GM soy from the U.S., and herbicide-tolerant seeds recognized as GMOs by EU Court

News release: French NGO Volunteer Reapers announces its action to entrance to Triskalia's factory in Glomel to conduct a citizen inspection, voicing opposition to sale of products containing GM soy from the U.S., as well as herbicide-tolerant seeds

Announcement: International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) previews upcoming 12th European Organic Congress from Sept. 25-26, with the focus on new EU proposal on unfair trading practices in food and farming

Commentary: Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech - ULege plant biology professor and EFSA GMO Panel member Patrick du Jardin writes for Belgium's La Libre, believes EU Court ruling on gene edited crops will hinder Europe's efforts to combat effects of climate change

Commentary: Esther Samper writes for Spain's El Diario, points out similarities between the environmental movement and a religion, criticizes opposition to glyphosate and CRISPR, noting environmentalists ignore the science on these issues

News: German ag news outlet reports on Federal Gov't response demonstrating that anti-GMO group Testbiotech is supported by taxpayer money in its Specialist Center for Genetic Engineering and the

Environment project

Commentary: Germany's Transparenz Gentechnik examines implications of deal reached between EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and Donald Trump on U.S. soybean imports, notes it will increase amount of GE material in animal feed

News: Italy's La Stampa reports on Ministry of Health report which found that Italian rice, especially in Vercelli and Novara, is GMO free, National Risi Board president Paolo Carrà noted need for swift conclusion of the investigation on the safeguard clause for imports

News: Switzerland's Aargauer Zeitung reports on recent debate over the Food Sovereignty initiative, SVP politician and farmer Martin Schuler argued it would hinder farmers' innovation, Ulrike Minkner of Alliance for Food Sovereignty does not believe prices will rise

News: Swiss news outlet reports on the popular initiative "For Food Sovereignty," highlighting its aim to strengthen local agriculture and ban GMOs, outlines arguments both for and against it, reports National Council, Council of States and Federal Council reject it

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Mexico's Vanguardia reports on researcher Bram Govaerts' call on gov't not to demonize GM corn, calling for a expert review on whether it is important for Mexico, he noted GM corn can be appropriate in certain situations, such as mitigating drought in Africa

News: La Jornada Maya reports on National Union of Autonomous Regional Peasant Organizations (Unorca) Yucatan state coordinator Pablo Duarte Sánchez's assessment that ag entrepreneurs give farmers GM seeds and chemicals that impact the environment, notes policy favors entrepreneurs over producers

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

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From: Jay Byrne
 To: Diane.Wray-Cohen@fas.usda.gov
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Aug. 27, 2018
 Date: Monday, August 27, 2018 4:11:33 PM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

When a California jury ruled in favor of a school groundskeeper who claimed his cancer was caused by glyphosate, the Environmental Working Group was ready. It rushed out a report claiming that glyphosate contaminates various breakfast foods, ignoring that the chemical was found at levels deemed safe by regulators and instead making up its own safety thresholds.

The tactic caught the attention of U.S. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-New York), who asked the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to release data on its testing of food for glyphosate. However, [Angela Logomasini](#) of the Competitive Enterprise Institute and [Amanda Zaluckyj](#), author of The Farmer's Daughter USA blog, argued that Schumer is making the wrong move by lending credence to EWG's fearmongering.

Other items in this week's newsletter include responses to a German proposal that would put an anti-biotech group in charge of reviewing risk assessments and Canada's plan to phase out uses of neonics. Plus, several articles examine misleading food labels.

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In This Issue

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Stakeholder Spotlight: Environmental Working Group



In the news this week for anti-glyphosate campaigns coordinated with litigators, the

Stories Worth Sharing

[David Zaruk: "Insane" German plan calls for tax on biotech products to fund NGO-led precautionary risk assessments](#)

[Eoin Lettice and Barbara Doyle Prestwich: EU court, Irish government stances on biotech "doomed to repeat the failures of the past"](#)

[Ed White: Canadian regulators rushing to ban neonics based on "weak and partial" data](#)

[Jennie Schmidt: Perceptions that GMO agriculture overuses pesticides and organic farming uses none both wrong](#)

[Jens Sundström and Torbjörn Fagerström: NGO-influenced EU decision on gene editing latest to "lack scientific foundation"](#)

[Carrie Vollmer Sanders: Not all food labels are created equal](#)

[Carol Reese: Quarter-century of research finds "no difference in food safety for GM and non GM crops"](#)

[Stephan Neidenbach: Anti-GMO movement can't decide what qualifies as a GMO](#)

Environmental Working Group (EWG) is well known as a promoter of organic products and earns that label in part by issuing its annual "Dirty Dozen" reports complaining about "hidden" pesticides in foods.

EWG also houses and staffs an organic industry-funded lobby arm known as the Organic Voices Action Fund whose campaigns include "Just Label It" and "Only Organic."

Environmental Working Group's most recent tactic involved piggybacking on the California glyphosate cancer verdict by releasing a [report claiming many cereal products are contaminated with the herbicide](#).

Click here to [LEARN MORE](#) about Environmental Working Group.

[CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES](#)

[Michele Payn: "Food bullying has become ridiculous" with misleading labels used only to make products more attractive](#)

[Erik Frykberg: Industry group estimates New Zealand neonic ban would result in \\$1.2B in farm production losses](#)

[Henry Miller: Non-GMO Project labels just another variation on selling snake oil](#)

[CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING](#)

What's Trending?

[Brazilian prosecutor files suit seeking to block commercial release of three GM maize varieties / Ruling pending on glyphosate ban](#)

[Switzerland Federal Council rejects initiative to outlaw synthetic pesticides](#)

[Canadian plan to phase out neonics brings questions about what farmers will use instead](#)

[Following destruction of GM sunflower field, Volunteer Reapers host general assembly and block French factory entrance](#)

Calendar highlights

August 27-31	August 29	August 29
FAO/IAEA International Symposium on Plant Mutation Breeding and Biotechnology	University of Florida town hall on pesticides and health	Jonathan Latham participates in Melbourne, Australia, forum on agroecology
August 30	August 30-31	August 31-Sept. 2
EU Parliament meeting of the special committee on authorization procedures for pesticides	Ghent University conference - "Scientific innovation for a sustainable development of African agriculture"	"Learning from the Bees" conference

[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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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included:

- Origin Agritech announced the company began cooperative programs with other seed suppliers to incorporate Origin's GMO traits in their seed varieties. Origin CEO James Chen said the agreement is a significant step toward GM crop commercialization in China. The company's news release also indicated that crackdowns on illegal GMO seeds produced by several high-profile seed providers also "pave the way for full commercialization." [See more](#)
- Brazil's biotech regulatory agency, Embrapa, announced the country developed its first long-fiber cotton variety, which includes the Bollgard II Roundup Ready Flex trait. The textile industry considers the 32 mm fiber length ideal to manufacture clothing, according to an Embrapa news release. [See more](#)

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

North America

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Jon Entine rebuts comedian John Oliver's report on his HBO program accusing American Council on Science and Health of being "astroturf" group; Entine points out ACSH discloses its funding sources, while Oliver's producer used piece from U.S. Right to Know as source for report

News: New Food Economy reports North American Meat Institute and lab-grown meat company Memphis Meats jointly appeal to White House to assign regulatory responsibility for alternative meats, agree to call it "cell-based meat and poultry products"

Commentary: Medium blog post by Nature Conservancy nutrient strategy manager says many label claims are not certified, open to interpretation, contends non-GMO could be put on nearly all foods, while non-GE label on anything other than the few foods that have GE varieties is false advertising

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science posts blog by Mark Lynas amplifying new study showing Russian-linked trolls, social media bots promoting misinformation on vaccines; Lynas notes research follows earlier reports that Russian-owned media sites among those that promoted anti-GMO stories and memes

Campaign: ETC Group updates "Too Big to Feed" attack on "corporate" agriculture; alleges big data, consolidation, GMOs, pesticides, antibiotics, hormones and other ills associated with conventional production threaten global food security

News: The Western Producer questions if Bayer's stock price drop is just the beginning after initial lawsuit against Monsanto's Roundup; notes more lawsuits on horizon may keep investors away, negating Bayer's reason for Monsanto purchase - to help fund expensive research; professor says company may have misjudged damage to Monsanto brand

News: The Western Producer predicting 25 percent increase in non-GMO soybean acreage as Canada

expands exports to China because of U.S.-China trade war

More North America items

Africa

News: Ugandan news site reports the country's cotton production is declining because as its neighbors turn to Bt cotton to increase production and cut cultivation costs, Ugandan farmers turn to alternative crops to avoid high cost of raising non-GMO cotton because lack of biosafety bill prevents country from adopting GM cotton

More Africa items

Asia

News release: Beijing-based Origin Agritech announces agreements with other Chinese seed suppliers to integrate its GMO traits in seeds, calls it step towards commercialization in China; says crackdown on illegal GM seeds from several high profile seed suppliers helps gov't move towards full biotech commercialization

News: China News Service reports Chinese farmers growing soy to help offset price increase for imported soy due to trade war with U.S., notes price is key to success; claims studies show GM soy is linked to health concerns

Commentary: Cancer research analyst notes EU and U.S. opposing philosophies in regulating gene-editing technology, says India should set its own framework, but should not regulate gene editing as GMOs as it would take it out of the genetic editing race, which holds key to development

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Risk Monger David Zaruk notes German officials discussing tax on biotech products to fund "precautionary risk research" that would replace risk assessment, while the panel is overseen by anti-biotech NGOs; calls the situation "insane," says public would pay for "self-appointed zealots and ideologues" to ban any innovation they don't like

Commentary: German science blogger notes anti-technology rears its head in Center for Environmental and Genetic Engineering, paid for by tax dollars and run by anti-biotech NGO Testbiotech, want biotech companies to fund biotech research guided by the anti-biotech NGOs; notes anti-technology NGOs rely on scare tactics, irrationality, rejection of science

News: Agencia EFE reports CRISPR-Cas technique developer Francis Mojica sees EU court decision on NBTs as bad news, says it may cause biotech companies to leave EU; also sees EU's low level investment in ag research to be large problem

News: Irish agricultural news site reports scientist says EU court decision on NBTs will put Europe in "dark ages of technology" by discouraging research, says spurious claims from sources that are not independent led to court's decision

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Mexican news site reports President-elect Lopez Obrador announced Victor Suarez Carrera as undersecretary of Food Self-Sufficiency, calls Carrera an enemy of transnationals such as Monsanto, says he is dedicated to helping smallholder farmers and making Mexico self-sufficient regarding

News release: Brazil's regulatory agency Embrapa announces TV event to focus on Brazil's first GM long-fiber cotton variety; says the long fiber is considered ideal in textile industry; notes it is part of launch

that includes other varieties, all containing Bollgard II Roundup Ready Flex technology

Commentary: Guatemalan news site columnist claims GM food is high risk to health, says Monsanto and public officials attempt to pass new seed law that columnist says would give the company control over the country's seeds; notes Monsanto's seeds are herbicide-tolerant and the herbicides create resistant weeds

News: Argentine news site reports GM potato developed in Argentina approved for commercialization by Ministry of Agriculture; says potato is safe for environment, human health, is resistant to PVY virus

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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Today's global biotechnology developments included an announcement the U.K. would mirror European Union biotechnology regulations if it leaves the EU without an agreement. A Brazilian federal prosecutor's office filed suit to prevent three GM maize varieties from being commercially released.

- The U.K.'s Department for Environmental, Food and Rural Affairs announced that if Brexit occurs without a deal with the EU, its GMO regulations would mirror EU rules. Authorization decisions would be made by the U.K. Defra stressed that such a scenario is unlikely since an agreement is in both parties' interests. [See more](#)
- Brazil's federal prosecutor's office is taking civil action to stop three varieties of GM maize from being certified. The prosecutor's office wants Brazil's National Technical Biosafety Commission to withdraw its approval for commercial release and no longer authorize importation of GM seeds from countries that are not part of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity or the Cartagena Protocol. The three seed varieties are from the U.S., which is not part of either group. The prosecutor's office also noted one of the varieties typically is used for ethanol production but is approved in Brazil for human and animal consumption. [See more](#)

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North America

News: Reuters reports Bayer CEO Werner Baumann announced number of state and federal lawsuits against Monsanto in the U.S. has risen to 8,000, following \$289 million verdict against the company in California, he noted the jury's verdict is inconsistent with the science

Commentary: U.S. Right to Know criticizes Tamar Haspel for writing articles promoting agribusiness while also being paid to speak at the industry's events, claims this violates Washington Post's guidelines; claims her reporting misleads on pesticide safety

Commentary: University of Saskatchewan's Stuart J. Smyth notes Cartagena Protocol helps countries adopt GM crops, helping smallholder women farmers increase income, helps China decrease pesticide use, reduces mycotoxin occurrence and pesticide poisoning for farmers

Commentary: "Supermarket Guru" Phil Lempert criticizes USDA's proposal to label GMO foods with "BE" for bioengineered rather than better-known term GMO, admits no scientific proof GMOs any more harmful than conventionally grown crops but warns proposed labels could unfairly mislead, fool less-educated consumers

Commentary: Consumers Reports' Rachel Meltzer Warren describes results of recent review of various energy bar labels, counting 31 different claims made, she explains what various claims such as organic and non-GMO mean

News: Politico reports that startup companies, meat producers call for FDA and USDA to share responsibility on regulating gene editing, urges collaboration to foster innovation

More North America items

Africa

News: Uganda news site reports ag experts, farmers blame rise in fake seeds on Uganda's lack of seed policy and failure to pass biosafety bill; notes from 30 to 40 percent of nation's seeds are counterfeit

News: Ugandan technology news site reports Ugandan scientists advocating for GMOs while urging passage of biosafety bill

More Africa items

Asia

News: The Scientist reports Japanese government panel recommends not regulating gene editing, stipulating that gene-edited products must be registered with government; newspaper editorial expresses concern over unintended mutations and recommends following EU Court of Justice ruling

Commentary: Third World Network questions claims of Bt toxins' effectiveness against the fall armyworm in Africa; says the pest has developed resistance to pesticides and Bt toxins elsewhere

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: French blogger Seppi criticizes German gov't for hiring anti-biotech NGO Testbiotech to evaluate biotechnology; notes group also include physicians who oppose vaccinations, manufacturers of homeopathic preparations designed to "cure" vaccinated people, a biologist who denies existence of viruses; notes all are long-time opponents of modern plant-breeding methods

Commentary: French MPs and Parliamentary Office for the Evaluation of Scientific and Technological Options officers say gene-edited products must be evaluated case-by-case, stress the EU Commission and member states have avoided setting policy on gene editing, calls recent EU court decision a "return-to-sender" decision because it's not the court's responsibility to set policy

Commentary: German news source runs op-ed calling California jury verdict in Monsanto glyphosate lawsuit incomprehensible, also saying EU Court of Justice ruling on regulation of plants created with NBTs viewed with horror by scientists

News: German agricultural news site reports EU court decision means Germany must withdraw its approval of herbicide-tolerant rape produced by U.S.-based CIBUS because the crop cannot be used in EU

News: EuropaBio announces release of "The EU Protein Gap" brochure, supports a rational, realistic protein strategy for Europe, says EU should recognize that discriminating against innovation, plant breeding technology has widened gap

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Telesur reports Mexican official says there is no possible doubt that GM corn cultivation will be banned when President-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador takes office

News: Mexican news agency Notimex reports Protransgenic Alliance says country's cotton production can improve by using GM cotton because it resists pest attacks

News: Argentine news site reports CRISPR technique has much to offer, but Argentina must prepare by determining intellectual property, regulations, public communication

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: Australia's CSIRO promotes project using GM technology to crease next-generation cotton with many properties of synthetics, such as being waterproof; CSIRO and partners Cotton Seed Distributors credited with reducing insecticide use on cotton by 85 percent, herbicide use by 60 percent in last 30 years

News: Australia's The Weekly Times reports on Food Safety Forum held by Healthy Soils Incorporated, where cotton grower who has been using GM cotton for 20 years defends safety of GMOs, while other farmers argue they haven't been proven safe for human consumption

Interview: Vogue Australia interviews Saskia Hampele of Gift Box Organic on their program to provide homeless women access to organic sanitary products, she notes non-organic cotton is farmed with pesticides, and that conventional tampons can contain GMOs

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included news that Bolivian agricultural producers were launching a 60-day consultation on transgenic crop adoption in the country.

- A spokesperson for the producers group Cámara Agropecuaria del Oriente announced that the government and industry were launching a 60-day consultation period on the use of GM crop varieties in the country. The two-month period will include meetings and activities highlighting the potential for local cultivation. The producers had previously presented a proposal on the issue in March. [See more](#)
- Italy's Ministry of Health released its annual survey of GMOs in major food items, noting that the total detected was below mandatory labeling thresholds. The agency added that overall GMO presence remains low, with only 4 percent of foods containing the ingredients, though it did add that this included organic foods. Local media outlets amplified the news. [See more](#)

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North America

Announcement: U.N.'s Convention on Biological Diversity calls for requests for press conferences during the 2018 Biodiversity Conference in Egypt Nov. 17-29

Commentary: Vigilance OGM announces its campaign to screen corn sold in grocery stores, asks for money to support the project; advises consumers buy organic corn or Neuville corn that is certified non-GMO, says GM corn "secretes" its own pesticide

News: Triple Pundit reports Land O'Lakes vice president takes blame for prevalence of absence claims with perceived health benefits that aren't there; notes organic, non-GMO, antibiotic-free claims contribute to muddled marketplace where perceived benefits can beat the better product

News: Politico reports Grocery Manufacturers Association changes leadership team, reorganizes and downsizes after losing biggest industry members, notes largest defectors formed new trade association, the Sustainable Food Policy Alliance

News release: Cornell University promotes Cornell Alliance for Science global leadership program set to begin Aug. 27; fellows from Africa, Philippines to attend 12-week training; mission is to create global network of science champions to help small farmers

News: Seafood Source reports USDA delay in issuing label guidelines for GM ingredients in food creates complications for AquaBounty, noting the GM salmon producer cannot import its salmon eggs for production while labeling guidance is pending

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Nigerian news site reports OFAB Nigeria organizing media tours to help media understand, explain biotech crops are natural, safe and to convey that message to consumers

News: Ghanaian news site reports anti-biotech NGOs claim Monsanto, other companies bring "poisonous seeds" to Ghana; reports Monsanto ordered to pay \$289 million in Roundup lawsuit

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Food Navigator reports Philippine Rice Research Institute begins consultation regarding location of Golden Rice field trial; opponents fear allowing Golden Rice will bring more GM crop cultivation into country

Commentary: Phoebe Sleet, Research Analyst for Australian NGO Future Directions International, examines potential consequences of fall armyworm's spread to India, notes that Indian farmers have already incurred debts from purchasing pesticides and resistant seeds

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: Italian news site reports Ministry of Health study finds GMOs present in only 4 percent of Italian foods, notes foods found to contain GMOs were at below required levels

News: Italian news site reports study finds 4 percent of Italian foods have low concentrations of GMOs; notes report has similar findings for organic food

Announcement: EU Parliament publishes agenda for Aug. 29-30 Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development meeting featuring discussion on EU risk assessment transparency, sustainability

Interview: French news site questions EU MP Jose Bove, says he supports Volunteer Reapers' actions in destroying "hidden GMOs" growing in fields, claims verdict in Monsanto glyphosate lawsuit validates that herbicides are dangerous to health, says he would join the Volunteer Reapers again "with pleasure"

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Announcement: Agencia Bolivia Informacion announces Agricultural Chamber of the East manager says during discussions with gov't officials that advances in biotechnology will make Bolivia more competitive and reduce GM food imports

News: Bolivian news site reports government, producers set 60-day period to analyze GMO benefits, disadvantages for soy, corn cultivation

News: Mexican news site reports indigenous people's MP demands that federal agencies seriously address civil rights violations against Mayans during consultation for GM soy cultivation

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

Commentary: New Zealand-based agribusiness CEO says biotechnology that produces heme for Impossible Burger is nothing new since similar technology produces insulin, notes reduced environmental footprint; says regulation may be needed, but a "blanket no" is short-sighted, hypocritical

News release: University of Queensland researchers develop technology for disease-resistant plants, including virus-resistant technology that can respond quickly to emerging viral threats in plants; secures investor backing for start-up company Nexgen Plants

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Today's global biotechnology developments included recommendations from Japan's Ministry of the Environment that products of gene editing not be regulated as GMOs. India's food safety agency announced it would delay proposed regulations on food labeling.

- Japan's Ministry of the Environment released recommendations that products of gene-editing techniques not be regulated under the laws guiding transgenic food and crop products. The agency added that genetic modification techniques that do not leave foreign DNA in the final product should similarly not be regulated as GMOs. Consumer groups criticized the proposal, as did an *Asahi Shimbun* editorial. [See more](#)
- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) reported that it would delay its proposed food labeling regulations, including proposals on regulating GMOs, and would instead appoint an expert committee to review feedback from food safety experts. [See more](#)
- Irish news outlets continued to amplify commentary from organizers of the International Association for Plant Biotechnology congress, who criticized anti-biotechnology activists for appropriating the term "sustainability" in their attacks on conventional agriculture. [See more](#)

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North America

Commentary: Writing for farmer-led NGO A Fresh Look, registered dietitian nutritionist describes her experiences with organic, conventional and GMO farming in Maryland, reports organic farming methods increased farm's environmental impact, asserts farmers grow crops that are safe and sustainable

Commentary: Farm Journal editor reflects on distrust of GMOs among U.S. consumers, with 47 percent in recent poll saying they avoid GMOs at least somewhat; writer points out misinformation spread by makers of organic products, anti-GMO groups appears to influence public opinion, despite proven safety of GMOs

Commentary: Writing for AGDAILY, Michelle "Farm Babe" Miller compares tweets from actor Ashton Kutcher, who praises CRISPR, and former co-star Laura Prepon, who criticizes use of GM corn; Miller points out misinformation such as that spread by Prepon makes jobs of farmers more difficult

Commentary: Modern Farmer writer notes Bayer's acquisition about to eliminate name of Monsanto, ranked among most hated U.S. companies, points out Monsanto perceived as disregarding health, cites its lawsuits against small farmers for saving seeds among company's public relations disasters

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Ghana News Agency reports on Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana's (PFA) expression of

disappointment in Ghanaian leaders' promotion of GMOs, warning that Ghana should not follow footsteps of Burkina Faso, which shifted away from Monsanto's Bt cotton

News: Nigeria's Punch reports on Ladoke Akintola University of Technology food microbiology professor Ezekiel Otunola's call on gov't to invest in biotech and nanotechnology to ensure food security, called for development of a bio-based economy

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Japan's NHK reports on gov't panel decision not to regulate certain products of gene editing, Hideharu Anazawa of the Japan Bioindustry Association welcomed the conclusion, noting risks associated with gene editing are low

News: Japan's Mainichi reports on consumer groups' criticism of Environment Ministry expert committee recommendation to deregulate products edited to remove or deactivate genes, Consumers Union of Japan called for a broader debate

Commentary: Editorial for The Asahi Shimbun calls for a cautious approach to regulating new breeding techniques, acknowledges potential benefits of gene editing, but calls on Japan to adopt the EU's precautionary approach

News: The Hindu reports on Food Safety and Standards Authority of India's (FSSAI) establishment of expert committee to review its draft food labelling and display regulations, following concerns raised by food industry stakeholders

News: Press Trust of India reports on food regulator FSSAI's launch of expert committee to review food labeling standards, following food industry stakeholder concerns that the proposed standards will impede sales

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: Irish Farmers Journal reports on University College Cork scientists Eoin Lettice and Barbara Doyle Prestwich's criticism of anti-GMO groups' hijacking of the term "sustainable" as misleading, also criticized EU and Irish restrictions on gene editing, GMOs

News: Switzerland's Corriere Del Ticino reports on Federal Councilor Johann Schneider-Ammann's opposition to Food Sovereignty Initiative, arguing that it is contrary to the notion of free markets, and limits entrepreneurial freedom of farmers and consumers

News: Swiss news agency reports on Federal Councilor Johann Schneider-Ammann's call for rejection of Food Sovereignty Initiative that would ban GMOs, noting several of its measures already exist in the constitution, voicing concern about impact on trade

Interview: Esquire interviews Italian aerospace engineer Amalia Ercoli Finzi, she examines growing mistrust in science among the public, pointing to the anti-vaccine movement and concerns about GMO safety in spite of scientific consensus

Announcement: Italian Ministry of Health, in collaboration with National Reference Centre for GMO Research (CROGM) and National Institute of Health, publishes most recent National GMO Plan data, finding presence of GMOs in Italy is low, confirming greater awareness

News: Germany's Top Agrar reports on criticism surrounding Testbiotech's role in Environment Ministry's Genetic Engineering and the Environment (FGU) project, highlights Testbiotech leadership ties to Greenpeace, and questions about independence

Commentary: IFOAM-EU amplifies TP Organic's launch of Call for Organic Innovations, seeking innovations from the organic or agroecological sector with proven effectiveness and potential to be scaled-up

News: Austrian news outlet reports on Tyrol's increasing reliance on old landraces, Department of Agricultural Education director Klaus Wallnöfer noted landraces are better adapted to drought, providing an alternative to GMOs in spite of lower yields

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news outlet reports on Ignatian Identity and Ecological Commitment conference where Mauricio López Oropeza of Ecological Pan Amazonian Network (REPAM) argued that there is already enough food in the world, and that GMOs are promoted by corporations

News: Brazilian news outlet reports on Public Prosecutor's Office (MPF) filing of public civil action seeking suspension of commercial release of three GM maize seed varieties, calling for halt to authorizing GM seeds from countries that are not party to Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol

More Latin America items

Oceania

Event: Australia's Flinders University promotes Aug. 28 screening of 'Food Evolution' documentary and panel discussion on GMOs hosted by The Nutrition Society of Australia; screening to be followed by panel of experts in biotechnology discussing current issues surrounding GMO foods

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From: Jay Byrne
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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Aug. 20, 2018
 Date: Monday, August 20, 2018 9:00:52 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 an announcement from Germany's Bundesamt für Verbraucherschutz und Lebensmittelsicherheit (BVL) that an herbicide-tolerant oilseed rape variety was subject to GMO regulations. Swiss activists urged supporters to vote on a constitutional amendment promoting "food sovereignty."

- Following a lawsuit from anti-biotechnology activists, Germany's food safety regulator announced on Friday that it had reversed a 2015 opinion declaring that Cibus' herbicide-tolerant rape was not subject to regulations on genetically modified organisms. The crop had been developed to be herbicide-tolerant using oligonucleotide-directed mutagenesis (OgM), which a recent European Court of Justice opinion classified as regulated under the region's GMO Directive. Activists widely praised the decision. [See more](#)
- Swiss news outlets amplified a constitutional amendment initiative organized by the peasant association Uniterre that would demand the government "democratize" food production by limiting the use of genetically modified organisms and requiring foreign food imports to meet local environmental standards. Political and agricultural groups in the country criticized the proposal, which is up for a public vote on Sept. 23. [See more](#)
- Building on last week's announcement that the wheat genome had been mapped, researchers affiliated with the project noted that efforts to capitalize on the discovery would likely be delayed by environmental activists opposed to advanced plant breeding techniques such as genetic modification. [See more](#)

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

North America

[Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project runs piece co-written by two Swedish university professors criticizing EU Court of Justice decision that crops derived from genome editing such as CRISPR should be considered GM plants, calling ruling tragic for European plant research and plant breeding](#)

[Commentary: The Non-GMO Project promotes second public comment period on changes proposed for Non-GMO Project Standard; comments being taken through Oct. 18 on changes made in response to comments submitted during first round of 2018 comment period](#)

[News: Earth Island Journal reports invasive fall armyworm confirmed for first time in Asia after detected in India; GM corn commonly used to control pest in United States, and GM crops widely used in Asia, which could allow for adoption of transgenic resistant maize varieties in hopes of controlling fall armyworm](#)

[More North America items](#)

Africa

[Commentary: Slow Food promotes its documentary series collaboration with Brazilian filmmakers on consequences of land grabbing in Uganda on small banana and coffee operations, as well as vulnerability of small-scale farmers to effects of climate change](#)

News: News Agency of Nigeria reports on food microbiology professor Ezekiel Otunola's emphasis of need to take advantage of modern biotechnologies and low-cost fermentation technologies to reduce hunger, speaking at Ladoko Akintola University of Technology

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

Commentary: Bangalore-based science writer Edd Gent writes for Singularity Hub, voices reassurance at scientists' mapping of the wheat genome, highlighting potential to unlock use of new gene editing methods to make wheat resilient in face of climate change

News: Earth Island Journal reports invasive fall armyworm confirmed for first time in Asia after detected in India; GM corn commonly used to control pest in United States, and GM crops widely used in Asia, which could allow for adoption of transgenic resistant maize varieties in hopes of controlling fall armyworm

News: Reuters reports India's exports of cotton in 2018-2019 to fall from earlier estimates, as scanty rainfall, attack of pink bollworms likely to reduce crop yields; report notes Indian farmers have adopted Bt cotton resistant to bollworms, but infestations continue

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Commentary: Eoin Lettice and Barbara Doyle Prestwich of University College Cork write for Ireland's The Journal, criticizing EU Court ruling on gene edited crops and Irish gov't decision to ban GM crops, noting they are at odds with pro-environment policies

Commentary: Vince Ebert writes for Germany's Spektrum, criticizing EU Court's ruling to regulate gene edited crops as GMOs, notes people are ignoring the science behind GMOs, points out flaws in the precautionary principle

News release: Testbiotech announces publication of legal opinion on legal and financial framework for promoting independent risk research in genetic engineering, responding to recent criticism, Christoph Then argued civil society must be involved to ensure independence

News: Germany's Der Spiegel investigates newly created Center for Genetic Engineering and Environment (FGU), reports the project is organized by anti-GMO lobby group Testbiotech, highlights doubts about the project's independence despite public funding

News release: German Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL) announces withdrawal of its Feb. 2015 decision ruling that Cibus' herbicide-resistant rapeseed lines are not GMOs, following EU Court ruling on products of mutagenesis

News release: BUND, ABL welcome BVL's withdrawal of its Feb. 2015 decision exempting Cibus' herbicide-resistant rapeseed from GMO regulations in light of recent EU Court ruling, highlights objections and lawsuits against BVL's previous decision

Commentary: Columnist for Germany's Capital, Bernd Ziesemer, accuses Bayer of arrogance for ignoring consumer concerns following Monsanto takeover, argues that as a company that makes cancer drugs, Bayer must show special sensitivity to glyphosate cancer concerns

News: Switzerland's Corriere Del Ticino reports poll on ag initiatives up for vote on Sept. 23 found that 62 percent of the population supports the Food Sovereignty initiative, with 71 percent of the approval coming from women

Announcement: Swiss Federal Council announces three initiatives up for vote on Sept. 23, including the Food Sovereignty initiative launched by Uniterre farmers' union, which promotes agriculture without use of GMOs

Report: EFSA publishes explanatory note on determination of newly expressed protein levels in the context of genetically modified plant applications for EU market authorisation, highlighting aspects that

should be considered and reported by applicants

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Brazil's Valor reports Switzerland to vote Sept. 23 on two popular initiatives, one for 'healthy and environmentally sound food,' the other for food sovereignty; second initiative would prohibit GMOs; government recommends voters reject both initiatives, but polls show both have strong support

News: Argentina's La Capital reports some producers making shift from industrial model of farming to regenerative agriculture, including Voisin Rational Grazing, method they say respects environment; farmer says it doesn't take long for pastures to become agroecological after stopping use of chemicals

News: Argentina's Diario de Mendoza reports on researchers' mapping of wheat genome to increase ability to develop varieties needing less water and fewer pesticides, John Innes Center's Cristobal Uauy pointed to challenges posed by anti-GMO activists

News: Bolivian news source reports agronomist warns 70,000 hectares of transgenic corn could be grown in Chaco, eastern part of department of Santa Cruz, argues transgenics put native Bolivian corn and culture of indigenous peoples such as Guaraní at risk

[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

See where news could be happening next. Or let allies know about an upcoming event.

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 To: Diane.Wray-Cohen@fas.usda.gov
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Aug. 20, 2018
 Date: Monday, August 20, 2018 4 01:54 PM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

There was such overwhelming response to the glyphosate verdict that we've dedicated an entire section of Stories Worth Sharing to it, and there's still **much more** – articles examining the **role of the International Agency for Research on Cancer**, a **jury's inability** to make high-level scientific judgements (and **explaining that science**), the **ramifications for agriculture** and other fallout.

Other topics explored this week include further debunking of claims that bees are going extinct, a closer look at a study claiming to link DDT exposure to autism and an examination of India's shift to organic agriculture.

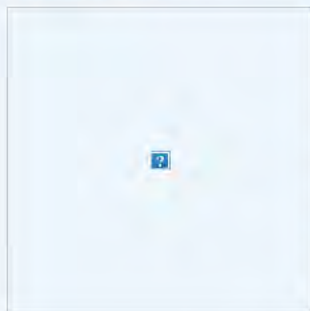
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Please [contact us](#) if you have any questions.

In This Issue

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

Stakeholder Spotlight: Testbiotech



Testbiotech was founded in 2008 by Greenpeace Germany anti-GMO campaigner and Green Party advisor Christoph Then and registered as a nonprofit organization that claims its mission is "to promote independent research and public debate on the impacts of biotechnology."

Stories Worth Sharing

U.S. FWS official Bret Anne Serbin: Support for GMOs "essential for the populations that need them most"

Jacqueline Rowarth: "Bee-apocalypse" hysteria ignores fact that world bee population is bigger than ever

Hank Campbell: Study correlating DDT exposure to heightened autism risk just "statistical noise"

Paul Driessen: Wildlife refuge ban on GMOs and neonics "never made an iota of scientific sense"

Marc Brazeau: India's shift to organic not going as well as propaganda suggests

GLYPHOSATE CANCER VERDICT RESPONSE

Angela Logomasini: Using verdict to ban glyphosate will increase food prices

Steven Novella: Verdict fallout from "bad decision by the IARC"

Ronald Bailey: Portier, IARC contribute to "scientifically outrageous" jury verdict

Chandre Dharmawardana: U.S. "mercenary legal system" unfit to determine glyphosate safety

Grant Jacobs: Proof that juries are bad at science - not that glyphosate is unsafe

However, Testbiotech and Then solely promote critical claims alleging health and environmental risks from biotech crops - including opposition to Golden Rice.

The group is currently leading opposition to gene editing and new breeding techniques like CRISPR, and it was recently given a \$250,000-plus no-bid grant from the German government for its public outreach activities.

Click here to [LEARN MORE](#) about Testbiotech.

[CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES](#)

[Carol Lynn Curchoe: Activists bring back tainted food claims dismissed by scientists](#)

[Michelle Miller: Similarities of anti-GMO and anti-meat activists go beyond use of fear for profit](#)

[Nina Fedoroff: Untangling "regulatory thicket" for biotechnology will allow scientists to solve agricultural problems](#)

[Reaz Ahmad: Bangladeshi farmers quickly adopting Bt brinjal, saving money by reducing pesticide usage](#)

[CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING](#)

What's Trending?

[Environmental Working Group seeks to capitalize on glyphosate headlines by claiming cereals are contaminated](#)

[Canadian government to phase out most uses of neonics thiamethoxam and clothianidin within three to five years](#)

[Nigerian court throws out lawsuit seeking to block GM crop field trials](#)

[U.K. study concludes sulfoxaflor interferes with bumblebee reproduction, deems it unsafe alternative to neonics](#)

[Columbia University study of pregnant women in Finland finds DDT exposure may increase autism risk for children](#)

Calendar highlights

August 23-24	August 24-25	August 27-29
Puerto Rico Agricultural Biotechnology Industry Association convention	20th Global Obesity Meeting	BIO Africa Convention

[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, August 19, 2018 9:02:44 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Weekend global biotechnology developments included a Pew Research Center poll on Americans' views on genetic engineering use. A Bangladesh news site reported more than 27,000 farmers are cultivating Bt eggplant this year, nearly 20 percent of the nation's farmers.

- Media reported on Pew's survey on genetic engineering, which found Americans support gene editing in humans and animals when it improves human health. The survey found 70 percent of Americans approved of genetically engineering mosquitoes to prevent mosquito-borne disease. [See more](#)
- *United News of Bangladesh* reported about 18 percent of the country's farmers now cultivate Bt eggplant, making it the nation's fastest-adopted biotech crop. The news site reported the crop started out being cultivated by just 20 farmers in 2013-2014 and has grown in popularity each year. The crop is popular with farmers because it reduces expenses by requiring less pesticide. [See more](#)

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

North America

News: The Philadelphia Inquirer reports on Pew survey on genetic engineering on humans and animals, most agree on modifying mosquitoes to prevent disease; notes gender differences in views on creating more nutritious meat, while those who disagree worry about long-term health

News: Big Think contributor explores survey of American attitudes, knowledge about GMOs, concludes Americans baffled by what GMOs are, effect on health, whether they're comfortable with GMO food

News: Popular Science examines how worried consumers should be about Environmental Working Group's report concerning glyphosate in cereal, highlights conflicts in findings regarding carcinogenicity, notes adult would have to eat 12 servings of Quaker Old Fashioned Oats to reach California's conservative limit for exposure

Commentary: The Non-GMO Project's lifestyle site promotes National Honey Bee Day on Aug. 18 to raise awareness of bee importance, impacts of GMOs on bees, asserts pesticides sprayed on GM crops play major role in colony collapse disorder

Commentary: Live Kindly notes The Good Food Institute survey indicates 66 percent of American willing to try "clean meat," says terminology used is important to acceptance; notes timing is important as several products set to launch

News: Ag Professional reports founder of biotechnology, Mary-Dell Chilton, retires from Syngenta

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Nigeria's Daily Trust reports Nigeria approved two new Bt cotton varieties for commercial release, notes expected yield is nearly 3 times higher than current varieties being cultivated, says it will revive countries textile industry

News: Senegal Institute of Agricultural Research reports speaker says biotech presents an opportunity to increase West African agricultural productivity, but questions remain on social, economic, environmental concerns

News: Nigeria's The Guardian reports court dismisses HOMEF lawsuit that attempted to stop GMO field trials; plaintiffs claimed the NBMA did not comply with its provisions in granting permits for the trials

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Bangladeshi news site reports one-fifth of Bangladeshi farmers who cultivate eggplant grow Bt eggplant, making it fastest adopted biotech crop, notes it saves farmers money by reducing pesticide use

Study: Independent Indian researcher leads study on using biotechnology to increase productivity and stress tolerance in dryland environments

News: Chinese news agency Xinhua reports more Vietnamese turning to organic food, cosmetics, clothes out of concern for food safety, regard for environment

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Commentary: German farmer blogs how an unqualified, biased NGO director such as Testbiotech's Christophe Then managed to get German gov't to pay him to manage project to monitor, evaluate new genetic engineering methods; notes Then described himself in application as "genetic engineering expert," and first presentation was material presented on Testbiotech website

News release: Testbiotech rebuts Sueddeutsche Zeitung's article on government paying Testbiotech founder to manage gene editing project, says article lacked balance, says research landscape often lacks "diversity of scientific perspectives," and research should focus on environmental, consumer protection

Commentary: Sueddeutsche Zeitung criticizes government hiring anti-biotech NGO Testbiotech to manage group that would supposedly give independent analysis of genetic engineering methods, says it causes "irreparable harm" when important debate is "shaped by a lobbyist"

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Study: PG Economics researcher reports on Intacta soybeans' economic, environmental impact over first 5 years, notes crop provides cost-effective weed control and high-yield production, thus raising farmers' income by \$7.6 billion; the crop also significantly reduced pesticide use, reducing environmental impact and greenhouse gas emissions

Commentary: Mexican newspaper runs op-ed praising president-elect's promise to eliminate use and production of food with transgenic seeds, calling ban on transgenic corn great advance, triumph of reason and survival

News: Columbia radio network reports university professor promoting organic farming as way for country to ensure food security without harming environment

Commentary: Bolivian news site questions who is lying - Nobel laureates who say it's a crime to oppose GMOs or Greenpeace that questions GMOs' impact on environment; quotes former UN Secretary Kofi

Annan who said biotech must be developed prudently

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: In pre-peer review commentary, biotechnology critic Jack Heinemann criticizes New Zealand's decision not to regulate RNA interference products as GMO; says scientific literature raises questions about unintended consequences

Interview: Australia Broadcasting Corporation's Robyn Williams questions Mark Lynas regarding his book "Seeds of Science"

More Oceania items

More Bonus Eventus Resources

<p>Stakeholder database</p> <p>More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.</p>	<p>Events calendar</p> <p>See where news could be happening next. Or let allies know about an upcoming event.</p>	<p>Bonus Eventus community</p> <p>Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and allies.</p>
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 Date: Thursday, August 16, 2018 9:03:15 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included a media report the German federal government seeks to pay anti-biotech NGO lobbyist to influence public opinion on new breeding techniques. Bayer announced its conditions have been fulfilled to begin incorporating Monsanto. In France, vandals destroyed another field of herbicide-tolerant sunflowers, this time citing the recent glyphosate cancer lawsuit.

- German newspaper *Suddeutsche Zeitung* reported Germany's Ministry of the Environment will pay anti-biotech NGO Testbiotech's Christoph Then more than 200,000 euros by 2020 to manage a project to influence public opinion on gene editing methods. The rest of the project's advisory board includes other NGOs and environmental groups critical of biotechnology, but it includes no scientists. The project's stated goal is to scientifically evaluate gene editing methods for environmental protection and convey that information to the the public. Germany's Free Democratic Party questioned the expenditure and the supposed independence of Then's group. [See more](#)
- A Bayer news release indicated the company has completed asset sales to BASF, satisfying antitrust conditions and clearing the way to begin incorporating Monsanto. The release also noted the company can become involved in glyphosate defense efforts and believes courts will find that Monsanto is not responsible for Dewayne Johnson's cancer. [See more](#)
- French news sites reported that 50 to 80 Volunteer Reapers destroyed two hectares of herbicide-tolerant sunflower seeds at about 7:30 a.m. Wednesday in Druelle, France. A communique from the group indicated the plants were genetically modified and were "poisoning the Earth." A RAGT Aveyron official said the vandalism goes beyond financial loss and "is hampering the competitiveness of French research." [See more](#)

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North America

[Commentary: Reuters legal solutions blogger explains that USDA opted not to regulate gene-edited products that could be obtained via conventional breeding because they present no more risk than conventional breeding, notes FDA developing plans to ensure food safety while enabling innovation](#)

[Report: Pew Research Center releases survey results showing most Americans accept genetically engineering animals to benefit human health while opposing it for other uses](#)

[Announcement: Legal news blog reports USDA files new bioengineered food symbpls with patent office, logos do not incorporate "smiling face" included in previous entries](#)

[Commentary: Medium piece by embryologist Carol Curchoe says verdict against Monsanto in glyphosate cancer trial allowed EWG to recycle anti-GMO claims like glyphosate in cereal; seeks to debunk GMO-related post-truth headlines; says GMO labeling tells consumers nothing](#)

[News: Law news site reports consumers in suit claiming Kind LLC falsely advertises its snack bars as non-GMO ask federal judge to unpause litigation; arguing there's no indication when federal government will set standard for GM food disclosures](#)

[More North America items](#)

Africa

Commentary: Nigerian journalist writes for Cornell Alliance for Science, notes Nigerian court rejects suit brought by anti-GMO activist group HOMEF that sought to block Bt cotton field trial

Commentary: South African news site lists best foods for digestive health, recommends avoiding corn and soy because most varieties are genetically modified and are "gut irritants"

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News release: Food Safety Standards Authority of India announces government creates nearly 500 additional posts to strengthen the agency to handle food safety inspections and enforcement

Commentary: India's Firstpost cites verdict in Roundup lawsuit as "victory for real science," claims jury ruling offers proof of glyphosate toxicity, laments prevalence of pesticides, GMO crops globally turning world in "an open-air concentration camp"

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: Italy's Affari Italiani reports Czech Republic, Slovakia have stopped GM cultivation, Coldiretti survey shows 76 percent of Italians still opposed to biotech crops because of concerns about environmental safety, damage they could do to "Made in Italy" brand

News: French news sites reports about 70 Volunteer Reapers destroyed a 2-hectare field of sunflowers the group claims was genetically modified to be herbicide-tolerant

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Brazilian news site reports Small Farmers Movement official claims agroecology uses no pesticides, fertilizers, or GMOs but produces 10 percent higher yield than "industrial agriculture" while producing healthier food

Commentary: Mexican newspaper column criticizes efforts by Monsanto, others to promote planting of transgenic corn, says they have failed to achieve goal because of controversy over GMOs, points out Mexico considered country of origin for corn, and opponents warn it runs risk of losing that quality

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News: Australian Associated Press reports Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation has led way in developing GM cotton that drastically reduced pesticide use, reduced water use, hopes to create cotton that will not require ironing

[More Oceania items](#)

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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Aug. 15, 2018
 Date: Wednesday, August 15, 2018 9 02 04 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 a Nigerian court had ruled against activists who sought to bar GM crop approvals.

- The Federal High Court of Justice of Nigeria ruled today that environmentalists could not pursue a lawsuit against Nigeria's Biotechnology Management Agency, adding that the lawsuit was barred by statute. The court further ruled that the case was not a "fundamental rights" issue despite activist claims. Responding to the decision, the Health of Mother Earth Foundation released a statement declaring that it would continue to oppose GM crop approvals in the country. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Organic Authority quotes plant geneticist who takes issue with transgenic modification, claiming there are many unknowns, but says there's nothing wrong with gene editing that works within a plant's genome, notes it speeds selective plant breeding considerably

News: The Scientist reports USDA offers free access to gene-stacking tool to help prevent plant diseases, but EU court's NBT decision makes tool inaccessible for EU member states

News: MediaPost reports Gerber promotes line of organic cotton baby clothes, notes organic textiles are tougher sell due to expense, time, third-party certification, small amount of production

News: Food Navigator reports Nestle lawsuit shows depth of confusion over non-GMO labeling claims, notes standards differ among products

Commentary: Charles Benbrook writes for Environmental Health News, notes he was witness in Monsanto's glyphosate trial, proposes 5 fixes to GE food regulation shortcomings, including overconfidence in federal regulations, ignores inert ingredients, lack of monitoring

News: Food Safety News reports upcoming livestock conference and lab-grown meat conference each address conflict regarding traditional and alternative protein sources - traditional meat vs. cultured or "plant-based" meat

[More North America items](#)

Africa

Announcement: Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology says federal High Court of Justice dismisses HOMEF case against NBMA for releasing GM products

Announcement: Nigerian NGO HOMEF notes court struck down due to time limit, says it was not due to lack of merit; HOMEF director claims damage will be irreversible once GMOs released into environment,

pledges to continue fighting

News: Nigerian news site reports National Biosafety Management Agency brings stakeholders together to review, validate biosafety guidelines, including risk analysis framework

News: Nigerian news site reports National Biosafety Management Agency director Rufus Ebegba warns those who violate biosafety guidelines risk imprisonment for up to 5 years or a fine

News: Nigerian environmental news site reports National Cotton Association of Nigeria says farmers will have choice between planting GM cotton or organic cotton seed; notes GM cotton expected to have bigger yield while organic cotton will sell at premium price

News: Ghana News Agency reports farmers at Open Forum on Agriculture Biotechnology say politicians who criticized biotechnology confused the issue, but OFAB training clears up GM technology's effectiveness

News: Ugandan news source highlights new ISAAA report on global acquisition of biotechnology, which reports significant increase in adoption of new technologies of agricultural output, says farmers need to put pressure on government to change policies blocking adoption of GM crops in Uganda

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

Commentary: Centre for Science and Environment official criticizes Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, says it has not assessed safety of any GMO food and does not have standards in place to make assessments

Commentary: Royal Society of Chemistry's Chemistry World reports India's food safety agency promises to expedite rules to regulate GM food following NGO study highlighting GM food in market without official permits

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project examines farmer concerns in northeast India over Sikkim government-led transition to all-organic ag leading to decrease in profit, lower yields, increase in pests, diseases, suggests tweaks in plan to allow biotech crops, herbicide use in no-till system

News: Chemical industry portal ChemEurope amplifies study by researchers from Max Planck Institute for Chemistry finding persistent organic pollutants in India, stored for decades soils, can be re-mobilized by monsoon, volatilized into air

News: Asian news source highlights spread of fall armyworm to Africa, noting potential for food security shortages, threats to farmers' livelihoods

News: Vietnamese news source reports U.S. Embassy collaborates with CropLife Vietnam to hold presentation on 'Scientific Evidence for Food Science,' includes screening of film 'Food Evolution,' notes GMO food has been tested more than any other food in history

Event: ISAAA promotes sixth annual South Asia Biosafety Conference to be held Sept. 15 through 17 in Dhaka, Bangladesh

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Event: La Via Campesina (International Peasant's Movement) promotes September vote in U.N. Human Rights Council on UN Declaration on Rights of Peasants, asserts declaration will promote food sovereignty, support policies that will improve food and agricultural system

Event: University of Basel, Switzerland, hosts conference on CRISPR as a Challenge for Life Sciences Law (Oct. 11-12) will cover legal ethics questions, intellectual property law

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Argentine news site reports country's organic coordinator talks about struggle for organic, agroecology farmers in the midst of transgenic agriculture

Commentary: Argentinian NGO Biodiversidad en América Latina y el Caribe recaps workshop on 'Seeds: Common good or corporate property?', held to deepen knowledge about problems faced by peasant agriculture, discuss threats to native seeds posed by attempt to modify Argentina's Seed Law

Event: Argentinian NGO Biodiversidad en América Latina y el Caribe promotes national meeting set for Aug. 31 and international preparatory meeting Sept. 1 in advance of G20 summit to be held Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 in Buenos Aires, calls on peoples of world to rise up against G20

Report: University of Bern Centre for Development and Environment policy paper claims Bolivian transgenic soy has increased use of pesticides, notes atrazine, paraquat, neonics, urges nation to adopt legislation to PAN recommendations, apply precautionary principle

News release: University of Bern Centre for Development and Environment claims "Towards Food Sustainability" research reveals approval of transgenic soy in Bolivia led to quadrupled use of pesticides, including atrazine, paraquat, glyphosate, 2,4-D, recommends ag ministry action, including bans

[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.

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From: Jay Byrne
 To: Diane.Wray-Cohen@fas.usda.gov
 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Aug. 14, 2018
 Date: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 9:03:02 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 statement from Nigerian activists criticizing recent GM crop approvals. In India, controversy over GM food imports continued.

- Activists with Friends of the Earth Nigeria and Alliance for Food Sovereignty Africa issued a statement criticizing Nigeria's biosafety agency for approving Bt cotton despite a 2017 lawsuit seeking a permanent injunction on all new GM crop approvals. A spokesperson for the groups told local media outlets that the agency had disregarded the judicial process and violated human rights. [See more](#)
- In India, the coalition group India for Safe Food met with the food safety commissioner of Karnataka over the group's claims that GMO import guidelines were being ignored. Media outlets noted that activists had earlier protested at the headquarters of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India. [See more](#)

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

North America

Commentary: Canada's Maclean's magazine runs op-ed by Manitoba farmer discussing gap between farmers and consumers over issues including use of Roundup, noting recent poll showed only 29 percent of Canadians saw farmers as good stewards of land, calling for bridging gap between two sides

News: Feedstuffs reports Center for Food Safety sues USDA to release timeline on GMO labeling rules after missing July 29 deadline; CFS filed separate lawsuit over USDA's 'unlawful withholding of internal agency documents related to GE disclosure rule-making'

Commentary: Law firm's Food Safety News - Henry Miller's WSJ piece on label claims spurs Twitter response from FDA Commissioner Gottlieb; Organic Trade Association rep claims USDA Organic label represents "most highly regulated, most transparent sector" of food, ag

News: Delaware newspaper reports DowDuPont may appeal California court ban on pesticide chlorpyrifos; ag operations to spin off as Delaware-based firm in June; gene-editing patent paying off as company signs multiple-usage agreements with other firms

Audio: Earth 911's 'Sustainability in Your Ear' podcast discusses labeling of GMO foods, with panelists saying many environmentalists who trust science on other issues don't trust scientific assertions that GM crops are safe to eat; panelists support labeling GMOs and letting consumers make own choices

Commentary: Bloomberg piece by Lydia Mulvany contends crop yields have soared in recent years due to advances in seed technology, pesticides amid Roundup cancer trial verdict, noting analyst predicts ruling will be reduced or overturned upon appeal, says glyphosate benefits farmers and the environment

[More North America items](#)

Africa

Announcement: Nigeria National Biosafety Management Agency launches 21-day comment period on proposed importation of GM soya bean for feed processing; comments due by Sept. 6

Announcement: Nigeria National Biosafety Management Agency launches 21-day comment period on proposed field trials of Bt cowpea; comments due by Sept. 6

News: Nigerian news source reports Friends of the Earth Nigeria and Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa activist alleges national biotech groups are disregarding best interest of citizens in decision to release Bt cotton

News: EnviroNews Nigeria reports Friends of the Earth Africa activist accuses national biotech agencies of breaching law by releasing GMOs as litigation challenging GM crop commercialization pends

Interview: South African radio station talks to executive director of African Center for Biodiversity about Pioneer's request for permit to allow growing of GMO maize for export or further experimentation; Mariam Mayet says glyphosate would be sprayed on GM maize, affecting farm workers, contaminating soil

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: The New Indian Express reports members of India for Safe Food meet with Karnataka food safety commissioner, demand removal of unapproved GM foods from market and ask for penalties against those violate country's laws regulating GM foods; group cites studies suggesting GM foods cause problems for human health

News: India's The News Minute reports activists in Bengaluru state protest against GM foods being sold in stores, meet with Karnataka food commissioner, who agrees to look into matter; similar protests carried out by activists in other cities

News: The Hindu reports groups organizing as 'India for Safe Food' meet with food safety commissioner of Karnataka state to demand removal of unapproved GM food products from market; group previously approached Food Safety and Standards Authority of India for action but got little response

News: India's Business Standard reports on detection of fall armyworm in Karnataka, possibility pest may spread across Southeast Asia, impact millions, notes armyworms devoured entire crop at state's University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences demonstration field

News: Indian news source report on growing bollworm, armyworm infestations in India notes Maharashtra farmers file police report alleging complaints against Bt cotton makers for technology's failure to protect their crops

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: Agence France-Presse lists five things to know about Bayer and Monsanto, including their history of making products such as Zyklon B and 2,4-D, notes controversy over studies that suggest link between Monsanto's Roundup and cancer in humans, concerns about use of GM seeds

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Mexico's Diario de Yucatan reports on presentation of book, 'Land is not sold!', which highlights case of peasants, beekeepers in Campeche who fought to prevent planting of transgenic products in their territories; speaker calls for defending rights of indigenous peoples

News: Brazil's Instituto Humanitas Unisinos amplifies news reports about meetings held as part of National Technical Biosafety Commission's agenda, seen as step toward consolidation of biotechnology

in Brazil; president of CTNBio discusses EU Court of Justice ruling on products of mutagenesis

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

Commentary: Australia's Financial Review says government's drought relief package will provide relief in short term for farmers across Queensland and New South Wales, but red tape and resistance to new technologies ultimately makes drought harder on farmers in trouble

[More Oceania items](#)

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Try it free today

From: [Jay Byrne](#)
To: Diane.Wray-Cahen@fas.usda.gov
Subject: Welcome!
Date: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 7:57:41 PM

Welcome!

Welcome to the Bonus Eventus network!

You're now just a click away from a wealth of knowledge on food and agriculture issues. All that's left for you to do is to set up your own personal account and password.

[Register Now](#)

You'll soon receive a separate note with more in-depth instructions on how to use the many tools included in the Bonus Eventus community, including research on noteworthy stakeholders and tracking of key media activity and activist campaigns. Some highlights are noted below

You'll also be receiving our weekly Favorable Outcomes newsletter featuring articles worth sharing.

Knowledge is **Power**

STAKEHOLDER DATABASE

A library of background information on key players influencing food and agriculture issues - and who's funding them

ISSUES MONITORING PORTAL

Daily tracking of current events, news coverage and activist activities on food and agriculture issues

NETWORKING

Connect with other experts and influencers seeking favorable outcomes and science-based dialogue. Or find an expert in a particular field.

CALENDAR

See upcoming events of note - or let the network know of an event you're planning or attending.

Please [let us know](#) if you have any questions or need assistance.

Thank you!

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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Aug. 13, 2018
 Date: Monday, August 13, 2018 9:04:50 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 statement from India's top food safety regulator addressing criticism of GM food import monitoring.

- In a statement to media outlets, the chief executive of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) said that the agency was developing regulations to address labeling of GM ingredients. Responding to criticisms from advocacy group Centre for Science and Environment, the official added that monitoring and enforcement of existing GM food import guidelines was limited due to lack of staff and resources. [See more](#)
- CropLife International launched a new video series on gene editing, highlighting Florida research efforts to develop orange trees resistant to the deadly pathogen Huanglongbing. The video reports that the disease, known as citrus greening, has proven resistant to traditional crop protection practices but that researchers hope to utilize gene editing to help speed up the crop development process. [See more](#)

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North America

Video: CropLife International posts YouTube video showing effects of citrus greening disease on Florida's citrus industry, with University of Florida citrus breeder and geneticist saying genome editing using CRISPR may help researchers solve problem, allow for sustainable production of food in future

Commentary: British Columbia newspaper runs op-ed by registered dietitian pointing out Health Canada has found no published scientific evidence demonstrating GM foods less safe than traditional counterparts, warning David Suzuki contributes to misinformation surrounding GMOs by discrediting evidence

Commentary: Beyond Pesticides urges supporters to sign letter to USDA urging it classify new mutagenesis techniques as genetic engineering, cites EU court ruling that organisms obtained by mutagenesis are GMOs, wants USDA to ruling when defining bioengineering for labeling GMO food

News: Pennsylvania newspaper reports North American Butterfly Association documented significant declines in butterfly numbers this summer; notes claims that loss of habitat, pesticides driving down populations

Commentary: Organic farmer writing in New York State newspaper endorses pamphlet written by retired teacher that explains how corporations undermining people's health with daily diet of toxic poisons, genetically-modified foods

[More North America items](#)

Africa

Commentary: International journal covering rural development runs piece by director of Nigeria's Health

of Mother Earth Foundation warning nation's Biosafety Management Agency using loopholes to allow influx of GMOs into country, claiming law makes no provisions for public participation or risk assessments

Announcement: Nigerian National Biosafety Management Agency issues permit to import GM soybeans for poultry feed processing, noting processing will have no adverse effect on biodiversity, human health

Announcement: Nigerian National Biosafety Management Agency issues permit for importation, use of GM soybeans for oil processing, stating processing will have no adverse impact on biodiversity, human health

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Indo-Asian News Service reports chief executive of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India calls GM food contentious issue, cites regulatory vacuum in dealing with transgenic food in wake of recent findings of food products containing GM ingredients in retail outlets around country

News: India's The Telegraph reports economics professor gives lecture on distressed farmers, says country has failed to transform their lives despite subsidies; university official raises environmental concerns about Bt cotton, other GM seeds, says GM food should be banned

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: Dutch news source reports animal feed producer ForFarmers opens specialized factory designed for production of non-GMO and VLOG-certified feed, responding to increasing demand for non-GM feed for cattle and goats in the Netherlands, as German consumers demand dairy products without GM materials

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Brazilian news source reports officials from agrochemical, transgenic industries lead ninth National Meeting of Internal Biosafety Commissions, says events considered by National Technical Biosafety Commission (CTNBio) as another step toward consolidation of biotechnology in Brazil

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

Commentary: Writing in the Journal of Environment Protection and Sustainable Development, University of Tasmania scientist cites Tasmania GM canola biosecurity issue, Marsh contamination case to argue GMOs are invasive species

[More Oceania items](#)

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Try it free today

From: Jay Byrne
 To: Caitrin.Martin@fas.usda.gov
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Aug. 13, 2018
 Date: Monday, August 13, 2018 4 08:02 PM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

Writing in *The Wall Street Journal* last week, Henry Miller laid out the case for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to crack down on "blatantly false and deceptive advertising claims" from the multibillion-dollar organic industry and the Non-GMO Project. Responding two days later, FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb **promised on Twitter** that "in the coming weeks" he would provide information to help consumers better understand such labeling claims as organic and antibiotic-free.

Amanda Zaluckyj, who wrote a piece for *The Detroit News* the same day as Gottlieb's tweet, later **followed up with a blog** arguing it is "well past time" for U.S. regulators to take action. And Georgetown University law professor C. Dean McGrath Jr., writing in *The Hill*, called for the law to be strictly applied to such misleading labels and marketing claims.

Other pieces on this week's newsletter include a report on the U.S. Congress withholding funding for the International Agency for Research on Cancer, a University of Nairobi professor's appeal for biotechnology in Africa and a warning that focusing on GMOs and organic food can distract from actual food security issues.

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: Bioscience Resource Project



The Bioscience Resource Project is an Ithaca, New York-based

■ Stories Worth Sharing

[Henry Miller: FDA must stop giving a pass to organic industry's "blatantly false and deceptive advertising claims"](#)

[Dean McGrath: U.S. regulators should apply strict labeling laws to Non-GMO Project's misleading claims about GMOs](#)

[Amanda Zaluckyj: Non-GMO Project "by far the worst offender" when it comes to misleading marketing claims](#)

[Cathy Siegner: Miller's Wall Street Journal article shines light on lack of consumer education about labeling](#)

[Science 2.0: U.S. Congress withholds funding for International Agency for Research on Cancer due to glyphosate controversy](#)

[Jessica Eise: GMOs and organic food are "red herrings" compared to threat posed from climate change and water scarcity](#)

[Mulaa Francis Jakim: "Critical gaps" preventing actualization of beneficial biotechnology applications in Africa](#)

NGO founded by Allison Wilson and her husband, Jonathan Latham.

They collaborate with U.S. Right to Know founding director Lisa Graves' Center for Media and Democracy to spread conspiracy claims that agrochemical companies are illegally conspiring with government regulators to expose the public to dangerous pesticides and GMOs.

These efforts include promotion of the so-called "Poison Papers" documents they claim show direct industry influence. Bioscience Resource Project recently donated the Poison Papers to the University of California-San Francisco.

Latham and USRTK executive director Gary Ruskin are set to take part in a panel discussion about the documents Sept. 13.

Latham participated earlier this month in a GMO-Free Kauai event.

Click here to **LEARN MORE** about the Bioscience Resource Project.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Hank Campbell: Court ruling to require chlorpyrifos ban based on secretive science and "voodoo methodology"

Stephan Neidenbach: European court ruling on mutagenesis empowers activists to make more attacks on scientists and farmers

Michelle Miller: Labeling misconceptions and fearmongering tactics can backfire on food manufacturers

University of Strathclyde study: No correlation between pesticide usage and cases of leukemia or lymphoma

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What's Trending?

Jury awards \$289M to California man over claim that Roundup causes cancer

Food Standards Australia New Zealand releases preliminary report on NBTs / European activists demand end to field trials after NBT ruling

U.S. appellate court rules EPA must ban chlorpyrifos

Trump administration overturns ban on neonics and genetically modified crops in wildlife refuges

Calendar highlights

August 15-16	August 18	August 19-24
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CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

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 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Aug. 13, 2018
 Date: Monday, August 13, 2018 4 07:58 PM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - August 10-12, 2018
 Date: Sunday, August 12, 2018 9:00:15 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included response to tweets from U.S. Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Scott Gottlieb and a study on the insurance industry's need to develop synthetic biology risk strategies.

- The Hill reported FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb promised earlier in the week on Twitter to do more to help consumers "make sense of food labels." Media outlets surmised the tweet was in response to an op-ed in The Wall Street Journal in which former FDA official Henry Miller said the agency has been lax regarding non-GMO and pesticide-free claims. Attorney and Georgetown University law professor C. Dean McGrath, Jr. said the FDA and Federal Trade Commission must stop organic food industry lies about GM food. A Center for Food Safety news release called Miller a "propagandist" for the pesticide industry and said pesticides are found on conventional foods four times more frequently than organic foods. [See more](#)
- A Chinese insurance journal reported a Lloyd's of London and Imperial College study indicates insurers should develop risk management strategies to support synthetic biotechnology research for crop protection and disease prevention. [See more](#)

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North America

News: Southeast AgNet reports on FDA Commissioner Gottlieb's response to Wall Street Journal opinion piece criticizing the agency for allowing organic industry to make non-GMO and pesticide-free claims, Gottlieb noted plans to help consumers make sense of food labels

Commentary: Center for Food Safety rebuts Henry Miller's WSJ article "The Organic Industry is Lying to You," calls Miller a pesticide industry propagandist; acknowledges law allows exemptions for organic farmers to use synthetics when other options exhausted, claims pesticides detected on conventional food four times more frequently than organic

News: Organic & Non-GMO Report examines consumer groups' criticism of NSF's Non-GMO True North program's certification of Cargill's EverSweet due to use of GE yeast in the process, Consumers Union noted Impossible Burger could also be certified by NSF

News: National Geographic reports gene editing holds promise to revolutionize farming by creating higher yield, healthier crops, impervious to pests; notes consumers, farmers will ultimately decide success

Commentary: Food Dive's Megan Poiniski examines lawsuit claiming that Nestle's non-GMO seal is misleading, believes it is debatable whether a consumer would confuse it with the Non-GMO Project label, notes new GMO labeling laws may make such lawsuits moot

News: Reuters reports U.S. agencies' deregulation of gene editing allows smaller companies, universities to take their own innovations to market, cooperate with larger companies, leading to innovative

products, but products still must win over consumers

Commentary: Biotech NOW amplifies article by Gregor Mendel Institute biologist in Massive Science that GM crops more drought-resistant, require less pesticides, making them more sustainable than non-GM crops

Commentary: We Love GMOs blogger Stephan Neidenbach says EU court's decision gives activists impression they can attack scientists, farmers with impunity; notes Biocoop financially supports Volunteer Reapers' vandalism

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigerian news site reports Friends of the Earth claims Nigerian agencies violated court order by approving Bt cotton commercialization

News: Ghana News Agency reports Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana opposed GMO use because it would eliminate the country's native seeds and claims the biotech crops damage health

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indian news site reports Food Safety and Standards Authority of India CEO acknowledges "regulatory vacuum" regarding GMOs, but notes manufacture, import, sale is not disallowed and no health threat is present despite alarmist report from Center for Science and Environment and other NGOs

Study: Huazhong Agricultural University researchers report evaluation of Bt toxins find no harmful effects on non-target insects

More Asia items

Europe

Event: Italian farmers association promotes Sept. 18 event protesting ECJ ruling on gene editing in which participants will eat gene-edited foods deemed to be GMOs by the court; invites MPs to allow field tests on gene-edited products, media to do broadcasts that present accurate, scientific information; and asks scientific community to mobilize against disinformation

News: Belgian agricultural news site reports plant researchers launch petition against ECJ's decision to regulate gene editing, say ruling is not scientifically based noting older methods have more basis for unintended mutations

Commentary: GMWatch amplifies study that claims Bt toxins cause immunogenic, allergenic reactions and pre-cancerous intestinal changes

News: Belgian news site reports Flemish plant researchers say CRISPR could help save Cavendish banana from rampant disease, but EU court decision scared investors away from gene editing projects, says banana plantations around the world could lose everything while many in Africa will lose diet staple

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news site reports peasant farming union leader getting impatient for Supreme Court to give final decision on GM crops in the Yucatan

Commentary: Ecuadoran news site notes it's been nearly 3 months since the Constitutional Court heard

6 lawsuits on the constitutionality of allowing GM seeds in the country, says country illegally allowed GM crops in the country for scientific research

Commentary: Brazilian news site columnist says environmentalists help lead revolt against science by rejecting pesticides, transgenics, meat, vaccines, medicines, believing that "natural" is always better

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Brisbane-based Grain Central reports next generation of Bollgard insect resistant cotton and herbicide tolerant cotton under development by Monsanto, company aiming for release to Australia in next decade

News: Australia's farm online reports the international ag industry is in shock following Brazil Supreme Court decision banning use of glyphosate pending further toxicology tests, Monsanto Australia's Carissa Buckland pointed to global consensus on its safety

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 German farm association leaders' call for drought-resistant crops and a letter urging European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker to crack down on gene-edited product field trials.

- After experiencing low yields due to an extended drought, German farmers are calling for drought-resistant crops, but plant breeders are having difficulty producing new plant varieties using conventional methods. German farmers union president Detlef Kurreck criticized the recent EU court's decision to regulate gene editing as genetic modification, which significantly slows down the process. Meanwhile, climate researchers predict an increase in weather extremes for Germany. [See more](#)
- A coalition of anti-biotech NGOs sent a letter to Juncker that referenced the EU court's decision regulating new breeding techniques as GMOs and urged him to take action to shut down permitted field trials on gene-edited products the group claims are now outside the GMO legal framework. A GMWatch article indicated the "rogue" field trials are in the U.K., Sweden, Finland and Belgium. [See more](#)

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North America

News: Politico ag news roundup indicates FDA will look into issues with organic labeling issues, amplifying response to recent Henry Miller op-ed; notes jury deliberations in DeWayne Johnson trial

News: The Food Institute reports J.R. Simplot enters joint IP agreement for CRISPR with DowDupont, MIT, Harvard; Simplot says technique will help improve yields, decrease pesticide use, resist pests and diseases, enhance food quality

News: Reuters reports environmental groups file lawsuit against U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service over lifting ban on neonicotinoids and GM crops in wildlife refuges; Center for Biological Diversity attorney says government's scientists claim neonics harm endangered species

News: Indianapolis TV news site report on Trump administration reversing ban of neonics, GM crops in wildlife refuges amplifies Defenders of Wildlife statement calling announcement "an insult to our national wildlife refuges"

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Nigerian news site reports Nigerian farmers glad country approved Bt cotton, believe it will bring better yields; notes opponents believe GMOs will cause long-term damage on environment, human health

News: Ghana News Agency reports Science and Technology Policy Research Institute scientist tells

media at journalism training event that biotech crops targeted at low-yielding, high economic value crops; notes safety record over 20 years, says GMOs are not panacea but complement to existing technologies

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: India's Financial Express' Vivian Fernandes interviews Food Safety Standards Authority of India CEO, who acknowledges GM crop regulatory vacuum allowing unlabeled GM foods but notes GM food doesn't present a greater risk than conventional food; notes new regulations being drafted, proposal will require GM labeling

Commentary: Dean of Chinese law school says China can deal with reduced U.S. soy purchases because as recently as 1996, it was net soy importer, other edible oils can substitute for soy oil, Chinese consumers becoming more aware of GMOs; says country could take opportunity to become more food secure

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: German news site reports Germany struggling to produce drought-resistant crops using conventional methods as farmers struggle through weeks of drought

News: Suddeutsche Zeitung reports farmer's union president criticizes EU court decision on gene editing as German farmers completing poor summer season due to drought, farmers demanding drought- and frost-tolerant seeds; Farmer`s Union of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern president says allowing NBT use would speed up tolerant variety availability

Commentary: French pro-ag blogger Seppi criticizes France 3 Normandie's attention to Gilles-Eric Seralini's response to three major European studies that demonstrate flaws in his infamous rat study, points out contradictions in his arguments

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Agencia EFE reports Simplot, Corteva, MIT, and Harvard joint venture to use CRISPR technology, officials say the technology can help reduce fruit, vegetable waste, reduce pesticide and water use, increase food quality

News: Argentine news site reports government approved GM potato designed to lower cultivation costs, improve potato quality

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News: Australia's farm online reports the international ag industry is in shock following Brazil Supreme Court decision banning use of glyphosate pending further toxicology tests, Monsanto Australia's Carissa Buckland pointed to global consensus on its safety

[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 preliminary report from Food Standards Australia New Zealand, summarizing responses on new plant breeding techniques (NBTs). Response to the European Court of Justice's decision on NBTs also continued.

- Food Standards Australia New Zealand released a preliminary report outlining public responses to its consultation document on NBTs. The report highlighted areas of consumer and stakeholder disagreement, including whether groups should be assessed based on the end product versus the process of development. FSANZ expects to release its final report and recommendations on the issue in early 2019. **See more**
- Researchers with the Max Planck Institute released a statement emphasizing the importance of gene editing in plant research and criticizing the European Court of Justice's recent decision applying the region's GMO Directive to the technology. The group added that European scientists are likely to move elsewhere to continue their research. **See more**

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North America

News release: Center for Biological Diversity announces conservation groups have filed notice of intent to sue Trump administration for reversing 2014 ban on neonics, genetically modified crops at national wildlife refuges; CFBP attorney Hannah Connor calls administration's move "shameful"

Commentary: Food Dive reports Simplot announces first agricultural gene-editing licensing agreement with Corteva, Simplot plans to develop fruit, vegetables with desirable traits to benefit farmers, consumers and to reduce waste; Food Dive says consumers leery of GMOs and warns retailers may resist

Commentary: Iowa State University's Food Science and Human Nutrition Department director writes for Genetic Literacy Project, notes health educators lack scientifically correct curriculum for teachers, leaving door open for anti-GMO propaganda to influence educators

News: Agricultural news site reports livestock industry group appeals to President Trump to appoint USDA to be primary regulator over lab-grown meat

News: Pork producer news site reports on EU court's gene-editing ruling, notes European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders director expressed disappointment because ruling devalues significant benefits of gene editing, including eliminating deadly animal diseases, animal welfare, and feeding growing population

[More North America items](#)

Africa

Commentary: Ghanaian journalist writes for Genetic Literacy Project, notes Nigeria's approval of Bt cotton stirs hopes that Ghana will adopt the crop, says Ghana must keep up with Nigeria in applying

technology to agriculture

News: Paris-based, subscription-required African economic news site examines approach, impact of Syngenta in Africa's seeds, pesticides market

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Times of India report Tamil Nadu Agricultural University's biotechnology department developing vitamin A fortified maize

News: Times of India reports on outbreak of fall armyworm pest in maize crops in Karnataka, confirmed by University of Agricultural Sciences, entomologist P S Hugar warned that emergency pesticide use may prove costly and not very effective

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Commentary: Max Planck Institute for Plan Breeding Research's directors express dismay at EU court ruling on gene editing, notes positive crop developments and need for gene-edited crops, says ECJ's decision muddies waters; says if EU continues on this course, food needs may not be met by 2050

News: Swiss news site reports on EU court's gene editing decision, notes Greenpeace, Swiss Small Farmers Association satisfied that ruling brings legal clarity, but Science Industries association official calls decision a negative for Europe, biologist notes only large corporations will be able to afford research

Interview: Germany's Spiegel reporter interviews Karlsruhe Institute of Technology's Botanical Institute Director Holger Puchta who calls EU court ruling on NBTs a mistake that accepts less precise techniques but not more precise methods "as if shotguns were allowed but scalpels prohibited"

Commentary: Seppi criticizes French media's coverage and implicit approval of Volunteer Reapers' destruction of sunflowers bred using mutagenesis, notes vandals seek to pressure France's highest court to mandate destruction of 220,000 hectares of crops, says violent action is akin to terrorism

News: Reuters reports French seed company Vilmorin sees no impact regarding U.S., China tariffs in trade dispute; CEO says due to EU court ruling on NBTs, company will sell its products elsewhere; notes majority shareholder Limagrain threatened to withdraw research in France after vandals damaged GE crops

[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: Food Standards Australia New Zealand announces consultation on whether food derived from new breeding techniques, genetic modification needs pre-market safety assessment, notes expert advisory group will finish assessment by early 2019

Report: Food Standards Australia New Zealand releases preliminary report of views expressed by submitters on FSANZ consultation paper regarding food derived using new breeding techniques; notes views are divided on process-based or product-based definition

Commentary: University of Melbourne student writes that while lab-grown meat won't replace meat from livestock, but the new products will disrupt the industry as they offer environmental, ethical benefits

Commentary: New Zealand farmer, Green Party candidate writes for news site, says farmers can't ignore "alternative plant proteins" such as lab-grown meat, says livestock owners can compete by playing to existing system's strengths and by producing high-quality meat

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 U.S. had found no safety concerns with a Brazilian GM sugarcane. Indian activists continued their campaign for GM food labeling, while agriculture officials reported the destructive armyworm pest had been discovered in the region.

- Brazilian news outlets reported the U.S. Food and Drug Administration had determined that both raw and refined sugar from a Bt-trait sugarcane was safe for consumption. The news was lauded by researchers at Centro de Tecnologia Canavieira, who said the FDA determination was a "source of pride" for the team. [See more](#)
- The coalition group India for Safe Food (IFSF) called on food safety regulators to remove illegal GM foods from markets in the region and penalize importers. The group staged a protest outside the headquarters of India's food safety agency to draw attention to its demands. [See more](#)
- The Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International warned that Fall Armyworm had been discovered in the region, prompting significant media reporting on potential "major crop losses" unless significant actions were taken. *U.S. News and World Report* noted that, among attempts to control the pest in other regions, GM maize had been employed to mixed effects. [See more](#)

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North America

[Commentary: "Farmer's Daughter U.S.A." Amanda Zaluckyj writes for Detroit News, examines various ways in which food labels can mislead consumers, criticizes Non-GMO Project, notes many of their certified products do not have GM counterparts on the market](#)

[Commentary: "Farm Babe" Michelle Miller writes for AgDaily, examines shift in consumer opinion on GMOs, highlighting results of a recent poll she created in which respondents listed price as the most important factor, while only four percent cared about organic, non-GMO](#)

[News release: Retired archivist D'Arcy Hande files court appeal against University of Saskatchewan to remove redactions from "Research Management and the Right to Know" symposium transcript, alleges affiliations with controversial industry partners like Monsanto/Bayer](#)

[Commentary: Tech news site writer promotes Oregon State discovery of way to contain GM poplar trees by engineering them to be sterile; add though GMOs are useful, environmental effects still unknown, advocates for thorough containment](#)

[Commentary: Daniel Starkey of Geek amplifies study in Frontiers in Bioengineering and Biotechnology demonstrating how use of gene editing can ensure that GE poplar doesn't spread too far, agrees that many fears around biotech are misplaced](#)

[Commentary: Writing in The Hill, constitutional enforcement attorney and law clerk say Missouri law prohibiting Impossible Burger from being labeled 'meat' should be struck down; allege protectionist](#)

regulation sides with beef, pork, poultry industries

Announcement: FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb tweets agency will in coming weeks put out more detailed information on what different terms mean on food packaging to help consumers best use claims like organic, antibiotic-free

Commentary: The Organic Center responds to Henry Miller's article in The Wall Street Journal, "The Organic Industry is Lying to You," notes Forbes dropped Miller amid allegations that Monsanto ghostwrote for him, disputes his arguments on organic pesticides

More North America items

Africa

News: Argentina's Agrofy reports on Director of the International Program of Aapresid, Ing.Agr. Edgard Ramírez's assessment that Argentine knowledge can help boost African agriculture, noted that transgenic crops are environmentally friendly

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Banjot Kaur of India's Down to Earth examines recent protest by civil society organizations, under banner of India for Safe Food (IFSF), demanding that food regulatory FSSAI ban illegal GM food products, highlights claims about health risks

News: Press Trust of India reports on demand by India For Safe Food (IFSF) that illegal GM food items be removed from Indian markets, and that punitive action be taken against violators, criticising Food Safety and Standards Authority of India's actions thus far

News release: Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International warns of potential rapid spread of fall armyworms across Asia after the worms presence was verified in India, says food security of millions could be at risk

News: U.S. News & World Report reports scientists are raising alarm about spread of fall armyworm into Asia after the pest was identified in India, experts say it's only a matter of time before the worms reach European Union, China

News: The Guardian reports scientists are warning fall armyworm could spread throughout Asia, notes armyworms have been detected in India, could become major threat to global food security

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: Andy Stirling of U.K. NGO STEPS Centre examines arguments that EU Court ruling on gene edited crops is "anti-science," criticizes logic of Royal Society's Dame Ottoline Leyser, argues that increased precision is not the same as accuracy

News: EurActiv reports on USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue's criticism of EU Court ruling to regulate gene edited crops as GMOs, describing the ruling as a "setback," Perdue called on the EU to seek input from scientific and agricultural communities, and trading partners

News: Germany's Mittelbayerische reports on challenges faced by farmers such as drought, and extreme rainfall, examines differing opinions on EU Court's ruling to regulate gene-edited crops as GMOs, Ag Minister Julia Klöckner believes they shouldn't be "reflexively" rejected

Commentary: Juan Ignacio Pérez Iglesias of University of the Basque Country writes for The Conversation, argues the EU Court ruling on gene edited crops is not science-based, believes environmentalism has acquired similar characteristics to a religious faith

News: Dutch feed news site reports safety-assurance certification agency joins forces with non-GMO scheme to help animal feed companies comply with non-GMO market demand; new standard published in online portal as part of Feed Responsibility Assurance module

Announcement: French gov't announces Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs introduces bill to authorize ratification of Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Additional Protocol on Liability and Compensation for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

News: German news outlet reports on Bavarian Minister of Agriculture Michaela Kaniber's upcoming visit to a soybean field to evaluate progress of the protein initiative, whose goal is to reduce imports from the Far East, where protein crops are mostly GM

News release: Germany's ZDFinfo to release three-part documentary, "The Gen-Revolution," on Aug. 9, 2018, examining whether scientists are aware of their responsibility, possibilities from work of bioengineers and the factories that produce synthetic GE materials

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Reuters reports on U.S. FDA's conclusion that GM sugarcane developed by Brazil's Sugarcane Technology Center (CTC) is safe for human consumption, CTC Corporate Affairs Director Viler Janeiro noted FDA is one of the most relevant agencies

News: Brazil's Valor reports on Brazilian Agribusiness Association President Luiz Carlos Corrêa Carvalho's concerns that the U.S.-China trade dispute may have long-term negative effects in Brazil, also noted Brazil has been negotiating with Germany on non-GM soy

News: Argentina's Agrofy reports on Director of the International Program of Aapresid, Ing.Agr. Edgard Ramírez's assessment that Argentine knowledge can help boost African agriculture, noted that transgenic crops are environmentally friendly

Commentary: Guillermo Sanchez and Silvana Andrea Fangio of Argentina's National Institute of Agricultural Technology recount recent G20 Ag Minister meeting in Buenos Aires, South African officials listed genetic crop improvements as a focus point

News: Uruguayan news outlet reports that this week, all foods containing GMOs will be inspected in Montevideo, as labels are required, IMM Food Regulation Director Marcelo Amado noted the label recognizes importance of the information, but it is not a health warning

Commentary: Jane de la Selva writes for Mexico's SDP Noticias, voices concern that the new Cabinet will allow cultivation of GM crops, points to several health and environmental risks, asks how many signatures are necessary to ensure the will of the people is followed

Commentary: Francisco J. Rosado May writes for La Jornada Maya, examines signing of Sustainability Agreement of the Yucatan Peninsula (ASPY), notes it was signed amid claims against use of GMOs in the Yucatan Peninsula due to impact on beekeeping

[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

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Today's global biotechnology developments included EU media reports on local reaction to U.S. proposals on soybean trade. Indian activists continued a media pressure campaign on GMO labeling.

- European news outlets, including *Potsdamer Neueste Nachrichten* and *Tiroler Tageszeitung*, reported on how agricultural stakeholders are viewing a proposed U.S. trade deal that would increase soy exports to the EU. Joachim Rukwied of the German Farmers Association noted Europe's regulations on genetic modification would limit those exports, while *Tiroler Tageszeitung* reported activists with Global 2000 warn U.S. officials would pressure the region to relax its guidelines on biotechnology. [See more](#)
- An activist with India's Alliance for Sustainable & Holistic Agriculture wrote in support of a campaign by the Centre for Science and Environment urging stricter enforcement of GMO labeling requirements and import bans. Similar commentary appeared in the *Times of India*. [See more](#)

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North America

Commentary: Henry Miller writes for The Wall Street Journal, criticizes FDA for continuing to allow organic industry to get away with false marketing claims, opposes use of Non-GMO Project labels on products that have no GM counterpart on the market

Commentary: Gregor Mendel Institute's Marco Giovannetti writes for Massive Science, explains several environmental benefits of GM crops such as reduced land and pesticide use and lack of off-target effects, highlights developments to mitigate effects of climate change

Commentary: Writing for Medium GMO Answers column, Council of Biotechnology Information member urges readers to listen to scientists over celebrities on GMO safety, noting major science institutes counter myths that GMO are harmful spread by Gwyneth Paltrow, Kelly Clarkson

News: Food Safety News reports on debate over regulating and labeling lab-grown meat products, highlights questions posed by FDA at its recent public meeting, and meat and poultry organizations' call on President Trump to grant jurisdiction to USDA

Commentary: Collective Evolution claims Trump administration reversal of ban on neonicotinoids on national wildlife refuges another example of puppet government kowtowing to corporate interests

Commentary: EcoWatch amplifies Reuters piece reporting Trump administration lifts ban on use of GM crops, neonics in certain national wildlife refuges where farming is allowed; notes environmental groups argue the decision comes at the expense of other species, bees

[More North America items](#)

Africa

Commentary: Dar es Salaam University College of Education professor Saumu Jumanne writes for The Citizen, examines shift in Tanzania's ag sector, emphasizes need for ecological farming and preventing contamination from genetic engineering and chemical inputs

News: Nigeria's New Telegraph reports on gov't announcement of approval of a high-yielding GM cotton variety through National Committee on Naming, Registration and Release of Crop Materials, with plans to assure commercialization and quick distribution to farmers

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

Commentary: Kavitha Kuruganti of India's Alliance for Sustainable & Holistic Agriculture writes for Catch News, criticizes gov't for failing to effectively regulate GMOs, following Centre for Science & Environment's report on illegal GM foods in the country, points to health risks

News: Food Navigator reports on Indian NGO Centre for Science and Environment's recent testing which found traces of GMOs in unlabeled products, including some claiming to be GMO-free, CSE accused Indian food regulator FSSAI of negligence

Commentary: Times of India columnist reports Centre for Science and Environment study finds illegal GM foods in India stores; local dietician claims correlation exists between growth of GMOs, rise in diseases

Commentary: Ashok Gulati and Ritika Juneja of Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations write for Financial Express, they note widespread adoption of illegal Bt cotton shows farmers want new technologies, they hope gov't will grant authorization

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: Germany's Potsdamer Neueste Nachrichten reports on German Farmers Association President Joachim Rukwied's statement that the U.S. will face hurdles in exporting soybeans to Europe due to EU restrictions on genetic engineering

News: Austrian news outlet reports on environmentalists' concerns that EU's recent agreement with the U.S. over the trade dispute will result in increased pressure to relax genetic engineering restrictions, especially with regard to GM soybean authorizations

News: Wired (U.K.) reports on debate over what to call lab-grown meat products, as well as debate in the U.S. over whether FDA or USDA will have regulatory authority, U.S. Cattlemen's Association believes the word "meat" should not be used in labeling of such products

Commentary: Inf'OGM's Christophe Noisette amplifies open letter from Confédération Paysanne warning growers that Clearfield herbicide-tolerant rapeseed varieties are considered GMOs following recent EU Court ruling on products of mutagenesis

News: Italy's Chronache di Gusto reports on Alliance of Agri-food Cooperatives President Giorgio Mercuri's response to EU Court ruling on gene edited crops, he argued that genetic improvements are fundamental to improving agricultural sustainability

Commentary: Editor-In-Chief of Germany's Wochenblatt, Anselm Richard, voices disappointment in EU Court ruling on gene edited crops, he believes it favors large corporations, argues the judges were afraid of either genetic engineering or public opinion

News: German business and finance magazine Euro am Sonntag reports on reactions to EU Court decision to regulate gene edited crops as GMOs, German Association of Plant Breeders noted small and medium businesses will now be unable to access the new technologies

News: German news outlet reports on differing opinions on EU Court's ruling on gene editing, Testbiotech's Christoph Then claims CRISPR leaves an "unmistakable fingerprint," Jens Boch of Leibniz

Universität Hannover sees the ruling as an "affront to science"**News release: German organic seed supplier Bingenheimer Saatgut AG and its research partner Kultursaat e. V announce Bingenheimer Seeds Day to promote organic seed varieties, they welcome the EU Court decision on gene edited crops****News: Spain's Diario Vasco examines Monsanto's negative reputation, and Bayer's decision to retire the company name post-merger, Monsanto Spain and Portugal's Carlos Vicente noted environmentalists' claims are not based on scientific criteria****News release: President of Chamber of Agriculture Lower Austria Hermann Schultes calls for expansion of requirement for food labeling of origin, due to imports of unlabeled GM foods, he noted Austria's restrictions on GMOs are stricter than other member states****[More Europe items](#)**

Latin America

Commentary: Argentine Seed Association writes for La Nacion, examines ways in which China is a bottleneck for ag biotech, amplifies CropLife International study demonstrating economic losses resulting from China's delays in biotech approvals**Interview: Argentina's Coletivo Huerquen interviews Vandana Shiva on ecofeminism, she speaks out against abuse of pesticide companies, claims they are producing toxins not seeds, claims everything written by Bayer-Monsanto is a lie****News: Mexican news outlet reports on Chihuahua corn producers' meeting with Andrés Manuel López Obrador's coordinator Juan Carlos Loera to request permission to plant GM corn, ag leader Pedro Ortiz pointed to success of GM cotton as an example****Commentary: Silvia Ribeiro of ETC Group writes for Mexico's La Jornada, amplifies two studies claiming to demonstrate that CRISPR can cause cancer and other off-target effects, welcomes EU Court ruling to regulate gene edited crops as 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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From: Jay Byrne
 To: Diane.Wray-Cohen@fas.usda.gov
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Aug. 6, 2018
 Date: Monday, August 6, 2018 4:03:37 PM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

In this week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter, we follow a theme set out in an article by Brian Cross in *The Western Producer*. With so many contradicting claims, which science should you trust?

House of Lords member Matt Ridley explains how a European court made a "scientifically absurd" decision to expand the purview of the EU's GMO Directive, and Mark Lynas offers rebuttals from scientists against claims that Bt cotton is failing in India. Andrew Porterfield offers his take on new research finding dozens of new bee viruses, and Michelle Miller disputes the myth - spread by the Non-GMO Project and others - that GMOs are bad.

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

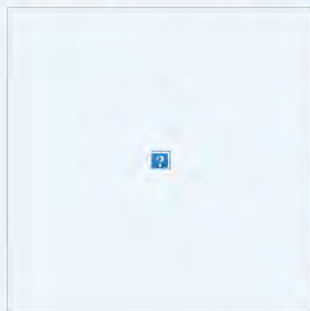
[Stakeholder Spotlight](#)

[Stories Worth Sharing](#)

[What's Trending?](#)

[Calendar highlights](#)

Stakeholder Spotlight: Charles Benbrook



Regarded as one of the top advocates paid by the organic marketing industry, anti-GMO activist groups and pesticide litigators, Charles Benbrook was at it again last week.

Benbrook was the final witness called by plaintiff's attorneys in the case of a California man

Stories Worth Sharing

[Matt Ridley: "Scientifically absurd" European GMO ruling will increase food costs and pesticide usage, drive EU researchers to U.S.](#)

[Ryan Tipps: A Fresh Look campaign aims to educate moms on benefits of GMOs](#)

[Mark Lynas: Scientists question anti-GMO activists' claims that Bt cotton has failed in India](#)

[Andrew Porterfield: Even as slew of viruses emerge as potential causes of bee deaths, bees at no risk of dying off completely](#)

[Michelle Miller: Myth that GMOs are bad is usually spread by food companies trying to use fear to sell products](#)

[Markie Hageman: Misguided to claim that farmers are culprits in demise of honeybees](#)

[Brian Cross: Junk science makes it harder to tell fact from fiction on topics including glyphosate, GMOs](#)

[Dietitian: Benefits of eating fruits and vegetables far outweigh impact of pesticide residue](#)


[Chandre Dharmawardana: Hidden agenda to push organic food sales drives false claims blaming pesticides for bee deaths](#)

claiming glyphosate caused him to contract cancer. Benbrook reportedly testified that glyphosate is a known carcinogen and referred to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's assessment of it as a sham.

Benbrook's professed expertise often extends well beyond his primary area of industry-funded academic study as an agricultural economist. He also formerly served as the research director for The Organic Center.

Click here to [LEARN MORE](#) about Benbrook.

[CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES](#)

Myles Power: Opponents to Green Revolution advances would be responsible for deaths, malnutrition if they get their way 

[CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING](#)

■ **What's Trending?**

European court ruling on gene editing, other mutagenesis techniques draws global reaction

Monsanto defense team begins calling witnesses in trial over claim that glyphosate caused California man's cancer

California panel recommends listing chlorpyrifos as toxic air contaminant

France to enact ban on five neonic pesticides with no derogations

■ **Calendar highlights**

August 9	August 11	August 12-17
International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	Carey Gillam "Whitewash" event in Australia	International Biotechnology Symposium and Exhibition

[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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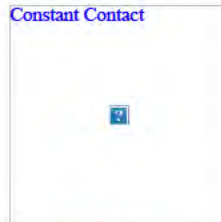
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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

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Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included the U.S. Interior Department's removal of bans on GM crops and neonicotinoid usage in U.S. wildlife refuges. Stakeholders continued commenting on the European Court of Justice decision to regulate gene editing as GMOs.

- *Reuters* reported the Trump administration rescinded a ban on GM crops and neonics enacted during the Obama era. Fish and Wildlife Service Deputy Director Greg Sheehan said the move is needed to ensure adequate forage for migratory birds. Sheehan said decisions on use would be on a case-by-case basis. Defenders of Wildlife's Jenny Keating said "industrial agriculture" has no place in areas dedicated to wildlife conservation. The Center for Biological Diversity's Hannah Connor said the step would "harm bees and other pollinators already in steep decline" to appease pesticide makers. **See more**
- The Biotechnology Innovation Organization's Karen Batra questioned whether the EU court's gene editing ruling will be a "deathblow" for biotechnology in the EU. The European Seed Association's Garlich von Essen said much potential for innovative methods was lost for Europe and would have "negative economic and environmental consequences." In France, Volunteer Reapers destroyed a field of sunflowers made herbicide tolerant via mutagenesis and later referred to the court's ruling as they asked authorities to destroy the fields. **See more**

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

North America

Commentary: Mark Lynas writes for Cornell Alliance for Science, notes scientists debunk myth of Bt cotton failure in India, points to activists promoting false narrative, notes prevalence of fake seeds in India, farmers who don't rotate crops, and says Bt cotton still outperforms other varieties

News: The Globe and Mail reports scientists believe activists may have planted GM wheat found on roadside in Alberta; notes Japan, South Korea temporarily shut down imports after discovery

News: Reuters reports U.S. Interior Department rolling back Obama administration ban on neonics, GM crops on wildlife refuges; notes neonics ban imposed because of link with pollinator declines

Commentary: Biotechnology Innovation Organization's Karen Batra questions if ECJ ruling is "deathblow" for agricultural biotech in Europe, notes European Seed Association secretary general says much of gene editing's potential lost for Europe, scientist says it will negatively impact EU's ability to respond to climate change challenges for agriculture

Commentary: Environmental Working Group reports Campbell's, Coca-Cola, Unilever among companies that support full disclosure on GMO labeling rules; group lists stances of various groups based on comments on proposed federal GM labeling regulations

Commentary: Peel Back the Label campaign case study on Pompeian Extra Virgin Olive Oil says company deceives consumers with Non-GMO Project logo because there is no such thing as genetically engineered olive oil

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Nigerian news site reports government approved two Bt cotton varieties for cultivation, National Biotechnology Development Agency director said the varieties will increase cotton yields dramatically; says it shows Nigeria has capability to safely deploy GM crops

News: Ghana News Agency reports Crops Research Institute advocating GM maize as best solution to withstanding fall armyworm infestations

News: Ghana News Agency reports Biotechnology and Nuclear Agricultural Research Institute director says GMOs are key to agricultural future in Ghana, says products are well researched and only thing standing in the way are people's misconceptions

News: Ghana news source reports biotech expert says Ghana may have to start using genetic modifications in crops to address the devastation caused by fall armyworms; adds many crops affected despite application of agro-chemicals

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Reuters reports DowDupont defers GM corn field trials in India, declines to give reason; South Asia Biotechnology Center president says it's over IP concerns, writer notes Monsanto pulled Bt cotton application due to similar concerns although it is appealing latest court decision

News: Indian news site reports Central Institute for Cotton Research offers two new non-Bt cotton varieties that ensures high yield, quality fiber, minimum pesticide usage, with water-efficient trait

Commentary: Coalition for Agriculture Modernization in the Philippines chair Emil Q. Javier writes for Manila Bulletin, notes farmers cast their votes for biotech by continuing to buy GM seed in greater numbers each year

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News release: French seed producers association says ECJ's ruling on gene editing will negatively impact researchers, seed companies, and farmers by severely limiting the most promising method for improved seed production; association's president says decision forces Europe to give up leadership in plant research

Interview: Netherlands news site De Morgen questions Flemish Institute for Biotechnology's Scientific Director Dirk Inze who says EU court's gene editing decision will freeze needed agricultural innovation, strict biotech control is irrational, explains how biotech is superior to conventional breeding, calls glyphosate "one of safest products on the market"

News: Agence France-Presse reports Volunteer Reapers announce they destroyed a field of sunflowers made herbicide-tolerant via mutagenesis, which are recognized as GMOs according to the July 25 European Court of Justice decision, ask communities to stop "turning a blind eye to these pollutions"

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: La Jornada reports Mexico sets sights on becoming cotton exporter; Protransgenic Alliance official says using GM cotton, the country can dramatically increase yields to meet country's needs, generate surplus to export; notes the cotton crops also provide feed for animals or edible oil for people

Interview: Argentine news site questions members of anti-GMO NGO Colectivo Fabián Tomasi, who say resistance to biotech farming is increasing because the methods pollute with pesticides, promotes agroecology

Commentary: Anthropologist writes for Guatemalan news site that public comment opened on regulations for proposed living modified organism regulation despite ignorance of the proposed law; compares it to a similar attempt in 2014 to pass "Monsanto law," says it is attack on indigenous people's heritage

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: New Zealand newspaper reports Hastings District won court battle to secure area's GMO-free status as court upholds decision to ban GMO cultivation, field trials, district officials claims it gives agricultural marketing advantage

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 the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India's response to recent NGO criticism. There was continued commentary on the European Court of Justice decision on gene editing, especially from scientists criticizing the ruling.

- The FSSAI issued a news release in response to activist criticism regarding a Centre for Science and Environment study that reportedly found unlabeled, illegal GM food sold in India. The agency noted it is developing procedures to assess GM food safety, including imported products. FSSAI defended its rule that only foods containing 5 percent or more of GM ingredients should be labeled, noting that other countries use this standard, including Japan, Canada, and Thailand. Coalition for a GM-Free India's Kavitha Kuruganti wrote an open letter to FSSAI citing the CSE study and demanding the agency remove the identified and unlabeled products containing GMOs from stores and penalize the manufacturers. [See more](#)
- British MP Matt Ridley wrote for *The Times* that the ECJ's ruling on gene editing will hurt farmers and the environment, increase food costs, encourage more pesticide use and encourage researchers to leave the European Union. Spanish news site *El Confidencial* reported scientists criticized the ruling, saying it failed to take into account developments over the past two decades in molecular biology. [See more](#)

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North America

Commentary: Henry I. Miller responds to USRTK commentary in Investor's Business Daily, refutes that he is Monsanto's ally by quoting his writing critical of the company and vice versa; connects Malkin and Gillam to Russian propaganda, says they are bought-and-paid-for shills for organic and natural products

Commentary: AgDaily managing editor Ryan Tipps promotes A Fresh Look campaign where farmer moms engage with consumer moms on hot-button topics like GMOs, campaign lead scientist Rebecca Larson notes there isn't industry involvement

Interview: Health news site has biotech advocate plant biologist and anti-GMO neurologist supply answers to questions on GMOs; neurologist claims glyphosate on GM crops causes health problems, biologist maintains GMOs are safe, provide benefits for consumers and farmers

Commentary: Science correspondent writes for American Association for the Advancement of Science's magazine, says EU court decision on NBTs surprised regulatory authorities who now must decide how to handle ongoing field trials; says verdict will hamper international trade, biotech research, means Europe will lose out again on next technology wave

Campaign: GMO-Free U.S.A. solicits donations, criticizes NSF's True North non-GMO certification as false, noting they allow ingredients produced via synbio to be labeled as non-GMO, while Non-GMO Project excludes them, states that they "smell a lawsuit"

[More North America items](#)

Africa

Commentary: Nigerian news site columnist urges country's farmers to be cautious in adopting Bt cotton, which will increase yields, but cautions that care must be taken to avoid mistakes made in Burkina Faso, India

News: Rwanda news site reports that NGOs pushing for increased access to biofortified crops and food to combat hunger, malnutrition

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News release: Food Safety and Standards Authority of India responds to Centre for Science and Environment criticism, notes agency responsible for framing GM food safety and labeling regulations while GEAC assesses GM crops' environmental impact; notes many countries set labeling requirements at 5 percent of GMOs, including Japan, Canada, Thailand, Indonesia

Commentary: GM Free India's Kavitha Kuruganti sends open letter to Indian food safety agency, points out Centre for Science & Environment study findings of unlabeled GM foods for sale in India, claims GM foods present health risks, demands agency remove the products from the market and penalize the manufacturers

News: China Daily reports President Trump and EU President Juncker agree to discuss trade barrier removal, says other nations fear that means they will take joint actions against China; notes EU still challenge U.S. agricultural imports due to worries over GM food

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Commentary: University College Cork biochemistry professor cites " yawning gap" between EU scientists' opinion on GMOs and that of politicians, public; says green movement pushes mistaken notion that conventional methods are safer, more predictable; notes Irish Parliament moves to ban GMOs despite safety evidence

News: Spain's El Confidencial reports scientists unhappy with judgment of European Court of Justice that subjects plants created with CRISPR technique to same regulations as GMOs, complain precautionary principle being applied incorrectly, failing to take into account developments in molecular biology over last two decades

Commentary: GMWatch criticizes The Observer editorial on EU court's NBT decision, says editorial contains industry talking points, makes false statements on gene editing precision, makes "pie-in-the-sky" claims on benefits, and challenges idea that gene-edited crops nearly impossible to detect

News: The Times reports field trial will find out if feeding GM camelina oil will enhance farmed salmon's omega 3 content, making them healthier to eat and relieving pressure on stressed wild sources

Commentary: Journalist, environmental and alternative health campaigner criticizes BBC article on GM feed trial for salmon warns Scotland citizens that GM feed could be eaten by wild fish, blames farmed salmon industry for low numbers of anchovies, claims world doesn't want GMO-fed or farmed fish, blames ag industry for finding loopholes to introduce biotech into EU

News: Dutch news site reports Netherlands breeding association official says EU court decision makes new CRISPR technology a "missed opportunity" for Europe, says contrary to court opinion that targeted mutations do less damage and risk is same or smaller compared to conventional breeding

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Argentina's Puntal reports National University of Rio Cuarto and Ombudsman's Office sign agreement to jointly promote agroecology in city; Remana founder claims agroecology would have lower costs than transgenic crops

News: Bolivia's El Ciudadano reports on concerns about the environment, food security and sovereignty, Huascar Bustillos Cayoja describes GMOs as an environmental threat, especially due to potential contamination of wild varieties

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian farming news site reports CropLife Australia officials criticize EU court decision on NBTs, say it sends EU agriculture "back to the Dark Ages" and negatively impacts worldwide seed research; notes Gene Ethics director praises decision and notes Australia deregulated the process before it had safe use history

News release: New Zealand district of Hastings reports Environment Court upholds its ability to ban GM cultivation as it rejects Federated Farmers' appeal; Hastings mayor says decision ensures safe farming practices and food safety

News: Australian news site reports farmers group hosts Aug. 17 forum and debate titled "GMOs and Food Safety" featuring anti-GMO scientists Judy Carman and Jonathan Latham

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

Today's global biotechnology developments included news that a U.S. advocacy group was suing over delays in the country's GMO labeling requirements. U.K. news outlets reported on a new trial of GM salmon feed.

- The Center for Food Safety, an anti-biotechnology activist group, announced that it filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) over the agency's delay in GMO labeling. The group noted that Congress had set a July 29 deadline for implementation of the regulations. Center for Food Safety reported that it was urging the court to implement a mandated schedule and oversight. [See more](#)
- U.K. news outlets reported that Rothamsted Research had partnered with the University of Stirling to test a genetically modified feed enhanced to contain more Omega-3. Activist groups GM Freeze and GMWatch protested the trials, arguing that the crops only support an "unsustainable" agriculture model. [See more](#)

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North America

News release: Center for Food Safety sues USDA for failing to meet deadline established for federal GMO labeling rules

News release: The Center for Food Integrity announces it has established stakeholder steering committee to develop framework for responsible gene editing in agriculture; members include Grocery Manufacturers Association, Center for Science in the Public Interest, Cornell University, The Nature Conservancy

News: Associated Press reports EU's soy imports from U.S. already were on rise before EU official told Trump they would buy more

Commentary: Legal news blog reports EU rules gene editing to be regulated as GMO, notes ruling comes as USDA working through federal labeling law with initial proposal that would not label gene-edited products as GMOs

Commentary: Genesus Genetics CEO writes for livestock news site, notes ECJ decision on gene editing will impact research on disease-resistant pigs as restaurants, retailers back away from gene-edited products to avoid upsetting EU market

News: High Plains Journal reports BASF closes acquisition of businesses, assets from Bayer that includes crop protection, biotech and digital farming activities, and marks its entry into seeds, non-selective herbicides and nematicide seed treatments

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Tanzanian investment news site reports country is counting on GM cultivation to increase food production and drive toward Tanzania's goal of industrializing the country

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News release: APEC announces 2018 Food Security week set for Aug. 4-10 to focus on food security and sustainable agriculture

Video: Centre for Science and Environment amplifies its study in YouTube video, notes their study found unlabeled, illegal GMOs being sold in India, asks why Indians cannot make informed choices about their food; says people think their food "is safe and does not contain GMOs"

News: The Times of India reports researchers at Junagadh Agriculture University using genome editing to create groundnut free of cholesterol; university only third in country to deploy CRISPR/Cas9 technology, researchers hope to develop cholesterol-free groundnut oil in two to three years

Commentary: Saudi Arabia's Arab News runs op-ed by U.K. journalist suggesting lab-grown meet could help solve food issues in Middle East, technology might end humankind's reliance on livestock for protein; writer warns public perception could be biggest barrier to acceptance of clean meat

News: Bio-science researcher says genetic engineering can help Bangladesh feed itself as one of most densely populated countries in world; notes GMO opponents believe in myth of "natural food," notes scientific consensus on GMO food safety

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: Author Matt Ridley writes for The Times, says ECJ's ridiculous ruling will hurt farmers, increase food costs, ensure more pesticide use, researchers to leave EU for America

News: BBC reports on trial to test if salmon fed GM feed are more nutritious; scientists hope GM soy rich in fish oils will help the fish produce more omega 3 while critics claim it props up unsustainable, industrial production system

News: Dutch news source reports European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker details soy deal recently reached with President Trump, which creates no barriers for U.S. soy, points out GM soy and agricultural products not part of agreement

News: Associated Press reports EU's soy imports from U.S. already were on rise before EU official told Trump they would buy more

News release: Spanish Bioindustry Association objects to European court ruling on NBTs, says it puts EU at severed disadvantage as other continents already using gene editing; encourages dialogue to raise awareness of gene-edited crops' benefits

Commentary: French anti-GMO NGO inf'OGM warns beet genetically engineered to tolerate herbicide may arrive in European fields in 2019, notes Conviso Smart sugarbeet engineered to tolerate sprays of Bayer's herbicide Conviso One; NGO also warns of risk of cross-pollination with non-GE beets

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Ecuadoran TV news site reports Spanish Association of Biocompanies' Javier Velasco says European fear biotech due to association with GMOs, emphasizes removing fear factor from gene-edited products

News: Ecuadoran news site reports EcuadorLibrede Transgénicos argues in court to declare unconstitutional a part of seed law that allows biotech research in the country; indigenous group

president says they don't want to be "dependent on transnationals"

Commentary: Chilean news site contributor says by increasing yields, biotechnology allows less acreage to be farmed thus reducing environmental impact; notes they increase farmer income, yet are only crops that must go through approval process

News release: Colombian Farming Institute announces farmers attended GM corn workshop, producers learn how to handle pesticides to prevent resistant weeds

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 continued amplification of Nigeria's decision approving Bt cotton. Commentary on India's regulation of GM food imports also continued today.

- Cornell Alliance for Science's Nkechi Isaac reported on Nigeria's approval of a Bt cotton variety, celebrating the country's first commercialized GM crop. Isaac quoted Rose Maxwell Gidado of the Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology, who noted that GM cowpea was also close to reaching farmers. [See more](#)
- India's *Deccan Chronicle* reported on a recent Centre for Science and Environment study, noting that many imported baby foods contained unlabeled GMO ingredients. *Economic Times* columnist Swaminathan S. Anklesaria Aiyar criticized the "alarmist" report, calling for environmentalists to understand the science before reacting to causes. [See more](#)
- News outlets in Mexico continued to report on the efforts of future agriculture minister Victor Villalobos, who reassured environmentalists that the administration was seeking to focus on domestic food production. Mexico's *El Semanario* published a column examining the writings of the planned science and technology administrator, María Elena Álvarez-Buylla, noting potential concerns around proposed restructuring of the agency. [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: Cornell Alliance for Science's Joan Conrow surveys worldwide reaction to European Court of Justice ruling on gene editing; USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue says decision based on outdated regulations, stymies innovation, while European Seed Association warns of negative consequences for Europe

News: Maryland newspaper reports amendment working way through Congress could allow use of GM crops on farms in national wildlife refuges; supporters say farming difficult on wet marshy ground without GM crops, banned in refuges except when essential for habitat restoration in 2014

Commentary: ClassAction.org promotes lawsuit against Nestle for misleading consumers with its No GMO Ingredients label, which looks similar to the Non-GMO Project label, but the products do contain ingredients from animals given GM feed

Commentary: Forbes runs op-ed by wealth management adviser highlighting partnership between Mosa Meats and Merck subsidiary that could mark start of solving scale issue of lab-grown meat; Mosa produced first cultured burger in 2013, hopes to reach mass production by 2021

Announcement: USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service seeks public comment on two documents related to potential deregulation of cotton variety genetically engineered to have ultra-low levels of gossypol in its seed; public may submit comments through Aug. 31

Event: Bioscience Resource Project's Jonathan Latham to speak in Hawaii on "Biotechnology, Agri-Chemicals, and the Value of Life" (Aug. 2) and "The Poison Papers Revealed, CRISPR and Gene Editing

Explained" (Aug. 7)

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science blogger reports Nigeria commercializes first GM crop, approving pest-resistant Bt cotton as means of revitalizing textile industry, boosting economic development; OFAB Nigeria country coordinator says other GM crops to be released after required regulatory processes

Commentary: Dayo Onibile of Nigeria's The Point examines debate surrounding GM crops, argues that GM crops have not demonstrated benefits touted by proponents, highlights Burkina Faso's shift away from Bt cotton

News: South Africa's Bizcommunity reports on Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Senzeni Zokwana's approval of statutory levy on soybeans to compensate seed companies for their technologies, Grain SA welcomed the decision

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Swaminathan S Anklesaria Aiyar of India's Economic Times criticizes Centre for Science and Environment's recent campaign against GMOs, describes CSE's claim that GMOs pose health risks as an "unscientific falsehood"

News: India's Deccan Chronicle reports on study by Centre for Science and Environment which found that 25 percent of imported infant food samples contained GMOs, nutritionist Sujatha Stephen linked GM foods to childhood obesity and early metabolic problems

News: Pakistan's Daily Times reports American Society of Plant Biologists holds workshop on risk assessment of GM crops at Punjab University; Monsanto Pakistan official cites zero recorded instances of health and safety hazards associated with GM crops in more than 20 years of commercial sale

News: Press Trust of India reports pink bollworm again attacks cotton plants in Maharashtra state in 2018, causing concerns for farmers, government after pest caused large-scale damage to 2017 cotton crop; one farmer says state government gives advice on controlling bollworm attack

More Asia items

Europe

News: Farming UK amplifies PG Economics report quantifying financial benefit of using GM crop technology to maximize agricultural productivity, concluding benefit at farm level \$18.2 billion in 2016 alone, as much as \$186.1 billion for 20-year period from 1996 to 2016

Audio: Dutch radio outlet features discussion with Plantum director Niels Louwaars, Wageningen University's Rene Smulders and Sustainable Food Supply Foundation's Bertus Buizer on EU Court ruling on gene edited crops

Commentary: University of Erlangen-Nürnberg professors Peter Dabrock and Matthias Braun write for Germany's Potsdamer Neueste Nachrichten, they argue that the precautionary principle is not suitable for defining risks that may conceivably hinder research

Commentary: Edgar Schuler of Switzerland's Tages Anzeiger examines EU Court decision on gene edited crops, notes it will influence the future of Swiss agriculture, notes activists like Swiss Alliance Gentechnikfrei welcome the decision

Commentary: Geopolitical intelligence platform Stratfor analyzes implications of EU court ruling to regulate gene edited crops as GMOs, notes differing definitions of genetic modification could put future trade agreements at risk

News: Russian News Agency TASS reports on survey which found that 79 percent of respondents believe GMOs are extremely harmful to human health, but that the information is hidden from consumers

Campaign: Swiss Small Farmers Association calls on supporters to promote Fair Food Initiative prior to Sept. 23 vote, with goal of promoting food from close-to-nature, environmentally and animal-friendly agriculture with fair working conditions

News: Germany's Passauer Neue Presse reports on meeting of group that opposes genetic engineering, warning opponents must be on guard against new "green" GE forms; speakers oppose outsourcing GE to developing countries

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: In opinion piece for Mexico's El Diario, Sergio Sarmiento examines opposition to GMOs and anti-scientific thinking in the country, notes that while appointment of Víctor Villalobos as Ag Secretary seemed like a change in direction, he is favoring non-GM methods

Commentary: UNAM grad student in economics, Marcela Amaro Rosales, writes for Mexico's El Semanario, voices concern about appointment of María Elena Álvarez-Buylla to head National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT), noting her stance against transgenics

Commentary: Argentina's Valor Soja examines EU Court decision to regulate gene edited crops as GMOs, notes it could function as a new para-tariff barrier, highlights contrast with decision by Argentina's National Agricultural Biotechnology Advisory Commission (Conabia)

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: New Zealand's Farmers Weekly reports on moves by U.S. and EU regulators to tighten regulations on what food products can use terms associated with meat and dairy, while the NZ Primary Industries Ministry has no applications for similar protections

News: Radio New Zealand reports nation's Sustainability Council warns gene-drive technology has potential to wipe out entire species, represents biosecurity threat, needs global regulation; technology has been suggested to deal with possums, barnyard grass and Palmer Amaranth

More Oceania items

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From: Jay Byrne
 To: Diane Wray-Cohen@fas.usda.gov
 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - July 30, 2018
 Date: Monday, July 30, 2018 9:02:39 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 response to the European Court of Justice (ECJ) decision regulating new genetic modification techniques under the GMO Directive. Indian activists continued to amplify a study indicating many imported and domestic foods contain unlabeled GMOs.

- European researchers continued to discuss the implications of the ECJ ruling that products of new plant breeding technologies should be reviewed under the GMO Directive. Italian wine scientists noted that the ruling could undermine funding for projects seeking to develop disease resistance in grape varieties. A former European Food Safety Authority official told Spain's *Sinc* that the court's decision ignored scientific realities. [See more](#)
- Belgian media outlets amplified a weekend report from *De Morgen* indicating that agriculture minister Denis Ducarme had approved the continuation of a gene-edited maize field trial. Ducarme added that the trials would be held to the same standards as traditional GMO field trials. [See more](#)
- Activists with the Centre for Science and Environment continued their campaign in Indian news outlets, highlighting a report on unlabeled GM foods in the country. The commentary criticized the country's food safety regulator over its lax enforcement of the country's GMO ban. [See more](#)

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North America

Campaign: Genome Canada calls for applications for its 2018 competition: Large Scale Applied Research Projects: Genomic Solutions for Agriculture, Agri-Food, Fisheries and Aquaculture, highlights challenge of social acceptance of genomics-based technologies

Commentary: Johns Hopkins biomedical engineering professor Steven Salzberg writes for Forbes, criticizes EU Court ruling on gene edited crops, notes humans have been modifying food for thousands of years, argues it makes no sense to ban all GMOs

Commentary: Common Dreams amplifies India's Centre for Science and Environment study showing many imported and domestic foods contain unlabeled GMOs, quotes Vandana Shiva on the need for locally grown food and not "imposed" junk food

News: Hawaii news site reports senate race between agricultural lobbyist and incumbent has seen GM seed companies and pesticide spraying become divisive campaign issues

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Tanzania's The Citizen reports on ISAAA report showing increase in global biotech crop adoption, highlights Tanzania's progress in allowing field trials of drought-resistant maize as part of the Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) project

News: Nigeria's The Sun reports on announcement by National Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA) acting Director General Alex Akpa of distribution of GM cotton to 1,000 large-scale farmers, with goal of reviving the textile industry

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

Commentary: Writing in Millenium Post, environmental NGO director and Down to Earth editor says government failure to label GMOs

News: The Hindu reports on Centre for Science and Environment study that found many imported food brands contain GMOs, even brands that claim non-GMO status

Commentary: In latest article on GMO labeling report, India's Down to Earth associate editor says consumer being "force fed" GM food in absence of FSSAI action on illegal GMO imports

Commentary: Founder of global organic food company writing in Indian newspaper touts organic food as healthier than conventional food because consumers can avoid harmful pesticides, chemicals such as Roundup, Agent Orange found in GM food; urges consumers to take stand against GM labeling

News: Indian Express reports on local reactions to EU Court of Justice opinion on NBTs, highlights gene-editing potential applications and researcher hopes that India will not follow EU model

News: Japanese news site reports U.S. demand growing for organic food-grade soybeans due to popularity of edamame, but most farmers grow lower-maintenance GM varieties, which make up bulk of US soybean exports

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: Flemish information center for agriculture and horticulture (Vilt) reports on Ag Minister Ducarme's decision to allow completion of Flemish Institute for Biotechnology's (VIB) secret CRISPR maize trial, FPS Public Health will treat it as a GMO

News: Belgium's De Morgen reports on Ag Minister Ducarme's decision to allow completion of Flemish Institute for Biotechnology's (VIB) secret CRISPR maize trials, following an inspection that determined it is following all requirements of a GMO field trial

Interview: Italian food news site questions leading wine researcher about EU court decision on plant breeding, notes that despite broad applications Italy has mostly focused on using the technology in wine grapes

Commentary: Il Dolomiti posts letter from leading Italian wine researcher explaining recent EU court decision on mutagenesis, notes that court opened door to allow individual states to block older mutagenic techniques

Interview: Deutschlandfunk interviews Green Party Deputy Harald Ebner, he welcomes EU Court ruling to regulate gene edited crops as GMOs, highlights need for full risk assessment of new products before granting approval

Commentary: Agrigenomics Research Center (CRAG) researcher and former president of EFSA's GMO panel, Josep M. Casacuberta, writes for Spain's Sinc in criticism of EU Court ruling on gene editing, notes assessment that goals of gene editing and transgenesis are the same is false

News: Germany's Evangelisch amplifies article by ethicists Peter Dabrock and Matthias Braun in Der Tagesspiegel on EU Court decision on gene edited crops, they warn about negative impact on European scientific innovation, criticize reliance on precautionary principle

Interview: Austria's Der Standard interviews Austrian Bioethics Commission chair Christiane Druml, she is surprised by EU Court's ruling to regulate gene edited crops as GMOs, believes it shows a preference

for large corporations

Commentary: Ulrike Weiser of Germany's Die Presse criticises tunnel vision in debate on genetic engineering following recent EU Court ruling, notes key facts are ignored like acceptance of chemicals and radiation in plant breeding and pesticides in organic

News: The Wall Street Journal reports that European trade negotiators refute Trump claims on U.S. agricultural access to EU markets, notes GMO restrictions will not be reviewed during upcoming trade talks

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News release: G20 summit in Argentina commits to work to promote sustainable agriculture, improve nutrition by increasing agricultural productivity; notes call to encourage innovative technologies to address global challenges

News: Mexico's La Jornada reports on Secretariat of Environment and Urban Development (Seduma) assessment that Yucatan sustainability agreement did not need to consult with indigenous communities, because it regularly works with them in workshops, including on GM-free zones

News: Mexican news site reports agricultural university calls for additional research on transgenic crop production to combat myths, adds they are still in the experimental stage and safety declarations premature

News: El Mercurio reports four producers in Mexican region of Tamaulipas have received permission to sow transgenic cotton, notes hope for better prices versus other cash crops

Interview: Colombia's El Tiempo speaks with University of Pereira environmental administrator about agroecology, highlights effort to avoid pesticides and recent government resolution supporting family agriculture

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

Commentary: Claire Insley of New Zealand's Vegan Society recounts recent ProteinTECH 2018 conference, Beef + Lamb New Zealand director Melissa Clark Reynolds emphasized need for farmers to diversify as price of lab-grown meat continues to decline

[More Oceania items](#)

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From: Jay Byrne
 To: Caitrin.Martin@fas.usda.gov
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - July 30, 2018
 Date: Monday, July 30, 2018 4:07:54 PM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

When a European court ruled last week that products of new plant breeding techniques such as gene editing should be restricted in the same way as those from previous genetic modification methods, it prompted broad criticism from advocates who see the decision as "**scientifically illiterate**" and hypocritical when compared to the continent's acceptance of climate change science. Several responses are featured in this week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter.

We also highlight a U.S. congressman's criticism of another legal decision - a California judge's agreement, despite what he called "shaky" evidence, to allow a lawsuit to move forward with claims that glyphosate causes cancer.

Other items explore NGOs' false claims about bee die-offs and tactics used by the organic industry to attack crop protection products and biotechnology.

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: Green America



Green America (formerly Co-op America) is a Washington, D.C.-based membership organization that claims to promote ethical consumerism and green businesses.

■ Stories Worth Sharing

[Hank Campbell: Court ruling leaves Europe "in the dark" on plant breeding innovations](#)

[Cameron English: European court ruling will make gene editing too expensive for universities, nonprofits and small businesses](#)

[Ronald Bailey: European court ruling applies "uselessly onerous" regulatory schemes to gene-edited crops](#)

[Paul Driessen: After years of fundraising against neonics, Sierra Club and other NGOs admit bees aren't dying off](#)

[U.S. Rep. Frank Lucas: Judge's decision to let Roundup cancer case move forward poses "immediate and detrimental impact on farmers"](#)

[Stephan Neidenbach: Exposing "rapid response team" that serves Stonyfield's Hirshberg on GMO, herbicide issues](#)

[Hope Kelly: Biotechnology boosts Philippines agriculture market and gives hope of feeding growing population](#)

[Angela Logomasini: "Opportunistic" lawyers seeking big payouts, not proof that glyphosate causes cancer](#)

Association members include leaders from the organic and natural products industries who use Green America certifications and marketing aids to promote their products as safer, healthier and more socially responsible than competing conventional products.

Green America sponsored campaigns include GMO Inside and the Non-GMO Supply Chain Working Group.

Click here to [LEARN MORE](#) about Green America.

[CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES](#)

Gary Truitt: [If science doesn't matter, agriculture has a problem](#)

Plant pathologist: [European neonic ban based on unreasonable zero-risk principle](#)

Christopher Bendana: [African plant biotechnologists benefit from collaborative research](#)

GENETIC LITERACY PROJECT SERIES

BY DAVID ZARUK

European Union taking away farmers' tools that are "perfectly safe as used"

Glyphosate, endocrine disruptors, neonics fall victim to EU's precautionary regulation

For highly motivated activists, "main focus is attacking industry"

[CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING](#)

What's Trending?

European court rules products of new breeding techniques should be governed as GMOs

France reveals new Ecophyto plan to reduce pesticide usage

India's Centre for Science and Environment demands better labeling after study found GM ingredients in 32 percent of samples tested

U.S. EPA opens two-month comment period on atrazine risk assessment

Calendar highlights

August 4-10	August 5-10	August 5-6
Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation food security week	Ecological Society of America annual meeting	Agricultural & Applied Economics Association 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 27-29, 2018
 Date: Sunday, July 29, 2018 9:01:26 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 continued commentary on the European Court of Justice decision to regulate gene editing under regulations governing GMOs. Mexican media reported president-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador plans to ban GMO cultivation.

- Biotechnology advocates and anti-GMO activists continued commentary on the EU court decision on new breeding techniques. David Zaruk criticized the outcome as a "scientifically illiterate decision" that failed to recognize organic farmers exploiting a weak European Union to derail biotechnology and pesticides. Rothamsted Research's Nigel Halford said the ruling set back biotechnology in the EU by 20 years. The Europe-based International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements called for the development of methods to detect products made via new breeding techniques since the products currently are undetectable. *Smithsonian* magazine reported groups such as Greenpeace are calling for authorities to halt field trials on gene-edited products in the U.K., Belgium, Finland and Sweden. [See more](#)
- Mexican news sites reported expected Agriculture Minister nominee Victor Villalobos assured media during a news conference that Obrador would ban GMO cultivation in the country. Villalobos also said Obrador's goal was to have Mexico be self-sufficient in growing its own food by the end of his term in six years. [See more](#)
- Bolivian news outlets reported that agricultural producers used National Wheat Day to urge the country's rural development minister to allow transgenic crop cultivation. Highlighting the recent drought and underperforming wheat, groups say modernized seed production could significantly improve yields. The minister responded that consultants were currently reviewing proposals on the issue from the producers. [See more](#)

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

North America

Commentary: Jack Dini of Canada Free Press examines evidence linking several anti-GMO groups to Russia and China, highlights allegations that Organic Consumers Association works with the Kremlin's propaganda arm, argues anti-GMO stance is about hurting U.S. ag companies

Commentary: Moms Across America writer says Impossible Burger ingredients include GE soy, potatoes, other ingredients; adds it has environmental appeal as raising meat animals takes toll on planet, but same reactive oxygen giving the product a meaty-like reaction can trigger DNA damage, cancer.

Commentary: Hank Campbell of American Council on Science and Health criticizes EU Court ruling on gene editing, noting CRISPR is much more precise than mutagenesis, points out that the ruling favors European company BASF with its \$75 billion in revenue

News: New York Times reports on EU Court ruling to regulate gene edited crops as GMOs, North Carolina State University scientist Jennifer Kuzma voiced confusion at the decision, questioning whether they have the right kind of science advice

News: Quartz reports on U.S. meat industry's call on President Trump to give USDA sole regulatory

authority over lab-grown meat, highlights public dispute between USDA and FDA over which agency should have jurisdiction

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Kenya's Business Daily reports Ethiopia plans to start production of high-yielding GM cotton that could give it advantage against rival textile sectors in Kenya, Madagascar, which are having problems finding enough raw material; scientists say Kenya could improve competitiveness of its textile industry by adopting Bt cotton

News: Nigeria's Daily Trust reports on National Committee on Naming, Registration and Release of Crop Materials' approval of two new Bt cotton varieties, with goal of boosting Nigeria's textile industry by increasing cotton yields

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: India's Mint reports on Centre for Science and Environment study which found GM ingredients in 32 percent of samples tested, CSE accuses Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) of regulatory failure

News: Philippine Star reports on goal of commercializing Bt eggplant next year, University of the Philippines-Los Banos Professor Cesar Quicoy noted that after the 10-year process, next year is the most conservative estimate, pointed to benefit of reduced pesticide use

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: Dutch news outlet reports on potato breeding company HZPC's plans to move its research on new genetic techniques outside of the EU, following recent Court ruling, HZPC director Gerard Backx voiced disappointment that non-European growers will benefit

News release: Head of Italian farmers association agrees with Court of Justice decision to treat new plant selection techniques like GMOs, says precaution toward new farming techniques needed to protect area's agri-food heritage

Commentary: German-based transGEN says if the European Court's verdict is the last word on new plant breeding techniques, genome editing in the EU "probably has no chance;" notes with countries outside the EU taking a different approach, it will be difficult to prevent new genome-edited plants from entering Europe

Commentary: Swiss news site 24 heures columnist says as European Court of Justice decides to treat gene editing like GMOs, Swiss people show they don't want GMOs, first by 2005 vote, then by 2016 decision of parliament; adds precautionary principle deserves respect despite what scientists believe

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Mexican news sources report President-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador would prohibit planting of transgenic seeds, as incoming ag secretary says ban will start with swearing-in Dec. 1, citing health risks of transgenics for consumers; report notes some companies using GMOs in their products sold in Mexico

News: Bolivian news site reports farmers ask Minister of Rural Development Cesar Cocarico to approve GM crops to help increase yields

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: New Zealand NGO Science Media Centre says following Europe's decision to regulate gene editing by the same rules applied to GMOs, Food Standards Australia New Zealand now reviewing how the Food Standards Code applies to gene editing; genomics professor says key things to test are risks and benefits

Commentary: Friends of the Earth Australia welcomes EU Court ruling to regulate products of gene editing as GMOs, contrary to recommendations of Australian regulators, calls on gov't to put public health and the environment over private profits

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 Date: Thursday, July 26, 2018 9 00 50 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 continued commentary on the European Court of Justice's decision on gene editing. An NGO reported on its study on unlabeled GMOs imported into India and recommended tougher standards.

- Biotechnology advocates and critics commented on Wednesday's EU court ruling that products of gene editing should be regulated as GMOs. German newspaper *Suddeutsche Zeitung* reported a University of Hanover professor said the ruling would stifle research on drought tolerance. The NGO Sustainable Pulse praised the court's decision and noted the Flemish Institute for Biotechnology's maize field trials may not be legal. Writing for Genetic Literacy Project, Cameron English argued the ruling also may mean a setback for biotechnology in Africa. **See more**
- India's Centre for Science and Environment announced its study found 46 percent of imported food tested was found to contain GMOs, and 13 percent of those foods were not labeled for GMOs. The group recommended the Food Safety & Standards Authority of India enact tougher approval standards. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: David Zaruk's third in three-part series on risk and hazard for Genetic Literacy Project and Global Farmer Network argues shift to hazard-based approach, ensuing regulations result of strategic campaign by groups that benefit from putting hazards at center of regulatory process, cites EU ban on neonics as example

News: Politico's Morning Ag news roundup reports on meat and livestock organizations call on President Trump to intervene in dispute between USDA and FDA over who has jurisdiction in regulating lab-grown meat

Commentary: New Atlas columnist reports FDA recognizes safety of heme molecule, key ingredient in Impossible Burger; action seen as victory for "clean meat" movement, over objections of environmentalists

Commentary: Ronald Bailey of Reason Magazine laments EU Court decision to overregulate gene edited crops as a "sad day for European crop breeders and farmers," emphasizes demonstrated safety of GMOs, notes precision of gene editing will make them safer

News: Florida newspaper reports from luncheon at Citrus Research and Education Center, where USDA geneticist reported scientists making progress toward breeding new citrus trees that better tolerate infection by fatal bacterial disease citrus greening, said transgenics may be best way to create strong resistance or immunity

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Nigeria's The Sun reports on order by National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) in conjunction with Nigerian Customs Services for immediate confiscation of GM products imported without biosafety permits

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

Commentary: Centre for Science and Environment researchers write for India's Down to Earth, amplify groups' study on GM ingredient presence in food products, criticizing Food Safety Standards Authority of India's proposed labeling standards as being unenforceable and based on bad science

News release: Chinese company Origin Agritech announces completion of first closing of asset sale to Beijing Shihui Agricultural Development Co., plans to cancel second phase of sale of its commercial seed business, citing potential for growth with GMOs

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: Germany's Sueddeutsche Zeitung reports on reactions to EU Court ruling that gene edited plants must be regulated as GMOs, University of Hannover's Jens Boch noted the ruling puts EU research back by decades, noting it will stifle advancements in drought tolerance

News release: General Confederation of Italian Agriculture (Confagricoltura) voices disappointment in EU Court ruling on mutagenesis, highlighting potential of new technologies to safeguard agricultural production, and to improve ag sustainability

[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: Australia's The Land runs op-ed by ag analyst with Dutch banking company arguing synchronized policies needed for biotech to facilitate global trade, citing variations in regulatory policies among nations, stressing need to differentiate between genetic modification and gene editing

News release: Science Media Centre New Zealand gathers expert reactions to EU Court ruling that gene edited crops are subject to GMO laws, University of Otago's Peter Dearden and Massey University's Barry Scott criticized approach of regulating technologies rather than outcomes

[More Oceania items](#)

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

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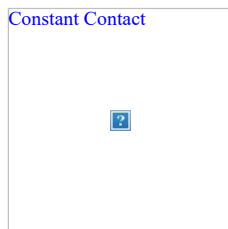
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 Date: Wednesday, July 25, 2018 9:01:32 PM

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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 European Court of Justice's decision that products developed through mutagenesis are subject to regulation under the EU's GMO Directive.

- The European Court's decision ignored recommendations by Advocate General Michal Bobek, who had previously recommended that the regulations not apply to new plant breeding techniques similar to mutagenesis. The court's decision instead noted that all mutagenesis techniques remain subject to the GMO Directive, but that conventionally used techniques with a "long safety record" may be exempted. The decision prompted significant stakeholder response. Industry groups EuropaBIO and Verband der Chemischen Industrie (VIC), among others, described the decision as a significant setback for European innovation. The German farming group Deutscher Bauernverband highlighted recent droughts and said the decision "sabotaged" farmers' ability to fight climate change. [See more](#)
- British activist groups GM Freeze and GeneWatch U.K. announced that they had submitted a letter to environment secretary Michael Gove, urging him to halt field trials of gene-edited *Camelina sativa*. The groups claimed that the new ruling meant the field trials had been undertaken illegally. [See more](#)

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

North America

[News: Science and technology news sites report European Court of Justice declares methods that alter DNA such as gene editing are regulated as GMOs; notes Rothamsted Research official says it will hinder European innovation](#)

[Commentary: Max Goldberg of Living Maxwell reports cereal brand Nature's Path has quit Organic Trade Association in protest of BASF, other companies' memberships, and controversial hydroponics issue in attempt to save principles of organic movement](#)

[Commentary: Stacy Malkan and Carey Gillam of U.S. Right to Know writing for Investor's Business Daily criticize Henry Miller commentaries alleging USRTK involved in Russian conspiracy, suggest attack spurred by NGO investigation into lobbying, propaganda efforts of food, agrichemical industries](#)

[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: Reuters reports China-owned Syngenta is targeting growth through acquisitions in the Chinese seed market, where access is restricted to local firms; hopes this advantage will help it catch bigger global rivals

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News release: European Court of Justice announces ruling that products obtained via mutagenesis subject to GMO regulation, but says certain types of mutagenesis conventionally used and have long safety record are not subject to GMO regulations

News: News wires report on European court decision, says GMO rules cover crops, animals bred using gene editing and mutagenesis, notes decision goes against court advocate's position

News: European news outlets cover European Court of Justice decision, rules products produced with gene editing and mutagenesis should be regulated as GMOs

News release: EuropaBio says Court of Justice ruling on organisms obtained by mutagenesis could mean Europe will miss out on significant benefits of certain applications of genome editing; adds gene editing provides consumer, environmental and health benefits

News release: Greens/EFA says the Court's ruling that organisms obtained by mutagenesis should be regulated like GMOs is a victory for European food safety, the environment; MEP Bart Staes adds industry won't define GMO standards

Commentary: Confederation Paysanne notes EU court finds in its favor, rules products obtained via gene editing, mutagenesis are regulated under gene editing, notes mutagenesis methods traditionally used and with long safety record may be excluded from regulation

News: German news site reports German farmers association notes long drought causing problems for farmers, calls for researchers to create drought-tolerant plant, but news site report EU court ruled NBTs to be regulated as GMOs

Commentary: Friends of the Earth Europe applauds EU court decision on NBTs, says gene editing techniques must be fully tested before going "into countryside and our food"

News release: International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements applauds European Court of Justice decision to regulate new gene editing techniques under same criteria as GMOs; adds European Commission must enforce decision

News release: GM Freeze and GeneWatch UK ask Environment Secretary Gove to halt "now unlawful" trial of gene edited plants at Rothamsted Research, saying the plants did not go through required legal process

[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

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Today's global biotechnology developments included significant media reporting previewing a European Court of Justice opinion on some new plant breeding techniques (NBTs). Scientists from G20 countries met in Argentina to discuss food security.

- European media outlets continued to preview the European Court of Justice opinion on mutagenesis and some related NBTs, due to be released tomorrow (July 25). The reports highlighted local researchers and activists who noted the implications of the decision for various industries. The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements released a preliminary statement noting that the decision was unlikely to apply to all NBTs, while German farming group Bauernbund Brandenburg issued a statement rejecting gene editing in the country. **See more**
- Science academies from the G20 countries met in Rosario, Argentina, to discuss food security and nutrition. Among the first day's speakers, Institute of Molecular and Cellular Biology of Rosario researcher Alejandro Vila highlighted rampant misinformation on biotechnology and called for science-based policies. **See more**

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

North America

Commentary: David Zaruk begins three-part series on risk and hazard for Genetic Literacy Project and Global Farmer Network, explains why Europe's approach to biotech and chemical regulation is problematic, notes precautionary principle blocks access to key technologies

News: Business Insider reports FDA grants GE-produced heme used in Impossible Burger "generally recognized as safe" (GRAS) status, a year after initially finding that the paperwork presented was insufficient to establish its safety

Commentary: Mark Lynas writes for Cornell Alliance for Science, welcomes FDA's confirmation of safety of Impossible Foods' GE heme ingredient, believes the decision should serve to align interests of environmentalists and alternative-meat manufacturers

News: Food Navigator reports on FDA's confirmation that it has no further questions on safety of Impossible Foods' GE soy leghemoglobin ingredient, following results from two rat studies and various invitro tests

Announcement: USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service announces deregulation of Bayer CropScience's GE cotton variety with resistance to glyphosate and p-hydroxyphenylpyruvate dioxygenase (HPPD)-Inhibitors such as isoxaflutole

Commentary: Attorneys at Barnes & Thornburg LLP provide highlights of the firm's recent Food and Ag seminar, Planting the Seed, Corteva Agriscience's Krysta Harden noted importance of beginning a dialogue with consumers on GMOs and crop protection regulations

Commentary: Max Goldberg of Living Maxwell examines Nature's Path's decision to withdraw from Organic Trade Association, highlights disagreement over OTA's decision to grant membership to BASF and Cargill, points to risks associated with dicamba

More North America items

Africa

News: Burkina Faso news outlet reports on public conference organized by Citizen Collective for Agroecology (CCAÉ), where speakers voiced concerns and skepticism regarding "Target Malaria" project and use of GE mosquitoes

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Anti-poverty NGO activist highlights new U.S.-funded biotech center in Philippines in call for continued U.S. foreign aid to further biotech in Philippines to keep farmers economically sound, country active in agriculture

News: Indian news source amplifies Vandana Shiva's claims organic farmers earn more while producing more nutritious food, shunning use of agrochemicals; Shiva notes mass class action against Monsanto related to glyphosate use in U.S.

More Asia items

Europe

News release: Ahead of EU Court of Justice decision on legal status of certain GE breeding techniques, International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) anticipates the court will not provide clarity on newer techniques like CRISPR, believes EU Commission should weigh in

News: Agence Europe reports on Greens/EFA Vice President Michèle Rivasi's reiteration of the party's stance that products of new breeding techniques must be subject to current GMO regulations, ahead of expected EU Court ruling (subscription required)

Commentary: Friends of the Earth France claims "GMO 2.0 techniques" create modifications that do not occur naturally with conventional breeding techniques, and that they pose same risks as GMOs, calls on politicians to demand effective regulation

News: Swiss news outlet reports on Baden-Württemberg's Minister of Science, Theresia Bauer's call on Green Party to "recognize the state of science" and "give genetic engineering a chance," advising against a fundamental rejection of the technology

News: Germany's Top Agrar reports on farmer organization Bauernbund Brandenburg's opposition to approval of gene editing in Germany, board member Thomas Kiesel argued it would make farmers dependent on industry, just like GMOs

News: Agence France-Presse reports on anticipation surrounding EU Court of Justice's ruling on how to regulate products of new breeding techniques, Leibniz Institute geneticist Goetz Hensel noted benefit of significant reduction in time needed for development

News: Germany's NDR reports on developments in gene editing and anticipation of EU Court decision on regulating new breeding techniques, Julius Kühn Institute's Ralf Wilhelm noted there is no difference between plants bred with CRISPR and those bred conventionally

Commentary: Maarten Keulemans of Dutch publication De Volkskrant examines possible outcomes of EU Court decision on regulating products of mutagenesis, highlights potential implications of strict regulation, deregulation and allowing member states to decide

News: European media outlets preview EU Court of Justice's upcoming ruling on regulating products of new breeding techniques, highlighting ongoing debate

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Argentinian news outlet reports on Science 20 debate in Rosario on food sustainability, Molecular Biology Institute of Rosario's Alejandro Vila noted there are many myths circulated in the debate on transgenics, called for scientific objectivity

News: Brazil's Sul 21 reports on alert by British NGO GeneWatch claiming that Oxitec's GE mosquitoes released in Brazil to curb spread of diseases do not work, are expensive and threaten public health, based on its review of internal emails

News release: Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa) announces upcoming 56th Sober Congress (Brazilian Society of Economics, Administration and Rural Sociology) from July 29-Aug. 1, where Embrapa researchers will present papers on agroecology and organic production

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

Commentary: Recently appointed Labor Shadow Minister for Primary Industries, Eddie Hughes writes for Eyre Peninsula Tribune, voices interest in hearing from local farmers and community about their views on GM crops and the South Australia moratorium

[More Oceania items](#)

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 Date: Monday, July 23, 2018 9:03:34 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 Belgian officials had approved a gene-edited maize field trial without EU oversight. European news outlets previewed an EU Court of Justice opinion due this week on some new plant breeding techniques (NBTs).

- Local media outlets reported that researchers with the Flemish Institute for Biotechnology (VIB), coordinating with federal officials, had conducted field trials of gene-edited maize without submitting the tests for review under European guidelines on genetically modified organisms. *De Morgen*, which broke the story, noted that gene-edited crops are currently in a legal gray area and added that an EU court decision this week could offer more guidance. **See more**
- European stakeholders continued to preview the European Court of Justice decision due Wednesday (July 25) on whether some NBTs may be exempt from European guidelines on genetically modified organisms. The German agriculture group Deutscher Raiffeisenverband issued a statement emphasizing the need for agricultural innovation free of politics. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Maine newspaper columnist reflects on viewing of documentary "Modified," cites concerns about genetic engineering, arguing it hasn't been tested adequately for safety, also warns it puts scientists in role of playing God, claims GE has failed to improve crop yields

Commentary: Writing as The Farmer's Daughter USA, pro-GMO blogger Amanda Zaluckyj discusses FDA commissioner's promise agency will crack down on plant-based milk alternatives soon, notes dairy industry has urged FDA to enforce labeling regulations, stop what it considers deceptive practices

Campaign: Beyond Pesticides daily news blog urges supporters to send emails to Whole Foods, owner Jeff Bezos of Amazon asking grocery chain to follow through with original plan to label food products with GE ingredients sold in its stores; company announced in May 2018 it was putting plan on hold

[More North America items](#)

Africa

Report: La Via Campesina releases 2017 annual report, highlights struggles toward strengthening international movement, along with deliberations and celebrations of its seventh annual International Conference

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Tehran Times reports on order by Iran's Food and Drug Administration requiring labeling on products containing GM ingredients, including soybean oil and corn oil, agency leader Gholam Reza Asghari noted imported GM products must be approved by the EU

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: Belgium's De Morgen reports on Flemish Institute for Biotechnology's field trials of CRISPR/Cas9 maize with support of the federal gov't in spite of lack of clearance under current EU legislation

News: Belga reports on Flemish Institute for Biotechnology's (VIB) secret field trials of CRISPR/Cas9 maize over the past year and a half, Belgian Environment Minister Marie Christine Marghem previously decided that CRISPR should not be included in GMO legislation

News: Brussels Times reports on Flemish Institute for Biotechnology's (VIB) field trials of CRISPR maize, NGOs like Corporate Europe Observatory criticized VIB for taking advantage of lack of clarity on CRISPR's regulatory status in the EU

Commentary: Inf'OGM's Christophe Noisette criticizes Flemish Institute for Biotechnology (VIB) for taking advantage of legal uncertainty surrounding new breeding techniques, amid reports of its CRISPR maize field trials

News: Deutschlandfunk reports European Court of Justice to decide July 25 whether new GE methods, such as CRISPR-Cas, should fall under regulation of EU's Genetic Engineering Act, notes NGO representing German plant breeders warns regulation of NBTs would put them at severe disadvantage internationally

News release: German Raiffeisen Association (DRV) anticipates July 25 decision by European Court of Justice on applicability of GE legislation to certain new breeding techniques, emphasizes application of new techniques in plant and animal breeding shouldn't be impeded or prevented by political motives

Announcement: Beyond GM announces publication of a briefing document providing answers to basic questions about EU Court of Justice case on whether mutagenesis should be included in current EU GMO legislation, ahead of the court's July 25th ruling

Commentary: Green MEP Bart Staes writes for Belgium's Knack, reacting to reports of Flemish Institute for Biotechnology's field trials of CRISPR maize, voices concern about unintended effects, awaits EU Court of Justice opinion

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Brazil's Sul 21 reports on weekly Ecological Farmers Fair (FAE) in Porto Alegre, Franciele Menoncin Bellé emphasized importance of protecting seeds, noting threat of contamination posed by transgenics

News: Brazilian news source Universo Online amplifies Human Rights Watch study finding spraying of pesticides "is generating patients in schools, homes, villages all over Brazil"

News: Argentinian news source Bichos de Campo reports public can now participate in discussion concerning recommendations to regulate pesticide applications until Aug. 20

[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, July 23, 2018 4:03:07 PM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

This week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter highlights articles contrasting the past, present and future of agriculture.

In a piece published by *Townhall*, Paul Driessen explains how the agroecology movement rejects modern agricultural advances and wants to return to techniques used in days gone by. Jon Entine and Henry Miller, in an article that appeared in *The Daily Caller*, describe how Russia's current propaganda is boosting advocacy groups' efforts to block today's best farming methods and discoveries. And Tamar Haspel, writing for *Vox*, asks whether the public will be willing to accept the CRISPR techniques that hold promise for the future.

Other articles examine endocrine disruption claims about pesticides, the debate over GM ryegrass in New Zealand and the viruses that have been found to impact bees.

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In This Issue

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

Stakeholder Spotlight: The Real Organic Project



The Real Organic Project formed to "highlight the failures" of the USDA National Organic Program, saying it is "disgusted" with the program and calling it a

■ Stories Worth Sharing

[Paul Driessen: Agroecology is "anti-GMO organic food activism on steroids," rejecting all modern agricultural advances](#)

[Henry Miller and Jon Entine: Russia trying to boost its non-GM agriculture by interfering with U.S. biotech's "stunning advances"](#)

[Mark Lynas: Science winning "war of words" on genetic engineering as anti-GMO advocates back down](#)

[Hank Campbell: Endocrine disruption claims "throw out science and replace it with mysticism"](#)

[Tamar Haspel: CRISPR is "everything GMOs aren't," but will the public buy in?](#)

[John Dillard: Despite early rulings, glyphosate not "out of the woods yet" on Prop 65 warning labels](#)

[Researchers ask Juncker, European Commission to enact policies allowing Europe to be at "forefront of innovation" in plant breeding](#)

[Science 2.0: Penn State study reinforces consensus that viruses are key culprit in worsening bee health](#)

disaster on issues including GMO labeling and allowing hydroponic (soil-free) organic production.


The organization is comprised of extreme organic farming advocates, including Beyond Pesticides co-founder and executive director Jay Feldman.


The Real Organic Project claims it is neither extreme nor radical; however, it opposes conventional and organic coexistence, includes NGOs that support the criminal destruction of GMO research and its founding members include promoters of extreme Maharishi Vedic organic food practices.


The group has been in the news recently for its Farm Bill, USDA GMO labeling and National Organic Program lobbying.


Click here to **LEARN MORE** about the Real Organic Project.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Bob Edlin: With environmental benefits proven, will genetically modified ryegrass still face opposition from New Zealand Greens? 

Science 2.0: Public mistakenly trusts environmental NGOs on issues including pesticides 

Alex Berezow: Law firm Matthews & Associates "willing to promote any junk science propaganda to make a buck" 

Pavitar Pal Singh Pangli: India's Supreme Court must protect intellectual property for Bt cotton or risk creating "country of bandits" 

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What's Trending?

Human Rights Watch report claims aerial pesticide spraying poisons people in Brazil's rural areas

European Court of Justice set to rule Wednesday on new plant breeding techniques

Greenpeace, other activists demand European Commission outlaw neonic ban derogations seen by farmers as lifeline

New glyphosate cancer claims filed as California trial continues

Calendar highlights

July 24-25	July 24	July 27-28
Meeting of G-20 science engagement group	Consumers Union of Japan briefing on GMO labeling efforts in South Korea, Japan and United States	G-20 leaders summit meeting on agriculture

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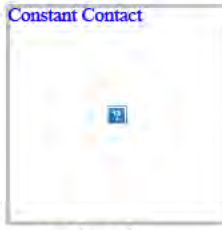
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Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Weekend global biotechnology developments included European Union media and stakeholders commenting on an upcoming European Court of Justice ruling on regulating mutagenesis and new gene-editing methods. Media amplified a study published by *Cell Press* that gene editing could lead to fruit and vegetables with better nutrition, taste and other positive attributes.

- *Reuters* reported the EU's highest court will announce its decision Wednesday on whether gene editing and mutagenesis techniques are subject to laws governing GMOs. It reported advocate general Michal Bobek gave an opinion that the techniques can be exempt if products do not contain foreign DNA. However, *GMWatch* criticized the *Reuters* article and said it misinterpreted Bobek's statement. European plant scientists published an open letter to the European Commission suggesting three actions for commissioners to take to put Europe back in the forefront of agricultural innovation. An Austrian team of journalists and a plant scientist noted gene editing could begin a revolution in agricultural produces and said that, contrary to popular belief, biotech crops are more environmentally friendly than organic crops. **[See more](#)**
- A *Cell Press* news release on a New Zealand Plant and Food Research study noted that by editing MYB transcription factor genes, scientists could produce fruit and vegetables with better nutrition and taste, as well as more appetizing colors, shapes and textures. The release spurred articles in the U.S. and New Zealand that noted the changes could produce new varieties of produce with a "wow factor." **[See more](#)**

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North America

[Commentary: Henry I. Miller, Jon Entine write that Russia colludes with NGOs such as USRTK to attack those who advocate science-based decisions on GMOs, even those with consumer, altruistic benefits such as Golden Rice; notes personal attack campaigns against Kevin Folta, other professors to cripple their reputations](#)

[Commentary: Cell Press notes MYB transcription factors will allow gene editing to drive novelty in fruits and vegetables that appeal to consumers by improving taste, color, nutrition; says MYBs often are gene that provides "wow factor"](#)

[News: The National Post reports Japan drops ban on Canadian wheat imports; mystery lingers over how GM wheat discovered in Alberta got there, notes it doesn't match any strain in any GM field test and wheat does not survive Canadian winters](#)

[News: Minnesota TV station reports company introducing non-GMO soybean that will give same food grade advantages as GE oils with added health benefits; Minnesota Soybean CEO says TruSoya bred to have high levels of omega-3s within it, hopes to have variety commercially ready for farmers to plant by 2020](#)

[News: CBC reports California startup Finless Foods develops technology to create lab-grown fish, notes major hurdle remaining is regulation, as U.S. FDA trying to sort out what animal protein is without](#)

coming from slaughtered animal; CEO says next challenge would be to win over consumers

Video: CropLife International releases video exploring economic costs of pre-harvest losses to pest and disease, notes plant biotechnology and crop protection products can prevent some of these losses

News: Bloomberg reports biotechnology startup Recombinetics using gene-editing tools TALEN and CRISPR to tweak DNA of animals, including effort to develop hornless cattle, notes other scientists also using GE techniques to create better crops, treat human diseases, points out USDA, FDA taking different stances on gene editing issue

More North America items

Africa

News: Farmers Review Africa reports governments, farmers oppose GM seeds, citing fears of lack of food security, food diversity, nutrition; notes FAO raises concerns of market dominance by Monsanto, allergic reactions by some consumers

News: Zambian news site reports National Biosafety Authority warns consumers to read GMO labels to make informed decisions, notes it only allows GMOs in imported processed foods

News: Gambian news site reports Brazilian scholar tells Gambians not to succumb to fear of GMOs; Gambian scholar said the country first must gain knowledge to manager GMOs before embracing them

More Africa items

Asia

News: South China Morning Post reports Chinese pest resistant to Bt cotton gets population boost due to warmer weather, threatening China's cotton crop and complicating country's trade war with U.S.

News: Times of India reports anti-biotech activist Kavitha Kuruganti speaks at festival, says corporations such as Monsanto use seed patents to control farmers, claims they employ "spies" to check on seed

News: Philippines news site reports economic professor says Filipino farmers losing up to \$634 million annually by not commercializing Bt eggplant

News: Indian newspaper reports bollworm resistance to Bt cotton caused extensive destruction last season to cotton crop, driving farmers into bankruptcy; notes government task force member says failure led to increased pesticide use, loss of cotton diversity

More Asia items

Europe

Campaign: EU plant scientists publish open letter to European Commission on definitions for new plant breeding techniques

News: Deutsche Welle reports U.K. study shows CRISPR causes unwanted mutations far from areas targeted by medical researchers, molecular biologists, contradicts claims that CRISPR is "reasonably specific" and causes damage in other areas of genome

Commentary: Deutsche Welle notes population growing but land to raise food is shrinking, notes GM foods hold promise of increased yields, but GMO watchdog group warns that editing food genomes before we understand them is "last thing we should be doing"

Commentary: Austrian news team notes upcoming EU court decision opens up gene editing debate, notes hypocrisy that organic crops are not environmentally better than conventional crops per unit of produce; notes biotech's environmental benefits could greatly aid organic farming, but they have been

"unnecessarily pitted against one another"

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Mexican news site reports on country's newly appointed National Council of Science and Technology director Maria Elena Alvarez-Bulya's views on GM crops, says changing genome can create "unintended consequences"

News: Mexican news site reports agency gave no authorization to plant GM cotton, but possibility could be discussed at water committee meeting

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

Commentary: New Zealand Institute of Agricultural and Horticultural Science blogger says using gene editing MYB transcription factors can lead to new variety of fruit, vegetables with "wow factor" due to better taste, more nutrients, more appetizing appearance

News: New Zealand news site reports Northland Regional Council to hear submission for addition to updated regional plan for GMOs; hearing possibly to be in October

[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 an announcement from AgResearch that a field trial for high metabolizable energy ryegrass began a month ago in the U.S. Senegal news sites reported two farmers groups criticized the Regional Committee of Seeds and Plants of West Africa's attempt to coordinate regional seed laws.

- New Zealand's AgResearch announced field trials are underway in the U.S. on HME ryegrass after preliminary trials showed the GM grass grew faster, is more resistant to drought and produced 23 percent less methane emissions from livestock. Recently, New Zealand political blogger Bob Edlin wrote that environmentalists should encourage HME grass development due to its environmental benefits. However, a GE-Free New Zealand news release said U.S. farmers fear pollen from the field trials will "contaminate their farms" and that preliminary trial results are "an illusion." It called funding for the trials from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Enterprise (MBIE) and Dairy NZ "a slap in the face for farmers." [See more](#)
- Two peasant farming groups criticized the Regional Committee of Seeds and Plants of West Africa's efforts at harmonizing regional seed laws to ease cross-border transport. The groups said the "lack of transparency and inclusivity strongly suggests that it is a conspiracy" against peasants and food sovereignty and an effort to aid large seed and chemical companies. The groups, the West African Committee of Seeds Farmers and the Coalition for the Protection of the African Genetic Heritage, also called for investment in peasant seed systems. [See more](#)

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North America

News: Capital Press reports meat producers want level playing field with lab-grown meat industry, don't want it called "beef" or "pork;" lab-grown meat industry believes USDA will make market access more difficult than FDA regulation

Commentary: GMO Science amplifies JAMA study indicating pesticide residues in foods may impair fertility, notes increase in pesticide use coincides with introduction of GM crops, suggests women attempting to conceive eat organic food

Commentary: The Farmer's Daughter USA blogger Amanda Zaluckyj discusses formation of Sustainable Food Policy Alliance, which plans to engage on issue of nutrition labeling, points out companies in new group pulled out of Grocery Manufacturers Association, which took aggressive stance against GMO labeling

Commentary: OCA director Ronnie Cummins writing for global regenerative ag advocacy group cites regenerative ag as solution to global crises including global warming, climate change, nutrient-deficient food, deteriorating public health, lists steps to get started including end of GMO-, pesticide-based ag practices

Commentary: The Spoon writer discusses debate over marketing of plant-based "milk" products, with FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb saying his agency will start more strict enforcement of rules governing what can be marketed as milk, noting FDA's standard of identity defines milk as coming from lactating

animal

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Senegal news site reports scientific forum examines GMO advantages, disadvantages, limitations; agro-economist urges participants to move on from 20-year-old debate and ask the right questions" about GMOs and development challenges, says GMO use is justified by global food crisis 10 years ago

News: Tanzanian news site reports minister tells inspectors to observe rules on imported foods, says they also need to educate people on "side effects" of foods such as GMOs

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

Commentary: Indian farmer writes for Global Farmer Network, says India's Supreme Court must uphold intellectual property rights to allow farmers access to modern agricultural technology needed to feed themselves and others, give companies incentive to sell technology in India

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: U.K.-based clothing news site reports effort aims to create universally accepted method to test for GMOs in organic cotton

News: Germany news site reports Testbiotech's Christopher Then claims GM rapeseed, corn could transfer genetics such as pesticide resistance to wild plants and cause problems, says GM plants already "sprouting in uncontrolled manner"

News: Nieuwe Oogst reports Dutch dairy company asking pasture dairy farmers to switch to feeding VLOG-certified feed, hoping to meet demand for non-GMO milk in German market; pilot project shows impact of transition to VLOG milk limited, GMO-free feed has no effect on health of cows, milk production

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Commentary: Argentine agricultural news site reports expert says gene editing frees universities to perform research, points out gene editing's usefulness in creating less waste, making crops, animals disease resistant

Commentary: Chilean news site comments that new Mexican President AMLO must choose between supporting GMO producers or protecting the nation's environment and farmers' rights

News: Mexican news site reports farmers ask for resources to detect GM seed; legal adviser says some believe Monsanto is distributing seed in smaller markets through seed companies that offer GM seed as improved seed

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

Commentary: AgResearch says its field trials find HME ryegrass grows 50 percent faster, stores more energy, more resistant to drought, produces 23 percent less methane than conventional grass, notes full U.S. trial began a month ago

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 a new report from the U.S. National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine (NAS) outlining key technologies for agricultural research investment.

- The released a new report highlighting five key technologies for U.S. agricultural research investment, emphasizing the need for U.S. agriculture to remain competitive. Reports in *Politico* and other news outlets noted that China significantly outspends the U.S. in scientific research and in agricultural research in particular. Amplification of the report also noted the need to address future climate change pressures on food production.

See more

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North America

News: Agricultural news outlets report NAS study identifies areas to focus research to provide breakthroughs to transform U.S. agriculture, including gene editing on important organisms to improve traits for productivity and quality

Commentary: Vox writer reports NAS report notes imposing list of problems facing agriculture, notes gene editing provides huge opportunity to help solve those issues, but questions whether benefits will win over the public

Report: National Academy of Sciences report recommends the U.S. invest in most promising agricultural research areas to make food system more resilient, efficient

News: Xconomy reports Massachusetts-based ag biotech startup Inari Agriculture wants to use CRISPR to customize seeds that will grow best in soil and weather at farm where they'll be planted, aims to begin field testing of "personalized seed for farmers" in 2019

Commentary: Hawaii Farmers Daughter blogger writes about talking with people at fair about GMOs and GM papaya, notes those who reject pesticides and GMOs wear cotton clothing, eat fried foods from food truck rather than fresh papaya

News: Philadelphia radio station reports assistant professor of plant science at Delaware State University calls for consumers to use common sense in evaluating food label absence claims, pointing out absurdity of bottled water with The Non-GMO Project label

News: Modern Farmer amplifies article on creeping bentgrass, notes regulations lag behind new developments, points out how easily grass seeds spread through environment and can become a nuisance

News: Politico Pro reports FDA commissioner says agency is working closely with USDA on regulatory framework for lab-grown meat, expects collaboration on meat and poultry while other products will fall outside USDA jurisdiction

Campaign: Center for Food Safety urges readers to oppose amendment that would allow GE crops in wildlife refuges, urges writing congressional representatives

More North America items

Africa

News: Zambia national news outlet reports country's National Biosafety Authority chairman holds media briefing to clarify Zambia does not import GMOs to protect human, animal health

News: Nigerian news site reports biosafety agency to crack down on stores, stakeholders breaking GMO laws, will establish biosafety help desks in all 26 states to strengthen surveillance and monitoring

News: Nigerian news site reports National Biotechnology Development Agency acting director promotes using biotech to boost ag yields, help environment and economy, address climate change, notes Africa affected by biotech opponents

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indian news site reports Indian GM seed companies find demand in Kenya, Ethiopia as Indian activists, courts, government officials thwart GM crops in India

News: India's Financial Express reports government advises states to ban glyphosate sales - except states that grow tea - to cut down on unapproved herbicide-tolerant cotton use

News: English-language Chinese TV news site reports China puts tariffs on American farm products as part of trade war, notes price increases will benefit Chinese soy farmers but will not see immediate fluctuation due to soy stockpiles

News: China's Caixin reports on admission by Yuan Longping High-Tech that it marketed GM corn seeds without required licenses and safety clearance, Yuan Longping High-Tech states it cooperated with authorities in issuing a recall on the seeds

More Asia items

Europe

News: German news agency reports Green Party leader wants party to re-think platform regarding genetic engineering rejection, says party should not be guided by fears

Commentary: German news site business editor notes Greens discussing possible change to platform regarding genetic engineering, points out Bayer's stock value has dropped since buying Monsanto, says it makes company a target

News: German news site reports group of 30 organic companies present petition against GM and gene-edited food, says seed purity at risk, rejects patents on plants, animals

Event: Swiss Radio and TV news site promotes upcoming radio debate on how gene editing should be regulated, notes upcoming landmark EU court decision

News: Agrow reports EU ombudsman says acceptable action has been taken at EU level to avoid delays in replying to requests for information on GMO approvals

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Brazil's Biotechnology Information Council note three European studies discount Seralini's conclusions on GMO safety and pesticide toxicity

Report: Paraguay's BASE Social Investigations promotes its report on use of transgenic crops, says it brings increased import and use of agrochemicals that affect environment, human health

News: Brasil de Fato reports Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration (ETC) claims agribusiness model of production consumes 70 percent of Earth's land and water resources while producing only 30 percent of world's food, argues big companies less concerned about fighting hunger

News: Mexico's La Jornada Maya reports indigenous, environmental groups halt Sustainability Agreement of the Yucatan Peninsula (Aspy), force government to launch largest consultation in country to gain local opinions on agreement; Greenpeace Mexico denounces use of pesticides, transgenic crops in Yucatan

More Latin America items

Oceania

News release: GE-Free New Zealand says New Zealand pastoral industry funding of GE ryegrass trials is wasteful investment that ignores ag challenges in need of support, slap in face to farmers

Commentary: New Zealand's Farmers Weekly blogger notes agriculture asked to reduce greenhouse gases, but GM grass that reduces methane production is likely to be tied up in regulatory review for years, asks if solution is worse than the problem; notes ban on GMOs prevents area farmers from competing

News: New Zealand's Rural News reports university professor, ex-government science adviser say country needs new biotech discussion, says younger generation recognizes value of genetic modification but others worry despite evidence that shows no environmental or health concerns

Commentary: Queensland Farm Federation president writes for Australia's Queensland Country Life, says GM crops increase yields, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve water use efficiency, reduce pesticide use, can address health issues and malnutrition

More Oceania items

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology activity included media coverage of biosafety developments in Nigeria, as well as continued NGO campaigning on new plant breeding techniques (NBTs) in Europe.

- Nigerian news outlets reported on a training workshop held over the weekend, where members of the Open Forum for Agricultural Biotechnology in Africa (OFAB) and the National Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA) reviewed the country's progress and goals in biosafety management. Among other issues raised at the meeting, news outlets reported on criticisms of NGO fear-mongering, plans to commercialize Bt cotton and a nationwide survey of GM food imports. [See more](#)
- Germany's BÖLW, in coordination with other environmental activist organizations, announced more than 100,000 people had participated in the group's FOODprint campaign. The group added consumers were concerned about an upcoming EU Court of Justice opinion that could allow genetic engineering techniques through the "back door" without complete regulation. [See more](#)

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North America

Commentary: Science writer Stephen Hall writes cover story for Wired's August issue, with focus on Boyce Thompson Institute researchers Zachary Lippman and Joyce Van Eck's work using CRISPR to create useful improvements in tomato plants

News release: Global ID Group announces rebranding as FoodChain ID, effective immediately, with goal of enhancing consumer experience and streamlining sales, marketing and communications efforts, highlights growth of its Non-GMO Project verification service

Commentary: National Pork Producers Council's Science and Technology Director Dan Kovich writes for Farm Journal's Pork, argues that allowing lab-grown meat to be marketed as "clean" is unacceptable, calls for regulation by USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service

News: Politico's morning ag news roundup reports on House Rules Committee's approval of amendment to prevent prohibitions on cultivating GE crops on commercial agricultural operations on National Wildlife Refuges

News: Legal Newsline reports on lawsuit filed by Wapsie Farms in Iowa accusing Monsanto of conspiring to unlawfully dominate the dicamba-tolerant soybean seed and herbicide trait markets

News: Topeka, Kansas news site reports farm alleges Monsanto placed profits ahead of crop damage when it marketed seeds resistant to dicamba before making a less volatile herbicide in federal lawsuit filed this week, notes petition could be catalyst for class action of state farmers

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology (OFAB) Country Coordinator Rose Gidado's statement that negative information being spread about GMOs is untrue and not science-based, emphasizing need for self-sufficiency in ag

News: Nigeria's Leadership reports on recent meeting organized by Open Forum for Agricultural Biotechnology, National Biotechnology and Biosafety Consortium President Celestine Aguoru lamented political sabotage by anti-GMO activists who manipulate science

News: Nigeria's Leadership reports on National Biosafety Management Agency Director-General Rufus Ebegba's announcement of nationwide survey on GM products, collaborating with other agencies to assure Nigerians that their safety is protected

News: Nigeria's The Oracle reports on National Biosafety Management Agency Director-General Rufus Ebegba's statement that NBMA is collaborating with Nigeria Customs Service, Nigeria Police Force and other stakeholders to fight unauthorized GMOs

News: Nigeria's Independent reports on National Biotechnology Development Agency's announcement that it will soon commercialize Bt cotton to boost textile industry, acting Director General Alex Casmir Akpa noted many mills have closed due to lack of supply

News: Uganda Today reports on Science and Technology Chairman, Nakifuma County MP Kafeero Ssekitooleko's confirmation that the committee report on the national biosafety bill is ready to be debated again

Report: Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa's Annual Report 2017 provides highlights of activities in 2017 and an overview of future plans, promotes its initiative to train farmers on agroecology

Announcement: Convention on Biological Diversity's Biosafety Clearing House announces completion of validation workshop of National Biosafety Strategy of Senegal, the process allowed for closing gap in planning for alignment with Strategic Plan of the Cartagena Protocol

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: China's Caixin reports on admission by Yuan Longping High-Tech that it marketed GM corn seeds without required licenses and safety clearance, Yuan Longping High-Tech states it cooperated with authorities in issuing a recall on the seeds

News release: Korean NGO Citizen's Coalition for Economic Justice announces results of survey which found that the country has imported an estimated 156,270 tons of processed GM foods over the past five years, reiterates call for more stringent labeling laws

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News release: Germany's Federation of Organic Food Industry (BOLW) announces delivery of over 108,000 footprints, handprints and signatures from the FOODprint campaign against GMOs to Environment Minister Svenja Schulze

News: Austria's Ausseer Regional Television reviews series of reports on debate surrounding genetic engineering, highlighting opposition from the Green party in Parliament, as well as anticipated EU Court opinion on new breeding techniques

News release: Testbiotech welcomes commitment by EFSA director Bernhard Url to ensure that future EFSA staff members will no longer co-author publications with industry scientists, in response to complaint raised by Testbiotech re paper on risks of GM maize

Commentary: Marta Novoa of Spanish NGO Fundacion Antama examines EU's risk assessment process for GMOs, notes the process is very thorough, and that any GM product approved on the market has been determined as safe as its conventional counterpart

Announcement: International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) announces this year's Future Policy Award will focus on policies for scaling-up agroecology, the winner will be announced during World Food Week in Oct. 2018

Commentary: GM Watch amplifies Nature Biotechnology study that found unintended DNA changes in human cells modified with CRISPR; quotes Michael Antoniou and claims findings have implications for plant gene editing

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News release: Israeli biotech company Evogene announces partnership with Brazil's Instituto Mato-grossense do Algodao (IMAm) for collaborative developments in insect resistance traits in cotton, with special focus on cotton boll weevil

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

Commentary: Mark Lynas writes for Australia's Weekly Times, welcomes environmental groups' shift away from anti-GMO activism, explains his shift in opinion after realizing that the scientific consensus on GMO safety mirrors that on climate change

[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 German media reports on the policy battles over new plant breeding techniques (NBTs).

- In an interview with *Redaktionsnetzwerk Deutschland* (RND) over the weekend, Agriculture Minister Julia Klöckner said that regulators should avoid a "reflexive" rejection of new genetic engineering techniques. She went on to add that transparency of production techniques along the entire food chain was required in order to ease consumer fears. In a statement today to the same organization, Environment Minister Svenja Schulze criticized Klöckner, saying that an upcoming European Court of Justice ruling threatened to allow "back door" genetic engineering. **See more**
- The Cornell Alliance for Science urged supporters to email supportive comments about vitamin A-enhanced Golden Rice, noting that public consultations on rice field trials are scheduled for Wednesday and Friday. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Matt Simon of Wired examines recent FDA public meeting on how cultured meat should be labeled, highlights differences in various stakeholders' definitions of "meat," and in their vested interests, emphasizes the power of words on consumers

Commentary: Writing for Medium, founder of superfoods company Nutiva criticizes efforts by Monsanto, Impossible Burger to use vegan movement to justify ecosystem destruction, highlights "fake meats" use glyphosate sprayed crops that cause ocean dead zones, soil health decline, habitat destruction, bee deaths

Commentary: Law firm's Food Safety News reports on Consumer Reports survey which found that 49 percent of respondents believe cultured animal cell food products should be labeled as meat with an explanation of how it is produced, such as "lab-grown" rather than "clean"

News: Richmond News reports locally-based company Nature's Path Foods withdraws its membership from Organic Trade Association, in protest of OTA's support of USDA's proposed GMO disclosure standard

News: Agweek reports on survey by International Food Information Council Foundation which found that 47 percent of consumers avoid GMOs at least somewhat, due to concerns about human health, the environment and agriculture

Commentary: Jeffrey Reel writes for VT Digger, criticizes University of Vermont study on consumer response to GMO labeling, argues that the purpose of GMO labels is to inform consumers, and that long-term health effects may remain unknown for several years

Commentary: University of Washington geomorphology professor David Montgomery writes opinion piece in Scientific American, promotes his book, "Growing a Revolution," advocates regenerative ag practices to restore soil health

Commentary: Scott Miller of Farmers Alliance for Integrated Resources (FAIR) writes for Colorado news outlet, criticizes Boulder County's restrictions on GM crops, points out problem with non-farmers treating farmers as if they don't know what they're doing

[More North America items](#)

Africa

Commentary: Haidee Swanby of African Centre for Biodiversity recounts recent International Adaptation Futures Conference in Cape Town, criticizes presentation of corporate-driven, climate-smart agriculture, argues technology always comes with owners and IP rights

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science emphasizes need for submission of written comments in support of golden rice in the Philippines, in addition to testimony at public consultations on July 18 and 20, amid continued targeting by anti-GMO activist groups

Announcement: Korean NGO Citizen's Coalition for Economic Justice announces upcoming symposium on GMO labeling on July 19, co-hosted by Korea-U.S. International Symposium, Moms Across America is participating in discussion on U.S. GMO labeling

Commentary: Cornell University's weekly newspaper cites observation by entomology professor directing GM eggplant project that planting Bt eggplant seed helping subsistence farmers improve profits, health, reduce pesticide use

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: German news outlet reports on Environment Minister Svenja Schulze's objection to Ag Minister Julia Kloeckner's request for unbiased approach to new GE methods, arguing that human health and the environment should be prioritized

News: Deutsche Presse-Agentur reports on Federal Agriculture Minister Julia Kloeckner's warning against "reflexive" rejection of new GE methods, noting their potential to benefit regions where dry soils endanger crops, she also called for more transparent labeling

Commentary: Joachim Muller-Jung writes editorial for Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, examines question of whether GE is becoming more acceptable, ahead of EU Court of Justice opinion on new breeding techniques, argues they don't necessarily go against nature

Report: Friends of the Earth Europe publishes briefing ahead of EU Court of Justice ruling on new breeding techniques, examining possible scenarios and consequences of potential rulings, argues NBTs should be subject to same safety checks as current GMOs

Letter to the editor: Schopfheim resident Hans-Ulrich Rammelt writes to Badische Zeitung, criticizes Nobel Laureate Sir Richard Roberts' recent interview for one-sidedness on GMOs, argues that there are alternative methods for increasing food production

Commentary: Inf'OGM's Frederic Prat examines debate over EU's new organic regulations, voices concern about marketing of seeds produced with "heterogeneous biological material," highlights IFOAM's assertion that products of new breeding techniques are GMOs

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Mexico's Milenio reports process of Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation on Decree 418, which prohibits planting of GMOs in Yucatan, still pending; state's legal counsel cites importance of next government giving continuity so ruling is favorable, says prohibition would have many benefits

News: Mexico's Sin Embargo reports NGO Other Worlds publishes update of its "Manual of Agroecology and Agroforestry," points out six large companies control large-scale model of agriculture that causes environmental, health problems through use of transgenics, pesticides

Commentary: Dario Aranda of Argentina's Pagina 12 examines Bayer's efforts to hide negative image associated with Monsanto, amplifies Mexican researcher Fernando Bejarano Gonzalez's work investigating Bayer's ties to Nazism

Commentary: Carlos A. Vicente of Grain International writes for Argentina's Los Andes, claims that the purpose of GMOs is not to increase productivity or boost nutrition but to raise profits of corporations, promotes agroecology

Commentary: Agronomist Pablo Cavagnaro writes for Argentina's Los Andes, highlights potential for transgenic products to improve nutrition, as in purple tomatoes and golden rice, notes the technology itself is not good or bad

News: Ecuadorian news outlet reports on anticipated food labeling reforms, which will include disclosure about presence of transgenic ingredients, Deputy Minister of Health Governance and Surveillance, Carlos Duran noted labeling should better inform the public

[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](#)

More Bonus Eventus Resources

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

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Try it free today

From: Jay Byrne
 To: Diane.Wray-Cohen@fas.usda.gov
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - July 16, 2018
 Date: Monday, July 16, 2018 4:11:39 PM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

This week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter again features a series of articles that question the value of sometimes misleading food labels.

As testimony continues in a case claiming that glyphosate caused a California man to get cancer, Hank Campbell takes a closer look at the conflict of interests for key witness Christopher Portier and his role in the International Agency for Research on Cancer's glyphosate monograph that set up just this type of litigation.

We also highlight a pair of articles examining German food policy, an investigation into illegal, genetically modified wheat in Canada and Kroger's recent decision to eliminate neonics on its garden plants.

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: Earthjustice



Earthjustice is the largest nonprofit environmental litigation organization in the United States and partners with NGOs around the globe to oppose various alleged offenses to nature.

Originally founded as Sierra Club

■ Stories Worth Sharing

[Jake Freestone: For farmers, European moves to restrict neonics, glyphosate and biotechnology like taking away cell phones](#)

[Hank Campbell: Portier's ties to lawyers, anti-glyphosate Environmental Defense Fund a clear conflict of interest](#)

[Julie Gunlock: Kroger goes against science by phasing out neonic use on its garden plants](#)

[Henry Miller/Rob Wager: Russia, China and environmental NGOs among few who could gain from discovery of GM wheat in Canada](#)

[AP: Doubts raised over whether organic products are worth higher price](#)

[African Agricultural Technology Foundation report finds 2012 GMO ban halted agriculture and food security research](#)

[Ryan Tipps: The worst offenders in the Non-GMO Project's "pay-to-play" labeling scheme](#)

[Erin Macgregor and Dara Gurau: Non-GMO Project board made up entirely of organic and natural foods industry execs](#)

[Michelle Miller: Misleading claims about GMOs, hormones and](#)

Legal Defense Fund in 1971, Earthjustice claims to be dedicated to protecting nature and "defending the right of all people to a healthy environment."

One of Earthjustice's three primary programs, called "Safeguarding Our Health," focuses on legal cases that purport to protect public health in regard to GMOs, pesticides, CAFOs and other alleged threats.

Earthjustice was in the news this week for representing multiple anti-chemical NGOs in a lawsuit to force the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to ban the pesticide chlorpyrifos. It has also previously been involved in attempts to overturn pesticide registrations due to impacts on bees.

Learn more about Earthjustice [HERE](#).

[CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES](#)

[antibiotics are no way to sell chicken](#)

[Susanne Gunther: Amid inflammatory rhetoric from advocacy groups, German government appears set on crippling biotechnology](#)

[Jill Neimark: I got fooled by "Dirty Dozen" claims before realizing research shows conventional produce is "pretty darn clean"](#)

[Irina Dumitrescu: Germany's extreme right wing "Bio-Nazis" embrace clean food, could benefit from sales of organic salads](#)

[Council for Agricultural Science and Technology report explores potential of genome editing](#)

[CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING](#)

What's Trending?

[Key IARC figure Christopher Portier testifies in lawsuit claiming glyphosate causes cancer](#)

[United Nations human rights officials weigh in on proposal to change Brazilian pesticide regulations](#)

[U.S. Food and Drug Administration holds hearing amid dispute with Department of Agriculture on oversight of lab-grown meat](#)

[U.K. doctoral student reviews existing bee research, claims consensus that pesticides impact learning and memory even at low doses](#)

Calendar highlights

July 16-19	July 17-18	July 17
World Congress on Industrial Biotechnology	Beyond GM-sponsored Hospitality & Catering Expo	U.S. EPA hearing on science censorship rule
July 17-20	July 18	July 18 and 20
U.S. EPA meeting on Resistance of Lepidopteran Pests to Bt Plant Incorporated Protectants	Collaborative on Health and the Environment webinar on EDCs and obesogens	Philippines Golden Rice field trial public consultations in Munoz and San Mateo

[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, July 15, 2018 9:00 50 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

Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included four major food companies jointly launching a new food policy advocacy group. Reporting and commentary continued on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's meeting on regulating lab-grown meats. A group of 20 peasant organizations called on Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador to replace his agricultural minister.

- Danone, Mars, Nestle, and Unilever officials announced the companies are jointly establishing the Sustainable Food Policy Alliance to impact public food policy, reduce sodium content, cut greenhouse gases, promote responsible and transparent marketing, and advance policies that positively impact the environment. Each of the companies previously withdrew from the Grocery Manufacturers Association over disagreements about GMO labeling policy. **See more**
- Sarah Zang of *The Atlantic* commented on the FDA's meeting with lab-grown meat stakeholders, calling the agency's turf war with the Department of Agriculture "farcical." A National Cattlemen's Beef Association news release advocated for the USDA to regulate lab-grown meat. *The Progressive Farmer* reported the FDA highlighted its experience in dealing with cell cultures while regulating other industries. American Meat Science Association scientist Rhonda Miller said not enough is known about processes to produce lab-grown meat to know if it can be called meat, and companies are closely guarding their production methods. **See more**
- A group of 20 Mexican NGOs and peasant organizations demanded Obrador dismiss Víctor Manuel Villalobos as secretary of agriculture. The group released a statement calling Villalobos an "arduous defender of the neoliberal agro-industrial model." The group also said statements by Villalobos indicated he would support gene drive or synthetic biology technology. **See more**

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

North America

Commentary: Canadian food bloggers who have meal planning and cooking service explain The Non-GMO Project's board made up entirely of CEOs, owners in organic and natural foods industry, none with professional science credentials, point out no scientific evidence that GMOs pose risk to human health, say label just marketing tool

Commentary: Former National Farmers Union president calls Cereals Canada's policy on GM wheat "irresponsible" in light of rogue GM wheat discoveries in Alberta, Oregon; says Cereals Canada works against farmers

Commentary: Henry I. Miller and Rob Wager write for The Daily Caller, examine evidence in rogue GM wheat discovery in Alberta, conclude it had to be intentionally planted, notes those who benefit include Russia, Canadian wheat purchasers such as China, or anti-biotech GMOs

Commentary: Ag Daily's managing editor writes column about increasing number of food products carrying Non-GMO Project butterfly label, calls it "pay-to-play scheme," complains that people with dietary restrictions often have few choices other than products carrying that label, asserts need for

niche products that don't give in

Commentary: Blogger about food tells how farmer explained GM crops use less water, pesticide than conventional crops; recommends talking to farmer about organically grown food vs GM food

Interview: Medium contributor conducts interviews on future of food; notes nutritionist Marion Nestle hopes GM food industry will put solving world food problems ahead of industrial agricultural, cultural historian believes lab-grown meat will expand, but unsure of who will make up market,

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Mozambique news site reports government to create GMO regulation to maximize biotech use, protect health and environment

Commentary: Zambian news site claims Africa being colonized through educational institutions, corruption, and agribusinesses pushing poisonous pesticides and GMOs

News: Zambian news site reports National Biosafety Authority granted Zambian supermarket chain permit to import GM products, agency found products to be safe for health, environment

News: Nigerian newspaper reports CEO of Nigeria's National Biosafety Development Agency predicts Bt cotton will revive cotton industry, quickly boosting job growth, economy; notes country's commitment to food security through biotechnology

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Chinese English-language news site reports Chinese expert says GM food is safe and should be commercialized in China, but says many other countries ban GMOs due to health risks

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Commentary: In Politico, German professor reports ultra-right groups in Germany, including Neo-Nazi Party, promoting "clean food" and organics, oppose biotechnology

Commentary: French pro-ag blogger Seppi criticizes Seralini for attacking studies that found no health risks to rats from GMOs; notes studies commissioned after Serralini retracted his study showing GMOs caused cancer in rats

Commentary: Italian science blogger and chemist explains Bt corn is safe, the toxin used by organic farms, says organic producers demonize GMOs to justify their higher prices by creating perception of greater safety;, notes Bt corn protects biodiversity by targeting specific insects, contradicts Coldiretti's assertion that fewer farmers in EU using the crop, notes use is increasing in Spain

Commentary: Friends of the Earth Europe warns upcoming EU court decision on gene-edited products could allow biotech food in "via the backdoor"

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Commentary: Brazilian legal news site columnist says there is no consensus on GMO safety, but regardless of safety consumers have right to choose whether to eat GM food or not, says keeping clear labeling is important

News: Mexican news outlets reports Oaxacan group State Space in Defense of Corn calls on President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador to withdraw his nomination of Victor Villalobos as ag minister, notes he has been biotech supporter and does not support peasant communities

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Geologist and Antarctic researcher writes op-ed for New Zealand Herald, notes furor over Impossible Burger on Air New Zealand, points out the vegan burger is easier on environment than cows, says there is a risk if country ignores alternatives to protect its meat industry

News: New Zealand Herald questions AgResearch scientist Greg Bryan on potential for GM ryegrass being field tested in U.S., notes benefits include less greenhouse gas from livestock, grows 50 percent faster, more resistant to drought

News: Seeds of Science author Mark Lynas explains in Australian grain farming news site he came to believe science behind GM foods was correct; notes GM foods offer chance at social justice, means to reduce poverty, ensure better health of farmers, safe environment

More Oceania items

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 Date: Thursday, July 12, 2018 9 03 59 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 Food and Drug Administration meeting on regulating cell-cultured and other lab-grown meat. A group of Argentine NGOs criticized a proposed seed law amendment that would expand royalties on GM seeds. Continued reporting and commentary on India's illegal Bt cotton focused on the government's role in the problem and why India continues to deny farmers the seeds they want.

- *Politico* reported the FDA's stakeholder meeting sent the message that it will regulate lab-grown meats. Disagreement regarding which agency is responsible for regulating such products has turned into a regulatory turf war. During the meeting, the FDA's Susan Mayne said "FDA has been preparing for this for quite some time." *Politico* also reported the meat industry is lobbying for USDA oversight. Beth Briczinski, vice president for the National Milk Producers Federation, said if regulatory framework lingers as it did for imitation dairy products under the FDA, "we will see abuse by product manufacturers." [See more](#)
- Argentina agricultural news site *El Enfiteuta* reported a proposed seed law in Argentina seeks to expand patents and royalty collection, noting Monsanto and other large agribusinesses support the measure. A group of NGOs, Multisectorial Against the Law Monsanto de Semillas, released a statement opposing the proposal and saying it would limit farmers' rights to save seeds and extend corporate control over food. [See more](#)
- An editorial by *Swarajya* executive editor M.R. Subramani argued the Indian government's controls on cotton seed prices and royalties led to a thriving illegal Bt cotton trade after agribusinesses declined to sell new technology to Indian seed companies. A government study found that 15 percent of the land planted with cotton is cultivated with illegal Bt seed. *The Financial Express* noted the government tried to drive Monsanto out of India, but farmers still want the seed technology because it increases yields and saves them labor costs. The article suggested the government needs to bring Monsanto and its technology back. [See more](#)

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

North America

News: News source for dietary supplement and health food industry reports USDA's proposed rule for national GMO food labeling standards draws criticism from industry over plan to replace terms "GMO" and "genetically modified" with "bioengineered" and "BE," and to allow use of QR codes instead of labels on packages

News release: Consumer Reports announces survey shows consumers want labeling to distinguish lab-grown meat from conventional meat from livestock, Consumers Union urges agencies to require product safety testing

News: AP reports on concerns over organic fraud and value of organic food labeled with USDA seal juxtaposed to hormone, pesticide, GMO and antibiotic absence claims; cites "real organic project" efforts to increase standards and diligence

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Nigerian news site reports National Biotechnology and Biosafety Consortium stakeholders meeting reviews preparedness for Bt cotton, soy, and maize commercialization; official says country needs GM crops to improve food production and security

News: Nigeria's The Sun reports on summit organized by Ecological Organic Agriculture in Lagos entitled "Organic Agriculture: Abundant Opportunities for Health and Hospitality Business," Michigan State University's Jelili Adebisi highlighted health risks of consuming foods with pesticides,

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

Commentary: Third World Network says delegates at SBSTTA22 meeting revive critical risk assessment topic by assigning ad hoc committee, instructing it to study sustainable use of biodiversity, identify and prioritize risk assessment issues for LMOs; claims views are polarized between developing countries and countries with established biotech industries

News: Indian news site reports farmers continue to buy illegal, herbicide-tolerant, Bt cotton seed at premium cost, notes it eliminates cost of manual weeding; state officials promise swift, strict punishment for anyone cheating farmers

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Commentary: Farmer, award-winning reporter describes how anti-GMO advocates blocked Germany from GMO cultivation, agricultural innovation despite fact the EU is biggest GMO importer; notes anti-GMO groups that advocate illegally destroying GM crops now guiding rule-making on NBTs while German government intent on blocking gene editing in defiance of EU courts

Commentary: French public sector financial institution reports on Ecology Minister Nicolas Hulot's discussion with National Assembly deputies clarifying his position on proposed biodiversity law, assuring them joint order to ministers regarding neonics ban to begin Sept. 1, with possibility of derogations until 2020, will be ready on time

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Mexico's La Jornada reports biosecurity agency plans to use GM mosquitoes to eliminate Aedes aegypti-transmitted diseases

Commentary: Silvia Ribeiro of ETC Group writes for Mexico's La Jornada, criticizes Intersecretarial Commission of Biosecurity of Genetically Modified Organisms' (Cibiosem) call for creation of GE mosquitoes, claims they will not be successful in combating dengue

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

Announcement: Australia's Office of Gene Technology Regulator announces it authorized field trials for GM wheat modified to resist rust disease

News: New Zealand news site reports New Zealand researchers' GM ryegrass trials in U.S. shows faster growth, believe grass also will cut methane, other greenhouse gas production in livestock

[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 U.S. news outlets highlighting questions over which federal agency should regulate synthetic biology in advance of a Food and Drug Administration meeting on the issue. Mark Lynas toured Australia and New Zealand promoting his new book.

- U.S. media outlets and stakeholders reviewed the jurisdictional fight over regulating lab-cultured meat and similar products of synthetic biology. Activist group Sierra Club noted support for the technology from animal rights groups, while a grocery-focused media site noted that U.S. meat producers urged the agencies not to allow the products to be called "meat." The U.S. FDA commissioner, Scott Gottlieb, is scheduled to speak at the agency's meeting on the issue, scheduled for Thursday (July 12). [See more](#)
- Mark Lynas, on tour in New Zealand and Australia to promote his book "Seeds of Science," told the *Australian Associated Press* that he's hopeful anti-GMO activism will be increasingly marginalized as scientists communicate the benefits of the technology. Anticipating an upcoming speaking event, activist group MADGE issued talking points criticizing Lynas. [See more](#)

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North America

Commentary: Sierra Club notes turf war between FDA and USDA over regulating lab-grown meat, Humane Society VP says livestock industry digging in to protect "old, dirty tech" against new methods; Animal Defense Fund says meat industry wants USDA to regulate synbio but says FDA is better positioned

News: Livestock news site reports FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb to speak on animal cell culture technology during July 12 meeting, notes agency is competing with USDA over regulating emerging industry of synthetic biology

Commentary: Good Food Institute scientist, Science Trends contributors note biotechnology bringing "clean meat" with reduced environmental footprint

News release: Center for Food Safety announces it filed suit against USDA to make public data and documents regarding GMO labeling rule making, says USDA did not respond to FOIA request

Commentary: Joan Conrow of Cornell Alliance for Science profiles Ginkgo Bioworks founder Jason Kelly, highlighting his work on designing custom microbes, Kelly believes fighting against GMO labeling has been counter-productive

Commentary: Mercola adds to criticism of Whole Foods' announcement that it will delay its GMO labeling requirement while USDA finalizes its rules, amplifying analysis by New Food Economy, poses question of whether Whole Foods is committing fraud

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Kenyan news site reports Indian company licensed to import GM cotton seeds into Kenya after ongoing field trials are completed and if the results show higher cotton production

News: Kenyan farmer, university lecturer writes for Genetic Literacy Project, notes Africans being denied technology due to resistance from Europe and anti-GMO activists, although biotech crops are essential in fight against pests, global warming

News: News Agency of Nigeria reports Swiss Consulate announces commitment to support development of sustainable organic sector in Africa

Commentary: Ugandan journalist writes for Genetic Literacy Project, notes African nations following trend of debates on gene editing, but African nations need to do more to regulate gene editing; notes scientists working on gene-edited cassava resistant to disease plaguing farmers

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

Commentary: Indian environmental NGO notes India's Field Inspection and Scientific Evaluation Committee confirmed unapproved, herbicide-tolerant GM cotton being used in 15 percent of cotton cultivation, notes it saves farmers labor costs, notes only a couple of companies involved

Commentary: Editorial for the Philippines' Business Mirror promotes upcoming National Science and Technology Week from July 17-21, notes the country is a leader in growth of Bt corn, which has allowed it achieve sufficiency in one of its staple crops

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News release: Italian agriculture association decries Fidenato's persistence in fighting for GMOs, says rejecting GMOs are not enough, but Italy must build non-GMO supply chains beginning with non-GMO labeling

Commentary: Slow Food NGO applauds Friuli Venezia Giulia Forestry Corps destruction of GM corn field owned by Giorgio Fidenato, points out more court appeals likely as EU Court ruled states could not ban MON 810 corn without evidence of health or environmental threat; Slow Food calls ruling "an absurdity"

News: Netherlands news site reports CONO cheese makers to switch to GMO-free, VLOG cheese in 2020; notes VLOG-certified cheese does not allow milk from cows fed GMOs

News: Netherlands dairy news site reports cheese company commits to non-GMO, VLOG-certified cheese by 2020, switching to milk produced by cows fed non-GMO feed, is recruiting VLOG dairy farmers

News release: Irish government announces it approved a directive to opt out of GMO cultivation, minister says it will allow country to keep its green, sustainable food producer reputation and will not affect industrial or medical biotechnology

News: Irish agriculture news site reports minister announces Ireland to keep its GMO-free status, calls it "key element" in maintaining green, sustainable food producer reputation

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Argentine news site reports lobbyists struggle over seed law and patents in Argentina, and replanting rights vs. patents and royalties, expert says those who control the seeds control the food market

Commentary: Chilean news site criticizes lack of communication to consumers regarding free trade agreement with EU, says FTAs lower standards and would require Chile to approve new breeders law that prohibits sale of non-certified seed even though EU law allows such sales

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian Associated Press reports on writer Mark Lynas change from anti-GMO to biotech supporter, Lynas says groups such as Greenpeace beginning to soften stance on GMOs as they are needed to increase food production in midst of climate change

News release: Australian NGO criticizes Mark Lynas during his Australian tour, says corporations squeezing out smaller producers and controlling world food supply, calls his research methods flawed, points out numerous cases of GM contamination, points out other scientists criticize Lynas and his work

News: Australia's Farm Weekly reports Australian canola growers planted just under half a million hectares of Roundup Ready canola in 2018, finding that it allows them to control tough weeds and leaves cleaner paddocks for other crops

More Oceania items

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 Date: Tuesday, July 10, 2018 9:02:30 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 Ireland's approval of a measure allowing the country to "opt out" of GM crop cultivation under EU law. Also in Europe, a coalition of German and Austrian grocers issued an open letter calling for products developed through new plant breeding techniques (NBTs) to be regulated under current GMO guidelines.

- Ireland's minister for communications, climate action and environment announced that the Cabinet had approved a measure enabling an "opt out" from GM crop cultivation under the EU Directive 2015/412. The minister added that the move would enhance Ireland's reputation as a green and sustainable food producer. **See more**
- German and Austrian grocers, including Lidl and EDEKA, issued an open letter calling on regulators to ensure that products developed through NBTs be regulated under current GMO laws. The groups also said that products developed through methods such as CRISPR, TALEN and zinc finger nucleases should be labeled and tracked throughout the food production process. **See more**
- India's *Mint* reported that a committee set up to investigate the use of illegal, herbicide-tolerant cotton varieties had found nearly 15 percent of 2017 cotton was unapproved. The Field Inspection and Scientific Evaluation Committee (FISEC) added that this was significantly higher than initial estimates. The committee's report added that the seeds were not genetically similar to ones being developed by Mahyco, thus indicating that it had not been a deliberate release by the company. **See more**

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North America

Announcement: FDA announces agenda for its July 12 public meeting, "Foods Produced Using Animal Cell Culture Technology," including detailed list of speakers, FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb will make opening remarks

News: Politico Pro reports FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb will open the agency's July 12 public meeting on lab-grown animal products, highlights debate over whether FDA or USDA has jurisdiction

Commentary: Jenn Sinrich of Parents magazine examines whether GMOs in food are safe for babies, points to scientific consensus on GMO safety, but notes nutritionist claims about potential negative impact of GMOs on the gut microbiome

Commentary: National Milk Producers Federation Peel Back the Label campaign case study says McCormick's GMO-free gourmet line of spices ignores that no GM spices are on the market, seeks only to spice up sales

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project posts piece by U.K. farm manager who volunteers with Global Farmer Network discussing consequences when biotechnology innovations restricted, including crop biotech pesticide tools such as glyphosate, neonics

News: Drovers reports on report from Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) on science of gene editing, its potential applications and challenges; notes that no GM method, including conventional breeding, is without the possibility of unintended effects

[More North America items](#)

Africa

Report: African Agricultural Technology Foundation-commissioned report by Kenya University Biotechnology Consortium (KUBICO) on impact of Kenya's 2012 GMO ban, finds the ban has halted progress in ag and food security research

Video: African Centre for Biodiversity releases final video in its six-part series on the Dec. 2017 National Seed Dialogue and Celebration, with focus on need to boost smallholder autonomy in seed production, as current quality certification is designed for large companies

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: India's Mint reports Field Inspection and Scientific Evaluation Committee (FISEC) launched by Prime Minister's Office found that nearly 15 percent of cotton cultivation was planted with illegal herbicide-tolerant seeds in 2017

News: Times of India reports field trials of GM mustard requested by Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) to evaluate impact on honeybees and soil health must wait until winter, further delaying approval for commercial release

News: Bangladesh's Daily Observer reports on conference on golden rice at Sher e Bangla Agricultural University, where agricultural scientists noted it poses no food safety risks, called for recognition as environmentally safe

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: The Irish Times reports on Environment Minister Denis Naughten's recommendation that Ireland opt-out of EU directive on GMOs, arguing importance of maintaining Ireland's GMO cultivation-free status, he noted it would not impact the feed sector

News: Independent (Ireland) reports on Cabinet's approval of transposition of an EU Directive, enabling Ireland to opt-out of cultivating GM crops, Environment Minister Denis Naughten noted importance of maintaining GM-free status

News: European media report on open letter by German and Austrian food companies calling on EU Commission to require full risk assessment and labeling of products of new genetic engineering methods, arguing that failure to do so would threaten non-GMO production

News release: Austrian GMO-free labeling system ARGE Gentechnik-frei announces call by Austrian and German food retailers and manufacturers for regulation of new gene technologies under current EU GE law, citing threats to organic and GMO-free production

News: Italy's Udine 20 reports on Regional Forestry Corps of Friuli Venezia Giulia's destruction of GM maize crops owned by Giorgio Fidenato, due to non-compliance with July 3 decree giving Fidenato five days to remove the crops himself

Commentary: Italian Federation of Animal and Environmental Rights Associations' online news site examines forestry agents' destruction of GM corn plots owned by Giorgio Fidenato, highlights his frustration that Spanish farmers can grow GMOs while he cannot

News: Italy's Il Friuli reports on regional secretary of Italian Left, Marco Duriaviv's statement praising forestry agents for destroying GM corn fields owned by Giorgio Fidenato, arguing that GMOs threaten

quality of agriculture and ecosystems

News: Portugal's Lusa reports on Green party's (ENP) introduction of bill to ban cultivation of GM crops, citing risks to human health and the environment, especially biodiversity loss and contamination

Commentary: Spokesman for German Green parliamentary group on genetic engineering Harald Ebner calls on the party to defend careful regulation of new GE methods, argues even small DNA changes can have enormous effects

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Reuters reports Monsanto is considering appealing Brazilian court's ruling ordering it to deposit Intacta RR2 Pro soy seed royalties in an escrow account, pending outcome of patent dispute litigation with Brazilian soy growers

Commentary: Ricardo Balderas of Mexico's Ecoportal voices concern about transgenic seed contamination in the country, highlights struggles of indigenous communities to fight human rights violations and dispossession of indigenous lands, including legal action

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

Commentary: Geologist Jacob Anderson writes for New Zealand Herald, weighs in on controversy surrounding Air NZ's decision to serve the Impossible Burger, highlights potential for synthetic meat to reduce environmental impact of agriculture

Letter to the editor: Whangarei resident writes to Northland Age, calls on Air New Zealand to stop serving the Impossible Burger, argues the GE soy leghemoglobin has no proven track record of safety

[More Oceania items](#)

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From: Jay Byrne
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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - July 9, 2018
 Date: Monday, July 9, 2018 9:04:59 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 new study published by a Flinders University researcher who claimed that a diet of GM maize caused inflammation in test rats. In Europe, a European Ideas Lab meeting in Austria to discuss new technologies included presentations against new plant breeding techniques.

- Researcher Judy A. Carman, who had previously released a study claiming that a diet of GM feed caused inflammation in pigs, issued new research claiming that rats showed stomach inflammation on a diet of Bt maize. The report was amplified by activist group GMWatch. [See more](#)
- Austrian news outlets reported on the weekend's European Ideas Lab, a meeting organized by the Greens/European Free Alliance to review disruptive technologies. During the event, MEP Thomas Waitz and campaigner Juliette Leroux criticized new plant breeding techniques, claiming that the region could allow "backdoor" GMOs if it allowed NBTs. [See more](#)

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

North America

Commentary: Mark Lynas writes for Cornell Alliance for Science, promotes study by University of Bath and Cardiff University scientists on developing a way of turning off a gene drive, emphasizes potential importance of the technology in fighting malaria

Commentary: International Food Policy Research Institute's Tewodaj Mogues writes for CNN opinion, voices concerns about Trump administration's plans to withdraw from the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, notes benefits of ag technologies usually take a long time to materialize

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Inter Press Service reports on Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa's (AGRA) call for giving African farmers access to improved seed technology to help mitigate drought conditions, decrying lack of local private seed-producing companies across Africa

News: Kenya's The Star reports on "Food Evolution" director Scott Kennedy's upcoming visit to East Africa for free screenings of the documentary, hosted by Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology in Africa project, with goal of raising understanding

News release: Consumers International recently hosted workshop in Accra, Ghana from June 4-5 as part of wider U.N. FAO project on making food systems more sustainable, highlights plans for study on how consumers organizations can transform food systems

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

Commentary: Shin Chang-seop of Korea's iCOOP promotes Korea-U.S. International Symposium on consumer rights and GMO labeling, following Cheong Wa Dae's official response to petition calling for mandatory labeling

Commentary: Colin Todhunter blames India's agrarian crisis on promotion of U.S. corporate interests, claims use of GM crops and pesticides have harmed soil health, promotes smallholder operations and agroecology

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: Austrian news outlet reports on recent European Ideas Lab event, initiated by Styrian Green MEP Thomas Waitz, topics included genetic engineering

News release: The Greens/European Free Alliance hosts European Ideas Lab from July 5-6, 2-18, includes workshop entitled "New Biotechnologies: GMOs May Flood the EU By the Backdoor," with Thomas Waitz, MEP and Juliette Leroux, Greens/EFA Campaigner on GMOs

News: Feed Navigator reports on Polish Ag Ministry's draft amendment extending implementation of a ban on GM feed ingredients, set to go into effect this year, until 2024, Poland's law contradicts EU law blocking member states from banning trade and use of GM food and feed

Commentary: German anti-GMO news site amplifies Environment Ministry survey which found that 79 percent of Germans agree that GE should be banned in agriculture, 93 percent agreed that food from animals given GM feed should be labeled

[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

Study: Study in Food and Nutrition Sciences by Australian research team, including Judy Carman, finds that GM insect-resistant and herbicide tolerant maize may have an effect on rat stomach mucosa, with potential health implications

Commentary: GMWatch amplifies study led by Australian research team, including Judy Carman of Institute of Health and Environmental Research, which found that rats fed GM insect-resistant and herbicide-tolerant maize developed "leaky" stomachs

News: Australia's Stock Journal reports South Australia state gov't promises independent review on quantitative benefit of prohibiting GM crop cultivation, Primary Industries and Regional Development Minister Tim Whetstone noted it will not be based on ideology

News: Australia's Farm Weekly reports on CropLife Australia CEO Matthew Cossey's statement welcoming two reports by ISAAA and PG Economics demonstrating economic and environmental benefits of GMOs, noting it reflects reasons for continued growth of GM crops in Australia

[More Oceania items](#)

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From: Jay Byrne
 To: Caitrin.Martin@fas.usda.gov
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - July 9, 2018
 Date: Monday, July 9, 2018 4:01:32 PM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

A wave of French media coverage emerged last week detailing how new studies have invalidated Gilles-Éric Séralini's 2012 research claiming a link between genetically modified corn and cancer. Our Favorable Outcomes newsletter starts by highlighting the first of those articles, written by Cecile Thibert of *Le Figaro*. We also have included economist Gérard Kafadaroff's take, in addition to a link to broader coverage in the What's Trending section.

Other articles take a closer look at a Roundup cancer claim lawsuit, the activist group SumOfUs and its tactics and a change of heart for a former biotechnology opponent in Ghana.

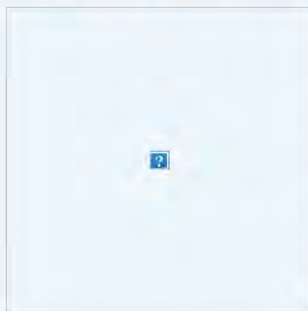
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Please [contact us](#) if you have any questions.

In This Issue

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

Stakeholder Spotlight: Thousand Currents



Thousand Currents, formerly IDEX, is a leading player in the global movement to adopt pesticide- and GMO-eschewing agroecology development policies.

Thousand Currents president Rajasvini Bhansali, also a board member of Greenpeace, serves

Stories Worth Sharing

[Cecile Thibert: New study invalidates Séralini claims that genetically modified corn caused tumors](#)

[Angela Logomasini: Roundup cancer claim should be dismissed because "no court of law" should take IARC reviews seriously](#)

[Alex Berezow: Live Science harms reputation by publishing anti-pesticide fearmongering](#)

[Joy: Former Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana president changes stance, declares GMOs safe](#)

[EurActiv: Brussels lobbyist sees environmental NGOs holding more power than even European Food Safety Authority](#)

[David Zaruk: SumOfUs anti-pesticide campaigns "squeezing the innocent and confused for every nickel and dime they can get"](#)

[Gérard Kafadaroff: Media failed to inform public that Séralini glyphosate study didn't meet scientific standards](#)

[Tim Durham: Despite "decades-long track record of safety," GM crops treated harshly by regulators](#)

[Richard Roberts: GMOs can make a real difference in the lives of the world's poor](#)

as a key advisor to the AgroEcology Fund and other donor groups that have committed \$500 million to promoting this agenda with government and international organizations including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Learn more about Thousand Currents [HERE](#).

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Nick Saik: CRISPR is faster, cheaper and higher quality than other techniques for gene editing

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

Proposed regulation in Brazil draws concern about rolling back pesticide approval requirements

French media highlight studies invalidating Seralini risk claims about GM crops, glyphosate

Trial begins in California lawsuit claiming Roundup causes cancer

Convention on Biological Diversity science advisers discuss synthetic biology at Montreal meeting

Calendar highlights

July 10-12	July 11-13	July 13-15
One Water Summit	Heartland Apicultural Society conference	Slow Food Nations Festival
July 15-18	July 16-19	July 17
Institute of Food Technologists annual expo	World Congress on Industrial Biotechnology	Hearing on U.S. EPA science censorship rule

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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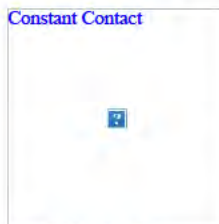
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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

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Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included a survey by Germany's Federal Ministry for the Environment and the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation finding a majority support a GMO ban in the country, although the survey had some contradictory elements. The International Institute for Sustainable Development provided updates on a meeting of Convention on Biological Diversity scientific advisers in Montreal.

- A German government survey found 79 percent of respondents favor banning GM crop cultivation. However, the survey also found 93 percent favor commercializing food from animals that eat GM feed while 40 percent believe genetic engineering is important to feed the world. Environment Minister Svenja Schulze said, "We finally need uniform regulations nationwide to ban the cultivation of GM crops." [See more](#)
- The IISD reported on the meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice, noting delegates directed an ad hoc committee to analyze emerging issues for synthetic biology as a priority. Delegates also called for established measures to minimize GM organisms' exposure to the environment. [See more](#)

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North America

[Commentary: Peel Back the Label campaign case study on Tropicana orange juice criticizes brand for using Non-GMO Project label when there is no GM alternative, calls the label "pulp fiction"](#)

[Commentary: Western Producer reporter notes unapproved GM wheat discovery in Alberta wasn't health or environmental threat, but it disrupted trade, points out with gene editing innovation pace will make it impossible for regs to keep up, forcing transition to system protecting against risk without trade interference](#)

[News: Manitoba Co-operator reports National Farmers Union official surprised GM wheat field trials continuing, although no GM wheat in production; notes NFU wants specific locations so farmers can look out for escapes](#)

[Commentary: Moms Across America welcome page urges parents to go organic, oppose GMOs and Roundup, urges parents to caution others about GMOs and toxins, warns of exposure to toxins through chemical exposure, vaccines, pollutants](#)

[Video: The Kloons sketch comedy team satirizes out-of-control food labels with supermarket skit around cereal festooned with various claims including non-GMO, hormone-free, raw, vegan, cruelty-free, Beyonce-endorsed, flavor-free](#)

[Commentary: Organic Consumers Association claims cotton may be "dirtiest" crop on Earth because of pesticides sprayed on it, large percentage grown with GMO seed, lists nine reasons to buy products made from organic cotton, such as reducing exposure to hazardous pesticides, supporting regenerative ag](#)

More North America items

Africa

News: Zimbabwe news site reports Corteva launched innovative seed technology, crop protection, and digital agriculture ventures intended to increase yields in the country, will offer solution to fall armyworm

News: African news site reports former Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana president says GMOs are not dangerous, opposes official stance of farmer group that he led

News: Ugandan news site reports Ethiopia does about face on GMOs, approves two Bt cotton varieties and begins GM maize field trials to help fight drought, crop disease

Commentary: International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications blog emphasizes benefits of Bt cotton for Sudan, where farmers say cotton providing boost in living standards because of higher yields, no pesticide costs

More Africa items

Asia

News: Indian economic news site writer who attended Lindau Nobel Laureate meeting, notes Nobel laureate Richard Roberts seeks to get out truth on GMOs, involved other Nobel laureates because they aren't supported by industry,

News: Indian news site questions if Narendra Modi's plan to use biotech crops to improve farmer income, notes success Bangladesh is having with GM crops but India is reluctant to adopt the technology

Commentary: Baker writes history of wheat for Jerusalem Post, claims genetically engineered wheat makes it possible to use pesticides without harming wheat, and genetic engineering and hybridization improve quality and yields, says opponents are indignant humans being used as guinea pigs for agro-technology

Event: International Rice Research Institute announces public consultations on proposed field trials for Golden Rice set for July 18 and July 20 at two locations in Philippines

More Asia items

Europe

News: German news site Spiegel reports Ministry of Environment poll shows 79 percent of Germans want GMO ban, but 40 percent say GMOs are important to feed the world, notes EU court to decide whether gene-edited products should be regulated as GMOs

News: German news site reports Green Party science minister Theresia Bauer calls for change in party platform to support gene editing, says Greens can no longer miss opportunities, stirs up controversy questioning ideology central to party's identity

Commentary: Friends of the Earth Germany announces 21 NGOs call for regulating and labeling gene-edited products, says safety of new breeding techniques is unproven

Commentary: U.K. lecturer, professor write on Conversation that gene drives have great power to affect species, but extreme caution is needed due to difficulty in predicting environmental outcomes, suggests making altered genes switchable

News: Italian news site reports vandals damage Giorgio Fidenato's GM corn field overnight, notes the pro-biotech farmer decides to file complaint

News: French pro-ag site Alerte-Environnement reports public perception of GMOs blurred by

invalidated study by anti-GMO activist Seralini that claimed GMOs caused cancer; notes media manipulated into not seeking independent opinions before publishing

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Brazil's National Society of Agriculture quotes former coordinator of Agriculture Ministry saying doubts about safety of GM foods unresolved, despite 2016 letter by Nobel Prize laureates supporting safety of GMOs, citing strong pressure on National Congress of Brazil to withdraw GMO labels on food packaging

Commentary: Mexico's Neuva Mujer lists 10 facts that will make readers proud that Alvarez-Buylla is new Conacyt director, including fact she opposes GM crop cultivation

News: Mexican news site reports new President AMLO's cabinet includes Agriculture Secretary, who was criticized for supporting 2004 biodiversity law that allowed GMO cultivation

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian travel news site reports Air New Zealand defends decision to serve plant-based Impossible Burger, gives vegan customers a choice, spends millions on meat raised in New Zealand

News release: GE-Free New Zealand claims GE Impossible Burger's legality because it "escaped safety regulation;" says Air New Zealand serving the food on flights sidesteps safety regulations and uses passengers as guinea pigs

Commentary: New Zealand-based computational biologist argues the Impossible Burger is not genetically modified, notes genetically engineered yeast makes one ingredient used in the product, urges examining the product rather than method used to create it

More Oceania items

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 Date: Thursday, July 5, 2018 9:26:58 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

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Mid-week global biotechnology developments included a round of French news reports summarizing recent efforts disproving the work of an anti-biotechnology researcher. New Zealand news outlets covered a statement by the acting prime minister, who criticized the country's flagship airline for promoting the lab-cultured "Impossible Burger." Activists responded to the ongoing meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), highlighting concerns about the use of synthetic biology and gene drives.

- A Wednesday report in *Le Figaro* highlighted the results of the EU's recent GRACE, G-TwYST and GMO-90+ studies that sought to re-examine whether GM maize and glyphosate could be linked to cancer in lab animals, concluding that French researcher Gilles-Éric Séralini had manipulated the media and consumers. The article prompted a wave of response in French news outlets; in an interview with *L'Obs*, Séralini claimed that the EU researchers were distorting the data and making "dishonest" conclusions. [See more](#)
- *NZ Farmer* reported that New Zealand Acting Prime Minister Winston Peters criticized Air New Zealand for its campaign highlighting the availability of a meat-free "Impossible Burger" on select flights. Peters argued that the airline has received significant taxpayer funding and should instead be focused on promoting the local meat industry. The news was amplified in other local and international media outlets. [See more](#)
- Activists continued to weigh in on the discussions surrounding synthetic biology and gene drives taking place during the SBSTTA 22 in Montreal. ETC Group claimed that the Canadian government had denied a visa to an African activist critical of the use of GM mosquitoes to control malaria. Reporting on the meeting from the International Institute of Sustainable Development noted that the Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network, Union paysanne, Friends of the Earth and ETC Group all presented objections to the technology. [See more](#)

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North America

Commentary: NGO ETC Group says leading African biodiversity expert denied Canadian visa, misses UN forum, quotes Ali Tapsoba saying she was prevented from attending Convention on Biological Diversity meeting due to her opposition to gene drives, which group claims threatens biodiversity

News: NGO International Institute for Sustainable Development reports on CBD meeting, notes Netherlands, Germany, New Zealand call for product-based risk assessments on LMOs; countries call for more research, additional protocol on synthetic biology, gene drives

Commentary: Justin Cremer of Cornell Alliance for Science examines disagreement between food industry and farmer groups over USDA's proposed GMO labeling requirements, Nestle, Hershey, Unilever and GMA want labeling of refined products, American Sugar Beets Association objects

Commentary: French-Canadian NGO Vigilance OGM ridicules USDA's proposed labeling rules, proposed logos, notes products such as oil made from GMOs might not be labeled, points out Canada still has no GM labeling requirement

News release: National Corn Growers Association submitted comments on USDA's proposed Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard, NCGA pointed out some options under consideration that could potentially harm U.S. agriculture and stifle farming innovation

Announcement: Environmental Working Group wrote comments to USDA on its proposed GMO labeling rule, calls for labeling of all products with ingredients derived from GMOs, including highly refined ingredients, as well as products of gene editing

News release: Friends of the Earth, along with several other consumer, environmental and farming NGOs, submitted comments to USDA on its proposed GMO labeling disclosure rules, voices opposition to use of QR codes, calls for labeling of refined ingredients

News release: American Soybean Association filed comments with USDA regarding proposed bioengineered food disclosure rule, calls for adherence to the statutory definition of bioengineering, advocates a five percent threshold for mandatory disclosure

Announcement: Non-GMO Project announces publication of brief report on public understanding and usage of terms related to GMOs, finds USDA's proposed disclosure terminology would confuse and mislead consumers

Commentary: Michigan newspaper op-ed by Center for Consumer Freedom's Rick Berman finds irony in Environmental Working Group, anti-GMO groups backing lab-grown meat when FDA, American Heart Association find ingredients questionable

Commentary: Ecological anthropologist acknowledges science denial dangers, but says "science imperialism" that ignores ethics, social impacts are equally dangerous, cites "Food Evolution" documentary, disputes there is consensus on GMO safety

News: The Western Producer reports corporate head of agriculture for Nestle tells food security conference consumers must be convinced of safety of innovations such as GM foods; warns consumer resistance could lead to trade barriers

Announcement: Green America seeks Food Campaigns Director to educate public about problems with industrialization of food, importance of regenerative, non-GMO, organic foods, need for action to take back food supply to protect health, environment

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Ghanaian news site reports former peasant farmers association president reverses position, declares GMO food safe for human consumption; notes association continues to claim GMOs carcinogenic

News: Ghana News Agency reports researcher tells journalists during training session that biotech crops can increase food quality, safety, and production while increasing farmer income

News: Ghanaian farmer says country's delay in GMO approval is injustice to Ghana's farmers, says biotech offers seeds resistant to drought and pests, says activists should be ignored when their opinion differs from scientists and farmers

News: Food Business Africa reports Ghana's leading research institute endorses use of biotechnology, considers it vital to enhance food security; adds Ghana's food insecurity due to inferior seeds, traditional agricultural practices, competition for land use and climate change

Commentary: Doctoral student writing in South African farming newspaper suggests African stem borer developed resistance to Bt-maize because insufficient Bt toxins existed in plants, resistance grew in small borer population

Video: GMO-Free Zone South Africa shares brief clip of its video-making process on Facebook, ahead of releasing an introductory video on the campaign

Commentary: Nigerian news site editor says genetic engineering could help propel Nigerian cattle market to become beef production powerhouse

Commentary: Marta Gatti of Belgian NGO Committee for the Abolition of Illegitimate Debts amplifies report by Global Network for the Right to Food and Nutrition warning African nations against GM crop adoption, highlighting Bt cotton in Burkina Faso

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News release: Korean NGO Citizen's Coalition for Economic Justice announces results of survey on GM ag products, finding that 2.7 million tons were imported in the last five years, reiterates call on gov't to improve the GMO labeling system

News: Reuters reports on China's plans to launch month-long inspection of cooking oil labels, beginning on Dec. 21, to ensure that GM cooking oils are properly labeled following media reports of false labeling of GM soy oil as non-GMO in Fujian province

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: French news site reports Seralini says studies that debunk his GM corn and pesticide study were biased and intended to discredit him

News: French edition of Slate reporter says in retrospect "small and sad media staging" on Seralini study had disproportionate political effect, points out three studies now disprove Seralini's conclusions

News: French news site reports Seralini criticizes GRACE risk assessment that disproves his conclusions that GMO, Roundup are carcinogens, accuses researchers of "methodological dishonesty," distorted data

Interview: French toxicologist Bernard Salles tells French health TV show that research invalidates Seralini's conclusions on GM corn study, points out Seralini used too few rats, and used breed highly susceptible to spontaneous cancer

News: Le Figaro premium report claims Seralini manipulated perception of GM corn study, attributing media reporting to worldwide spread of his research conclusions

News: U.K.'s Farmers Guardian reports economic analyst described agriculture as hi-tech industry needing hi-tech solutions, including agri-biotechnology in aftermath of Brexit

Commentary: Bayer managing director refutes Green Party Bundestag member's points against gene editing techniques, notes she offers no scientific reasoning; points out gene editing helps solve vital agricultural issues, increases productivity, can eliminate allergens, help mitigate climate change

News release: German NGO Deutscher Naturschutring notes upcoming EU court decision on genome editing, joins other German NGOs in urging federal government to use precautionary principle regarding gene-edited products

News release: Austrian NGO Arche Noah argues products of new breeding techniques should not be authorized without full risk assessments, claiming that new breeding techniques are not as safe and precise as seed companies promote

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Commentary: Radio France Internationale notes Argentina successfully banked on GMOs, becoming top producer and exporter of maize, soy, cotton, but questions the social and environmental costs

News: Mexican newspaper reports President-elect Lopez Obrador will select anti-GM scientist to head National Council of Science, Technology; notes scientist's concern with ethics of commercializing

agriculture through transgenic crops

News: Costa Rica news site reports ecologists, academics demand GMO labeling in foods for humans, animals; group sends letter to President Carlos Alvarado, government departments; Alvarado had promised enforcement during campaign

Campaign: Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa) solicits applications for business incubation (due July 13) to inform new product development for biological pest control, ag inputs/processes

News: Brazilian news site claims multinational agribusinesses use economic, political power to force dependence on GM crops in Brazil, abandon agroecology practices; agroecology group official says the monopolies decrease biodiversity through monocultures

News: Reuters reports Brazilian court orders Monsanto to deposit royalties in escrow pending court decision on Brazilian farmers' suit over GM soy patent validity

News: Reuters reports a Brazilian judge ordered units of Monsanto to deposit royalties related to Intacta RR2 pro GM soybean seed technology, amid patent dispute between Monsanto and Brazilian soybean growers

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

Commentary: New Zealand news site editorial notes Air New Zealand can't hold back tide of lab-grown or plant-based meats, just gives customers what they want, but politicians see airline as letting down their team

Commentary: New Zealand news site columnist says Air NZ decision to serve 'Impossible Burger' brings GE plant-based meat debate to light, noting meat industry's opposition, argues plant-based meat could be answer to unsustainability of traditional meat production from animals

News: CNN reports New Zealand Prime Minister Winston Peters says he's opposed to "fake beef," says Air New Zealand should promote country's produce rather than Impossible Burger; airline says it makes no apology for offering innovative product choices for customers

News: The Guardian reports New Zealand MP criticizes Air New Zealand for serving Impossible Burger, says GM burger is "existential threat" to country's beef industry; notes Twitter response points out industry should not put "head in sand" and ignore synbio technology

News: New Zealand Herald reports MP Mark Patterson derides Air New Zealand for serving Impossible Burger, says it is threat to New Zealand's meat industry, calls it a "slap in the face" to New Zealand's red meat producers

[More Oceania items](#)

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

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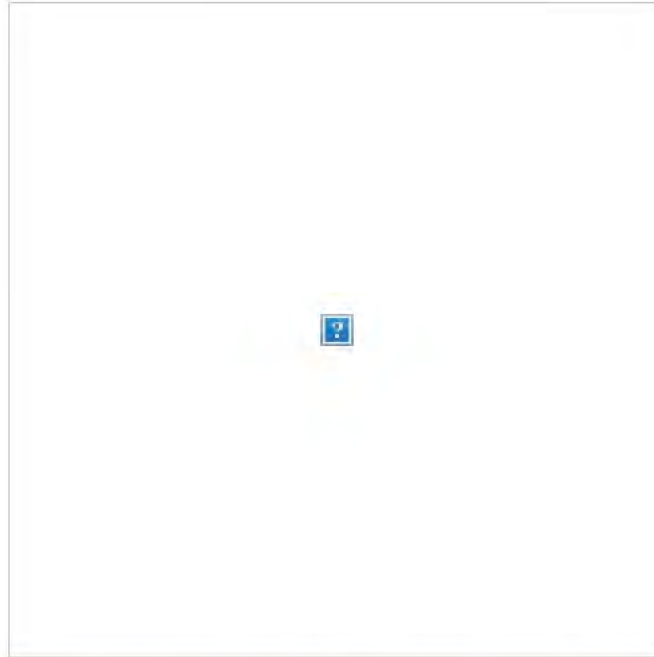
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Latest updates online

Independence Day

Due to the U.S. Independence Day holiday, your Global Biotech Snapshot will not be delivered today. For the latest monitoring updates, please click the link below.

[BIOTECH UPDATES](#)

Snapshot delivery will resume tomorrow.

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From: Jay Byrne
 To: Diane Wray-Cohen@fas.usda.gov
 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - July 3, 2018
 Date: Tuesday, July 3, 2018 9:03:21 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 joint statement from German NGOs, who called for the European Union to adopt a "precautionary" approach to products of new plant breeding techniques (NBTs). In the U.S., activists and food companies weighed in on a federal GMO disclosure standard as the comment period closed.

- A coalition of 21 German organic food producers and environmental activists issued a joint statement calling on German MEPs to enforce a strict precautionary standard on foods and crops produced through NBTs. The groups noted that the European Court of Justice was expected to render a decision on some of these techniques by the end of July but said that the German coalition government had already committed to maintain current GMO guidelines. **See more**
- U.S. activists issued a last flurry of calls for supporters to weigh in on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's proposed standards for labeling foods with ingredients produced through genetic engineering. Environmental Working Group, Friends of the Earth, Center for Food Safety and others highlighted "loopholes" for highly processed ingredients such as sugars and oils. *Reuters* and *Food Navigator* reported that food manufacturers Nestle and Hershey and the Grocery Manufacturers Association had commented on the measure and noted that these exceptions would undermine consumer trust. **See more**

Due to the U.S. Independence Day holiday, your next biotechnology snapshot will be sent on Thursday, July 5. Please check the monitoring portal for updates in the meantime.

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: Reuters reports Nestle, Hershey commented on U.S. government plans to label GE food ingredients, pitting food companies against farmers of crops such as beet sugar; food companies supporting GMO labeling, while farmers want to exclude processed ingredients

News release: Friends of the Earth joins Center for Food Safety, groups submitting comments to USDA on proposed regulations for mandatory disclosure of foods produced using genetic engineering; CFS argues against use of QR codes as burdensome on consumers, objects to "bioengineered" term

News release: Center for Food Safety, along with several other consumer, environmental, and farming organizations and companies submitted comments to USDA demanding strong GMO food labeling standards, voicing opposition to use of QR codes

Campaign: Carolina Farm Stewardship Association calls on supporters to submit comments to USDA demanding clear GMO labels prior to July 3 deadline, calling for use of more familiar terms, and for mandatory labeling of products of gene editing

Commentary: Western Producer editorial questions delay in Canadian Food Inspection Agency's public disclosure of its discovery of unauthorized GM wheat in Alberta, emphasizing importance of timely disclosure to maintain buyers' trust

Commentary: Lizz Schumer of The New York Times examines various food labels, advising readers on which ones to ignore and which ones to pay attention to, notes GMOs are not necessarily bad, examining how people are scared because they don't know what it means

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News release: La Via Campesina denounces corporate influence in Convention on Biological Diversity, demands that gov't's prohibit release of gene drives, it will be present to oppose transnational corporations and their policies

News: Zimbabwean news outlet reports cotton industry stakeholders call on gov't to begin trials on GM Bt cotton to control bollworm pest, currently controlled with expensive pesticides

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Japanese news source reports Japan-Korea-Taiwan Non-GMO Asia Forum established, with citizens groups in three countries planning to coordinate actions, also reports outdoor trial cultivation of new genome-edited rice begins in Japan, supposed to be simply experiment to demonstrate technology

News: Vietnam's Baomoi reports Department of Crop Production statistics show GMO maize production increasing but still only 3 percent of country's total corn area, notes GMO maize considered pest-resistant and can help reduce import pressure, but mechanisms needed to accelerate planting area

News: Vietnamese news source reports from workshop organized by USDA, CropLife Vietnam on "Application of GM Crops - Status and Development Potential," with area of GMO maize allowed to be commercially grown increasing by 125 percent from 2015 to 2017

News: SciDevNet amplifies ISAAA Biotech Update report finding spread of "counterfeit" GM corn seeds in Philippines cutting farmers' profits, productivity, posing threat to environment; nation's area of licensed GM corn fell 21 percent in 2017, despite 11 percent expansion in total area planted in corn

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News release: Germany's Federal Association of Natural Food Natural Products (BNN) announces resolution along with other association calling on EU to regulate new GE methods under the Genetic Engineering Act, noting responsibility to protect consumers

News release: Organic certifier Demeter announces it sent resolution to politicians calling for consistent application of existing GM legislation to products of new GE techniques, highlighting possibility of unplanned effects

News release: Germany's Federation of Organic Food Industry (BÖLW) joins group of 21 NGOs demanding regulation and labeling of new genetic engineering methods, calling on MEPs to apply the precautionary principle

News release: German Working Group on Rural Agriculture (AbL) calls for regulation of new genetic engineering methods under current laws, arguing that increased precision is not certain, pointing to possibility of unintended effects

News release: Swiss NGO Public Eye joins other groups in asking states involved in negotiation of FTA between Mercosur and EFTA to allow transparency of negotiations, carry out sustainability impact assessment, warns strengthening intellectual property rights would risk privatizing seeds

Announcement: EFSA announces its risk assessment on Monsanto's Bt glyphosate-tolerant maize variety finds no safety concerns or nutritional difference from its conventional counterpart, concludes it does not pose environmental safety concerns

Commentary: France's Alerte Environnement criticizes Volunteer Reapers' recent protest against ENS in Lyon and INRA's Reproduction and Plant Development Laboratory against the Genius Project, highlights efforts to make the project as transparent as possible

News release: Spanish Green Party announces conference in EU Parliament entitled "Fighting Ecological Crimes," where deputy Florent Marcellesi called for a regulatory framework to fight such crimes, emulating the Monsanto Tribunal to hold companies accountable

Commentary: In opinion article in Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture, Rothamsted Research's Nigel Halford calls for change in EU's approach to GM regulations, noting shortcomings of the process-based approach as new gene editing techniques arise

Interview: Global Engage interviews University of Reading professor Jim Dunwell on regulatory implications for gene-edited crops, ahead of expected EU Court of Justice ruling, he highlights potential financial obstacles associated with strict regulation

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Bolivian news source reports peasants group warns more than 60 percent of agricultural production in Santa Cruz region uses transgenic seeds, claims seeds imported illegally from Brazil and Argentina despite ban that exists for GM corn, soybeans and wheat, calls for stopping production of GM crops

Commentary: Friends of the Earth International's Radio Mundo Real examines call by various environmental and academic organizations on Costa Rica's president to fulfil pre-electoral promises of mandatory GMO labeling

[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: Diane.Wray-Cahen@fas.usda.gov
 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - July 2, 2018
 Date: Monday, July 2, 2018 9:05:58 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 international reporting on a recent Nobel laureates event, where Sir Richard Roberts highlighted the benefits of agricultural biotechnology. New Zealand's outgoing science minister similarly called for rethinking opposition to the technology.

- News outlets in Argentina, China and Germany highlighted statements by Sir Richard Roberts, who spoke at a meeting of Nobel laureates held in Lindau, Germany. Roberts discussed his 2016 campaign, signed by over 100 Nobel laureates, which called for environmental groups such as Greenpeace to rethink their positions critical of agricultural biotechnology. [See more](#)
- In New Zealand, outgoing science adviser Sir Peter Gluckman told the *New Zealand Herald* over the weekend that GM crops had been extensively studied and no environmental or health concerns had been identified. The statement generated a round of amplification across local media outlets. In a radio interview, GE-Free New Zealand representative Jon Carapiet said more, not less, regulation is needed on GM crops and products of new plant breeding techniques. [See more](#)

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

North America

Commentary: Wired's Joi Ito examines six stages of development of artificial meat, includes Impossible Burger's use of GE heme, expresses excitement at potential use of algae, kelp and fungi to convert renewable energy into calories

Commentary: Missouri Farm Bureau President Blake Hurst writes for local news outlet, examines state bill banning labeling meat substitutes as meat, notes opposition to the bill came from groups that also supported mandatory GMO labeling

Commentary: Cathy Siegner of Food Dive examines Friends of the Earth's report on whether sufficient research has been carried out to establish the safety of lab-grown meat, says the report is surprising as FoE frequently supports new sustainable technologies

News: AgInfo Network reports on University of Vermont study finding GMO labels actually decreased consumer fears, with another study finding only about half of those surveyed had health concerns when shown GMO labels

News: Washington, D.C. radio outlet reports on USDA's proposed symbols for GMO food disclosures one day ahead of public comment deadline, highlights International Food Information Council Foundation (IFIC) study on consumer reactions to the labels

Video: Nick Saik of Know Ideas voices excitement that USDA will not regulate CRISPR as GMOs, he explains the CRISPR gene editing process, highlighting increased precision, notes that CRISPR is faster, cheaper and higher quality than other techniques

Africa

Commentary: Joan Conrow of Cornell Alliance for Science examines Ethiopia's progress in GM crop adoption, highlighting its recent approval of commercial use of Bt cotton and field research on GM maize

Announcement: Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa announces upcoming African Food Systems Conference in Cameroon, Nov. 3-5, 2018, with goal of launching an action plan and declaration for better food systems geared towards the public and policymakers

News release: Nigeria's National Biosafety Management Authority announces public display of application for importation of GM herbicide-tolerant soybean for edible oil processing, NBMA will receive public comments through July 20

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Vietnamese news outlet reports on economic benefits of rising GM maize adoption in the country, in a recent seminar organized by CropLife Vietnam and USDA it was revealed that GM maize area in 2017 reached 28,500.1 ha, more than double the area in 2015

Commentary: Science Magazine runs article by international group of academics arguing Convention on Biological Diversity has effect of curtailing biodiversity research in some countries, weakening international cooperation, suggest ways to create regulatory environment promoting biodiversity

Commentary: Pakistan Observer editorial argues regulations on low-level presence of GMOs are necessary to continue imports and avoid trade disruptions, noting 100 percent purity is impossible, highlights accepted policies for developers

News: Xinhua profiles Syngenta scientist Ian Jepson, highlights his work to develop high-yielding, sustainable crops, highlights implications for the environment and food security, examines Syngenta's acquisition by ChemChina

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: Germany's Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung reports on Nobel Laureate Meeting's focus on genetic engineering, highlights scientific consensus on GMO safety, and Sir Richard Roberts' ongoing criticism of GM opponents

Commentary: German Green party spokeswoman for nutrition policy Renate Künast weighs in on debate on genetic engineering, opposes embracing CRISPR as a solution, points to potential unintended consequences, promotes small farmers and agroecology

Commentary: GMWatch amplifies paper in Journal of Biological Physics and Chemistry by Eva Novotny, who examines the events leading to retraction of Seralini's GM rat feed study, and claims that Monsanto colluded with the journal's editor-in-chief

Commentary: Pro-GMO Spanish NGO Fundacion Antama discusses non-agricultural applications of GM plants, while citing development of such GM foods as golden rice, Arctic apples; non-ag applications could include phytoremediation, Glowing Plant project, plants that can detect anti-personnel mines

News release: Agri Holland runs release from Committee for Genetic Modification warning activities with GM Schrenkiella parvula should require measures taken to prevent seed dispersal; COGEM considers risks to humans, environment when working with GM plant negligible

Interview: France's Atlantico interviews Bayer's Franck Garnier, he discusses the Monsanto acquisition, dispels several myths about safety of GMOs and glyphosate, highlights importance of glyphosate for no-till systems, notes terminator seeds don't exist

Commentary: GenØk - Centre for Biosafety amplifies chapter in "Professionals in food chain" book arguing that gene-edited plants and animals should be assessed on sustainability, ethical and societal impacts prior to receiving regulatory approval

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Bolivia's El Deber reports on gov't evaluation of pros and cons of GM corn and soybeans, Association of Oilseed and Wheat Producers president Richard Paz praised the gov't for hiring biotech expert Josué Hinojosa María Mercedes Roca

News: Mexico's Sipse reports on campaign by 50 civil organizations to gather signatures requesting declaring Quintana Roo a Transgenic Free Zone, voicing concerns about deforestation in the area, as well as negative environmental impacts of GMOs and pesticide use

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

Audio: New Zealand's Newstalk ZB interviews GE Free New Zealand spokesman Jon Carapiet following outgoing Chief Science Adviser Peter Gluckman's statement that GM foods are safe, he calls for more regulation, claims GMOs are not sufficiently tested in the U.S.

News: New Zealand news outlet reports on outgoing Science Adviser, Sir Peter Gluckman's call for review of stance on genetic engineering, highlights opposition to GMOs in NZ following contaminated imports of corn seed from the U.S.

[More Oceania items](#)

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 To: Diane.Wray-Cohen@fas.usda.gov
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - July 2, 2018
 Date: Monday, July 2, 2018 4:04 58 PM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

In several of the pieces highlighted in this week's newsletter, the authors touch on the the troubling theme of what to do when scientific evidence isn't enough.

In an interview with *Xinhua*, Nobel laureate Richard Roberts suggests an effort to educate the public on "lies" that are blocking the acceptance of genetically modified crops. For *Town Hall*, Steve Sherman argues that the U.S. Congress should cut the funding of the International Agency for Research on Cancer due to its "pseudoscience" that has cast doubt on the safety of glyphosate. And *Science* magazine's Jose Dinneny writes that the takeaway message from Mark Lynas' "Seeds of Science" book is that there could be a new discussion about agricultural technology that goes beyond science and also considers feelings and moral intuitions.

Other pieces explore agricultural issues in Uganda, New Zealand and Germany as well as the role of Russian propaganda in the organic movement.

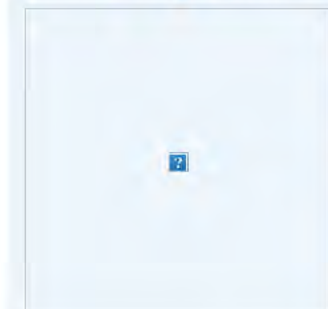
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In This Issue

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

Stakeholder Spotlight: Food Policy Action



Food Policy Action (FPA) is one of several registered 501(c)(3) political lobbying arms for the U.S. organic food marketing industry.

■ Stories Worth Sharing

[Xinhua: Nobel laureate Richard Roberts calls for educational campaign disputing "lies" activists tell about GMOs](#)

[Steve Sherman: Congress should make good on funding threats, stop IARC from "churning out pseudoscience on America's dime"](#)

[Nakisanze Segawa: Uganda biosafety bill would require larger buffer than possible for most farmers between organic and GM crops](#)

[Craig MacKenzie: Time for "sensible, science-based debate" in New Zealand on new gene revolution in farming](#)

[Henry Miller: NGOs aided by Russian "propaganda machine" harass those who promote sound science on genetic engineering](#)

[Wolfgang Nellen: Green Party movement endangers Germany's future innovation in gene editing](#)

[David Alvis: David Zaruk "probably did more than anyone else" to expose anti-science lobbying on glyphosate](#)

[Zach Weigel: "Dubious" Iowa report that warns of potential for schoolchildren to be exposed to pesticides is just fear-mongering](#)

FPA recently launched a new podcast featuring celebrity chefs critical of GMOs and conventional food production.

FPA is active lobbying on the current Farm Bill and provided financial support to defeat members of Congress who do not support the agenda of the \$45 billion U.S. organic food industry.

Learn more about Food Policy Action [HERE](#).

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Barbara Quinn: USDA report shows 99 percent of produce has no pesticide residues or safe levels; people should eat more [?](#)

Jose Dinneny: Lynas book shows science-based argument was not enough to win public over on GMOs [?](#)

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What's Trending?

USDA comment period on GMO labeling to close Tuesday

Farm bill passed by U.S. Senate praised by NGOs for having more pesticide protections than House version

ISAAA, PG Economics studies highlight continued social, environmental and economic benefits of global biotech adoption

As he leaves office, New Zealand chief science adviser says there are no environmental or health concerns with GMOs

Chemical critics Mesnage, Antoniou claim imidacloprid could act as endocrine disruptor in humans with high exposure

Colombia to use drones to apply glyphosate to eradicate coca, protect applicators

Calendar highlights

July 2-6	July 2-7	July 9-15
Codex Alimentarius Commission meets in Rome	Meeting of Convention on Biological Diversity Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice	U.K. Bees Needs 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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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - June 29-July 1, 2018
 Date: Sunday, July 1, 2018 9:03:02 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

Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included continued reporting on the USDA GM labeling rules before the Tuesday deadline for comments on the proposed regulations. Corporate Europe Observatory said emails obtained from the Dutch government indicate industry has undue influence on the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity.

- A report by anti-biotech NGO Corporate Europe Observatory said that the Public Research Regulation Initiative helped "manipulate crucial international biosafety talks under the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity." The NGO report indicated emails showed PRRI "coordinated circles of industry, researchers and regulators through dedicated email lists covering the main topics of the CBD and Protocols." The report noted it comes just before CBD talks on synthetic biology and gene drives, which could have global impacts on biotechnology. The report was amplified by Sustainable Pulse. [See more.](#)
- *Food Navigator* reported that Hershey and Unilever submitted comments regarding the U.S. Department of Agriculture's GM labeling rules, stating that highly refined ingredients such as sugar and oil should be labeled as "bioengineered." The companies said the disclosure is necessary if consumers are to believe food companies are being transparent. A *Bloomberg* editorial also criticized the proposed labels, saying it appears the USDA is attempting to "put a positive spin" on GMOs. [See more](#)

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

North America

Commentary: Richmond Times-Dispatch editorial praises arguments in favor of GMOs made by Mark Lynas in his book, "Seeds of Science," agreeing that biotech research should not be hindered by environmental activism

News: Arkansas news site reports "fake meat" caught in turf war between USDA and FDA, notes White House indicates they favor housing food regulations under one agency

News: Newsweek reports Vermont survey finding labels improve consumer GMO opinions counters recent IFIC study; U of Georgia crop professor says emotional consumer responses are more likely than logical ones

Commentary: Natural Blaze writer says Mexican meta-analysis finding DNA variations in GM and non-GMO crop varieties challenges popular "substantial equivalence" narrative of GMO industry

Commentary: Jeffrey Smith writes for Natural Awakenings magazine, encourages pet owners to switch to organic pet food, highlighting reports that pet health issues improve after removing GMOs from the diet, he highlights health risks of glyphosate, Bt toxin

Commentary: University of Saskatchewan's David Di Zhang and Grant Alexander Wilson write for The Conversation, explaining their research on consumer attitudes towards GM foods, consumers were more accepting of GM foods when they perceived direct personal benefits

Commentary: Bloomberg editorial pans USDA's new labels for GM foods for trying to put upbeat spin on issue, suggests government seems unwilling to let facts speak for themselves, asserts science affirms GM foods safe, calls claims by opponents that GM crops are dangerous "baseless"

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Ugandan newspaper reports efforts to halt falling sweet potato production blocked by parliament's failure to pass biotechnology bill that will allow development of GM sweet potato resistant to pests, disease

Announcement: Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa releases statement that African NGOs oppose "corporate takeover" of African food systems, condemns the Bayer-Monsanto merger as it sees countries opening doors to GM crops

Commentary: Writing in Kenya's Daily Nation, U of Georgia graduate researcher says biotech would be valuable, helpful to Kenya, but has limitations, argues country needs to reform ag system to be responsive/anticipatory vs reactive

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Xinhua reports Nobel laureate calls for educational campaign against lies spread by anti-GMO activists; says GM crops such as Golden Rice can help poor people in undeveloped countries

News: The Times of India reports farmers planting illegal herbicide-tolerant cotton seeds to save on labor costs for weed clearing, allows farmers to use glyphosate instead

Report: Third World Network's Biosafety Information Centre announces meta-analysis that profiled phenotypic consequences of plant breeding and genetic engineering found extensive phenotypic differences between GE and non-GE cultivated plants; researchers warn such interventions may have unintended effects

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Commentary: GMWatch promotes news EFSA GMO panel member will publish opinion asserting Syngenta's stacked-trait GM maize has not been proven safe, making second time panel member has challenged GMO safety

News release: Testbiotech voices concern about DowDuPont and Baysanto "growing number of patent applications for genome editing in plants, argues that a landscape shaped by patents will make it difficult for small and medium-sized breeders to survive

Report: Corporate Europe Observatory investigation finds freedom of information-retrieved emails reveal layered campaigns by Public Research Regulation Initiative, Gates Foundation to discourage passage of GMO, gene editing risk management policies, gene drive moratorium

Commentary: Far-right French EU member writing on personal blog cites recent discovery of banned GM animal feed in EU, asks what European Commission is doing to guarantee free trade agreements will prevent health risks

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Interview: Argentine news site reporter questions Nobel laureate Richard Roberts, who maintains GMOs

benefit small farmers the most but activists' misinformation scare government leaders away from using them, notes they criticize, silence scientists by linking them to corporations; says it makes no sense to avoid using better technology for ag production

News: Costa Rican news site reports ecologists and academics demand President Carlos Alvarado keep campaign promise to label GMOs

Audio: ETC Group's Silvia Ribeiro tells Friends of the Earth Latin America radio show that Bayer-Monsanto merger is Bayer effort to mask Monsanto criticisms while continuing to pollute planet with GMOs, pesticides

News: Mexico's El Mercurio reports on call by Independent Center for Agricultural and Peasant Workers (Cioac) in Tamaulipas asking authorities to implement process for recovering native seeds, arguing that transgenics have led to increased pest resistance

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News: New Zealand news site reports outgoing science advisor says country should re-open debate on GMOs because they have no environmental or health concerns

Interview: New Zealand Herald talks to prime minister's new chief science adviser, a biochemistry professor at University of Auckland; Juliet Gerrard says nation's regulatory framework for GMOs not coping well with introduction of new technologies, but fresh look at evidence already begun at Royal Society Te Aparangi

Commentary: Ewan Chapman of New Zealand law firm Duncan Cotterill examines U.S. litigation against Monsanto on alleged link between Roundup and cancer, highlights NZ Environmental Protection Authority's plans for reassessment

[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 USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service announcing it is seeking public comments on its intent to amend biotechnology regulations. China's GMO panel, the National Biosafety Committee, met recently, fueling speculation it might approve GM crop varieties.

- The USDA's APHIS asked for public comments on its intent to amend biotech regulations to address new developments and stakeholder issues. The agency's statement indicated changes would focus on potential risks posed by genetically engineered products "rather than the method used to produce the product." The public comment period runs through July 30. [See more](#)
- *Reuters* reported the Chinese National Biosafety Committee met June 20-22, indicating that China may be preparing to approve new biotech crops for import. *Reuters* noted the meeting came "amid escalating trade tension with the United States" and that China's slow, unpredictable process for GMO approvals has been a longstanding U.S. complaint. [See more](#)

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North America

Commentary: Impossible Foods op-ed in Medium challenges Friends of the Earth criticism of GM component of plant-based meat as anti-science propoganda that undermines its own criticism as NGO promoting sustainability

Commentary: UC Berkeley's Steven Hayward writes for Power Line blog, examines Friends of the Earth's opposition to the Impossible Burger, in spite of its potential to reduce environmental impact of beef consumption, notes FoE "hates modern living"

Announcement: USDA launches comment period on environmental impact assessment proposal for amendments to biotech regulations regarding importation, interstate movement, environmental release of GMOs

Campaign: GMO Free USA urges supporters to sign petition calling on Amazon to stop selling Arctic Apple products, highlights concerns that RNAi could have unintended negative impacts on human health and the environment

Commentary: Giovanni Tagliabue of American Council on Science and Health examines reasons why the term "GMO" is meaningless and misleading, notes it puts focus on the process rather than on safety of the product

News: Agri-Pulse reports on two surveys on how labels influence consumer acceptance of GMOs, a University of Vermont study found that simple mandatory disclosure did not increase consumer aversion, while International Food Information Council (IFIC) Foundation found that half of consumers voiced health concerns after seeing a BE label

Commentary: Brandon Turbeville of Natural Blaze examines growing sales of certified non-GMO products in Europe, highlights German Association Of Food Without Genetic Engineering's (VLOG) assessment that it will not have trouble meeting demand

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News release: IFPRI promotes Dakar launch of World Food Policies report, notes IFPRI Africa director commented on decline of ag investment in Africa, warning industry will decline without turnaround

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Xinhua reports on Chinese Minister of Commerce Wang Shouwen's statement that accusations that China steals intellectual property rights and forces technological transfers are "sheer fabrications out of nothing and groundless"

News: Reuters reports on recent meeting of Chinese National Biosafety Committee, indicating that Beijing may approve new biotech crops for import, highlights escalating trade tensions with the U.S., DowDuPont, Monsanto and Bayer have products awaiting approval

Commentary: Harish Damodaran of The Indian Express examines Delhi High Court's ruling blocking Monsanto's patent on Bt cotton, notes the decision denies farmers access to technology they want to use, highlights uncertainty surrounding intellectual property

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Commentary: In French news site, agronomist and French Association of Plant Biotechnology founder discusses how science sometimes takes a back seat to politics, citing examples of GMOs and glyphosate, noting "smear campaign" and how IARC classification has been disputed by other health agencies

News: France's Le Progres reports 50 members of Volunteer Reapers gather in Lyon in effort to occupy school's laboratory for reproduction and development of plants, led by INRA; activists denounce Genius project, say it aims to prepare new GMOs without knowledge of people, plans to improve nine plants genetically

Commentary: Xavier Delwarte of Federation Inter-Environnement Wallonie amplifies Agroecology in Action's memorandum for the municipal elections, highlights recommendations to support agroecology and peasant agriculture, outlines restrictions on pesticides

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Mexican news source reports leader of Peasants of Mexico group declares transgenic crops have damaged fields in Huasteca region through causing pests to become resistant, farmers demand government begin process to recover native seeds to be used for production of corn and beans

News: Brazil's Agrolink reports on unpublished data released by International Service for Acquisition of Agrobiotechnology Applications (ISAAA) indicating that Brazil has 26 percent of the total world area cultivated with GM crops, with 50.2 million hectares in 2017

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

Commentary: Australian grain news source editor says Japan, Korea bans on Canadian wheat due to concerns of GMO contamination is lesson to country of the importance of biosecurity

Commentary: New Zealand's Dairy News runs op-ed by co-chair of Primary Land Users Group countering arguments by opponents that farming hurts environment, warning that if activists succeed in pastoral farming, they might have to support production of GM food grown in laboratories

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Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included two new reports examining GMO labeling in the U.S., each offering a different take on consumer responses to the policy. The European wing of advocacy group La Via Campesina called for strict regulation of gene-editing techniques, in advance of an expected court decision.

- The International Food Information Council announced a new survey finding that consumers presented with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's recommended "bioengineered" label noted more health concerns than those who were not prompted with a label. The results contrasted with a study released today, which found that consumers in Vermont reported less concern over GM foods following the state's passage of a GMO labeling law. [See more](#)
- Anticipating a decision from the European Court of Justice, scheduled for late July, the European Coordination Via Campesina called on EU regulators to ensure that "new GMOs" do not escape the region's existing biotechnology assessments. The group claimed that the biotechnology industry was using technical language to hide that gene-editing techniques result in unintended side effects and mutations. [See more](#)

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North America

News release: International Food Information Council (IFIC) Foundation announces results of survey on USDA's proposed bioengineered food disclosure labels, 50 percent of participants voiced human health concerns when shown the BE "plant" symbol

Commentary: Food Dive's Cathy Siegner examines International Food Information Council (IFIC) Foundation's survey on consumer reactions to USDA's proposed GM food disclosure labels, notes manufacturers would be wise to address consumer health concerns

News: U.S. news outlets report on Vermont study finding that GMO labels may be increasing support for GMOs; The Atlantic says that with GM labels consumers may believe food producers have nothing to hide, but adds that study had limitations

Study: Science magazine posts abstract from University of Vermont, University of Purdue study showing 19 percent drop in opposition to GE food due to mandatory GM labeling law

Commentary: Teen Vogue site says federal GMO labels won't be "fully transparent," notes "bioengineered" term, exemptions from labeling; notes some believe GMOs harm health, but scientific consensus is that GMOs are safe

Commentary: Applegate Natural & Organic Meats president writes open letter to USDA stating consumers have right to know about food they buy, says USDA must write regulations to cover all GM food as Congress intended, objects to QR codes, "bioengineered" term

Commentary: Joan Conrow writes for Cornell Alliance for Science, notes "Seeds of Science" author Mark Lynas changed mind on GMOs through honest introspection, changed from anti-GMO activist to GMO

advocate, points out book analyzes dynamics that drive people to adopt rigid ideologies

Campaign: C-BAN advocates for ban on field testing GM crops outdoors due to unapproved GM wheat discovery in Alberta, subsequent export freeze by Japan, South Korea

Commentary: Kevin Folta debunks activist claims Golden Rice will not help fight vitamin A deprivation, points out FDA clarified statement regarding nutrition concerned US consumption rates, not countries where rice is dietary staple

Commentary: Hank Campbell of Science 2.0 criticizes Organic Consumers Association and U.S. Right to Know's attacks on Mark Lynas, praises Lynas for examining the facts and changing his mind on GMOs, points to hypocrisy in organic industry groups

Commentary: Former Kansas congressman, Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research founder writes that world population growth, national security demands U.S. remain leader in agricultural research, but is falling behind China

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: African Centre for Biodiversity claims claims made to promote WEMA Bt maize and fall armyworm are unsubstantiated and unscientific, no data published in peer-reviewed studies, says the crops will increase costs for farmers

News: Ugandan news site reports Uganda's biosafety bill would require crop refuge space many farmers don't have, failure to comply carries criminal penalty; notes GM maize can protect against armyworm

More Africa items

Asia

News: Jordan English-language news site reports alliance of 43 NGOs oppose proposed decision to allow GMOs into Jordan, argue the crops are "not scientifically proven to be safe"

News: Manila Times reports on Philippine Rice Research Institute's (PhilRice) announcement of launch of construction of new P302-million Crop Biotechnology Center, with goal of boosting productivity in rice, and research in other important crops

More Asia items

Europe

News release: NGO European Coordination Via Campesina says EU must reject industry's "manipulation of technical language" to hide "new GMOs," notes GMOs are patented, which proves they do not replicate natural processes because nature cannot be patented

Commentary: French EU Parliament MP announces she voted against GM sugar beet approval, says variety is glyphosate-resistant so it will lead to high glyphosate residue level on the crop and IARC declared the pesticide to be carcinogenic

News: French agricultural news service reports peasant NGO says BASF's oilseed rape produced via mutagenesis is a GMO and requires a permit; BASF points out organic association allows such crops to be grown as organic crops

News: French agricultural news site report BASF spokesman criticizes Volunteer Reapers for opposing mutagenesis, notes technology in use for 30 years, says logic dictates group also should oppose organic hybrid triticale

Commentary: Italian regional councilor Fabiano Amati says Italy should repeal unenforceable law banning GMOs, notes scientific studies show GMOs to be safe for health environment, points out former activist Mark Lynas notes anti-GMO sentiment won out but "unfortunately, it was wrong"

Commentary: Dr. Emma Martinez Sanchez and Dr. Tacita Croucher write for EuroScience publication EuroScientist in series on upcoming EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF) 2018 Toulouse, examining role of public opinion in shaping the future of gene editing research

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Reuters amplifies ISAAA report that Brazil is world's second largest GM crop producer, planting 50.2 million acres in 2017, a 2 percent increase

News: Mexican news site reports honey buyers say there is alert on honey from Yucatan due to illegal GM crops grown in area, fear that GMOs will contaminate honey, note that studies are underway

Commentary: Biodiversidad en America Latina y el Caribe denounces upcoming S20 meeting in Argentina, says sponsoring G20 is undemocratic, illegitimate, neoliberal; says its goals are to put science, research at service of capitalism rather than serving people

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

Announcement: Australia's Office of the Gene Technology Regulator announces availability of documents regarding OGTR's decision to issue license for commercial release of GM safflower with high oleic acid composition, following completion of risk assessments

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Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included a joint news release from the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA) and PG Economics, highlighting two new studies on GM crop benefits.

- In a joint statement, U.K.-based consulting firm PG Economics and ISAAA announced that two new studies outline the economic and environmental benefits of GM crop adoption. The ISAAA update on GM crop adoption in 2017 noted that the global adoption of GM crops continued to increase, while the PG Economics study pointed out that 17 million farmers had gained \$186 billion due to the use of GM crops. The announcement was amplified in South American and Asian news outlets. [See more](#)
- The Dutch nonprofit journalism site OneWorld announced that it had sued prominent agricultural research school Wageningen University for access to communications between researchers and major agricultural companies. The group had previously requested the records, but Wageningen resisted, arguing that the institutes are not public institutions and therefore did not have to comply with open records requirements. [See more](#)
- German anti-biotechnology advocacy group Testbiotech announced that it would be in court tomorrow (June 27) to present its case against the European Commission's approval of Monsanto's Intacta brand soy variety. The group said at this hearing the court is expected to decide on who has the burden of proof on showing whether GM crops are safe. Testbiotech also highlighted previous legal victories in its battle against GM crop use in Europe. [See more](#)

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North America

News release: International Food Policy Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences issue 2018 Global Food Policy Report, Chinese agricultural industry report; Chinese report notes U.S., Chinese tariff tiff will cut US ag exports to China by about 40 percent, soybeans dropping by 50 percent

Audio: Farm Progress America's Max Armstrong highlights new book by former anti-GMO activist Mark Lynas, who calls anti-GMO movement ill-informed campaign to stop scientific progress

Commentary: Biotech trade association expresses optimism public will accept GMO food in future if they rely on science-based evidence; cites conversion of former GMO-opponent, Mark Lynas, who explained his change in beliefs in Wall Street Journal article

Commentary: Harvard University legal scholar says government should not mandate bioengineered food labels; notes no evidence biofood health risk, regulation could cost food industry billions

News release (embargoed thru June 27): University of Vermont study finds state GMO labeling law improved consumer attitudes on GM food; Purdue ag-economist/co-author Jayson Lusk says findings show concerns label will be viewed as a warning are misplaced

News release (embargoed until June 27): American Association for the Advancement of Science promotes survey finding GMO labels led to reduced opposition to genetically modified foods; notes

experts have not found human health risks from GM foods[More North America items](#)

Africa

Video: Pan-African media company reports Bill Gates underwriting initiative by U.K. company, Oxitech, to prevent malaria by reducing mosquito population through release of genetically-modified male mosquitoes that will mate with females, spreading gene to kill female offspring

News: Xinhua reports on Kenya's launch of lab to enhance bio-safety and bio-security, Ministry of Health Principal Secretary Peter Tum noted the facility will help control spread of animal and human diseases

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Philippines' Business Mirror reports new ISAAA analysis warns fake Bt corn seeds could cut country's yellow corn production, threaten technology's longevity, calls for immediate action on problem

News: India's Deccan Herald report on ISAAA biotech update finding rise in India GM cultivation notes country can only reach next yield milestone by accepting new plant technologies, curbing illegal GM cultivation

News: Hindu Business Line reports ISAAA analysis finds 3 percent increase in global GMO production, compliments P G Economics study showing GMO provided \$186.1 billion in economic gains to farmers

News: India's Mint reports on resignation of National Seed Association of India (NSAI) director general Kalyan Goswami, due to differences with NSAI president M. Prabhakar Rao over intellectual property rights, highlights lobbying on Bt cotton prices

News release: International Food Policy Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences issue 2018 Global Food Policy Report, Chinese agricultural industry report; Chinese report notes U.S., Chinese tariff tiff will cut US ag exports to China by about 40 percent, with soybeans dropping by 50 percent

News: Reuters reports South Korea lifts temporary suspension on sales of Canadian wheat, as the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety did not discover any unapproved GM strains during recent tests, the ministry will continue to test Canadian wheat and flour

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News release: Testbiotech issues statement ahead of hearing at EU Court of Justice on its case, filed with ENSSER and Sambucus, over concerns that EU Commission did not sufficiently perform health risk assessments on Monsanto's Intacta GM soybeans

Commentary: Charlotte Krinke of Inf'OGM examines various amendments regarding GMOs that have been tabled in the draft food and ag law in the Senate, highlights debate over whether products from animals fed GM feed should be labeled

Commentary: Writing in Euractiv, European Seed Association secretary general says Greens GMO scaremongering is outdated, unfounded, a threat to affordable, accessible innovation that ensure a prosperous farming future

Commentary: Hilde Mellegård of Norway's Biotechnology Council analyzes discovery of unapproved GM wheat in Alberta, Canada, highlights Canadian Food Inspection Agency's description of it as an isolated event, notes lack of health risks

Study: Study in GM Crops & Food by Graham Brookes and Peter Barfoot of PG Economics examines environmental impacts of GM crop use from 1996-2016, with focus on beneficial impacts on pesticide

use and carbon emissions

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Commentary: Writing in La Jornada, ETC Group researcher Silvia Ribeiro amplifies claims that FDA found no added nutritional benefit from Golden Rice, says effort to gain non-target country approvals is "propaganda"

News: Argentina's Clarin reports on Bill Gates' \$4 million donation to Oxitec for development of "friendly mosquitoes" that pass deadly genes to offspring, with goal of reducing populations and curbing spread of malaria

News: Mexico's Mi Punto De Vista reports on Patricio Eleisegui's presentation of his book, "Envenenados," on health and environmental impacts of GMOs and pesticides in Argentina, Greenpeace's María Colin highlighted consequences for Mayan communities in the Yucatan peninsula

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

Commentary: New Zealand farmer and Global Farmer Network board member Craig MacKenzie writes for Genetic Literacy Project as part of its GMO Beyond the Science Series, hopes that CRISPR can serve as a "leap-frog" technology for New Zealand

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Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included a statement by White House officials that the Trump administration is examining how to limit Chinese investments in key technologies, while U.S. senators introduced a bill to promote biotechnology in export markets.

- As part of an ongoing effort to force trade concessions from China, the Trump administration announced that it would be reviewing ways to limit Chinese investments in U.S. technology companies. Specifically, the Treasury Department is drafting rules that would prevent companies with 25 percent or more Chinese ownership from purchasing "industrially significant" technology firms. These restrictions would include biotechnology, according to a *Wall Street Journal* report. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross noted that "enhanced" export controls on these technologies were also under review. **See more**
- Four senators from Indiana and Missouri announced last week that they had introduced a bill to invest in market access for products of agricultural biotechnology. The proposal would empower and fund the Foreign Agricultural Service to work help eliminate "non-tariff barriers" to American agricultural exports. In a separate statement, the Biotechnology Innovation Organization welcomed the bill. **See more**
- *Science* magazine reviewed science communicator Mark Lynas' new book, "Seeds of Science," which argues that activists are working against their stated environmental goals when they oppose GMOs. The review notes that researchers and supporters were equally mistaken about the ability of scientific arguments to change entrenched anti-GMO mindsets. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue writes for USA Today, reassures readers that President Trump will protect American farmers from Chinese trade retaliation, points to China's practice of rejecting U.S. biotech products while engaging in IP theft

News: Wall Street Journal reports on President Trump's plans to block many Chinese companies from investing in U.S. tech firms, as well as blocking additional tech exports to Beijing, with goal of preventing China from becoming a global leader in areas like biotech

News release: U.S. Sen. Todd Young, along with Sens. Joe Donnelly, Roy Blunt and Claire McCaskill introduced the Growing American Food Exports Act to strengthen the U.S. ag industry by ensuring that innovative biotech products have access to export markets

News release: Biotechnology Innovation Organization applauds introduction of the Growing American Food Exports Act of 2018 to reauthorize funding for USDA's Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) Biotechnology and Agricultural Trade Program

Commentary: Science magazine's Jose R. Dinneny writes review of Mark Lynas' new book, "Seeds of Science," notes the book's subtitle, "Why We Got It So Wrong on GMOs," could refer to activists like

Greenpeace, or to those who thought science would convince the public

News: High Country News reports on Oregon farmer Jerry Erstrom's struggles to control Roundup-resistant GM bentrgrass that entered his land against his will, highlights his frustration that USDA has relieved Scotts of future responsibility for cleanup

Commentary: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign postdoctoral researcher Paul South writes for The Conversation, describes his work on tobacco plants to remove natural toxins produced during photosynthesis, potentially boosting yields by 47 percent

Commentary: F. William Engdahl of Centre for Research on Globalization argues gene editing may be the new name for eugenics, amplifies article in Nature Studies showing potential for CRISPR to weaken ability to fight tumors, highlights Bill Gates' endorsement of gene editing

More North America items

Africa

News: Nigeria's Vanguard reports on call by Olugbenga AdeOluwa, Country Director of Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) Initiative in Nigeria, on gov't to encourage youth involvement in organic agriculture, noting organic ag rejects unpredictable technologies like GE

Video: African Centre for Biodiversity publishes fifth video in its six-part series on its National Seed Dialogue and Celebration in Dec. 2017, with focus on promotion of community and household seed banks, one speaker warned about protecting seed banks from entry of GM seeds

Commentary: Ugandan journalist Lominda Afedraru writes for Genetic Literacy Project, examines African researchers' work using biotech to improve livestock, highlights International Livestock Research Institute's development of breeding genes

More Africa items

Asia

News: Jakarta Post reports Indonesian Farmers Association (HKTI) will host Asian Agriculture and Food Forum (ASAFF) from June 28 to 30 in Jakarta, ASAFF chairman Winston P. Simanjuntak noted the event will showcase GM soybeans grown by Yogyakarta farmers

Commentary: Ahmad Fraz Khan of Pakistan's Dawn examines concerns about impact of GM rice detected in consignments from China on exports, argues that a registration process and monitoring system are needed on both sides to keep the supply chain clean

More Asia items

Europe

News release: GenØk - Centre for Biosafety reacts to studies in Nature Medicine showing potential for CRISPR to increase risk of cancer cell development in humans, argues the findings are relevant to all living organisms, not just to use of CRISPR in gene therapy

News release: French NGO Confédération Paysanne announces it held a protest at BASF's facility in Ecully in opposition to marketing of Clearfield rapeseed varieties, made herbicide-tolerant using mutagenesis, claiming they are "hidden GMOs"

Commentary: Franco Battaglia of Italy's Il Giornale examines former anti-GMO activist Mark Lynas' change in opinion on GMOs, notes humans have been modifying food for thousands of years, highlights beneficial GM applications like golden rice

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Brazil's Agrolink reports on PG Economics study which found that GM crop adoption has generated net profit of U.S. \$186.1 billion from 1996-2016, with 52 percent of gains going to developing countries

News: Brazil's Agrolink reports on study in PLoS One which found that delays in GM crop adoption cause deaths and damages to local farmers in developing countries, EU restrictions on transgenics directly affect Africa as its main agricultural importer

News: Uruguayan news outlet reports on meta-analysis by Italian research team which found that GM corn produces fewer mycotoxins than organic or non-GM corn, scientists hope it will help improve consumer confidence in GM foods

[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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From: Jay Byrne
 To: Diane.Wray-Cohen@fas.usda.gov
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - June 25, 2018
 Date: Monday, June 25, 2018 4:59:44 PM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

In this week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter, we explore the fact that sometimes it can be difficult for good, science-based information on agricultural technology to get heard.

We highlight a piece from Mary Mangan that appeared in *Medium* that laments what she calls a "fog of misinformation and fear" that clouds the public's ability to access and trust research-backed evidence about product safety and efficacy. In a piece amplified by the Genetic Literacy Project, French academic Marcel Kuntz argues that the journal *Nature* is only adding to such a cloud of rhetoric around glyphosate by willingly publishing risk claims based on "preposterous innuendo" without giving equal space to rebuttals. And Susan Dudley makes the argument that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposed research transparency proposal could help regulators focus on the best information.

Other pieces take a closer look at the European Parliament's special pesticides committee, review lessons to be learned from Mark Lynas' book and note the potential for biotech crops in Nigeria and the Philippines.

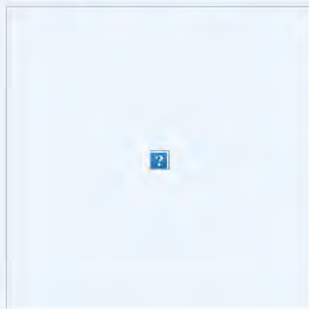
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In This Issue

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

Stakeholder Spotlight: David Bronner



David Bronner, CEO of Dr. Bronner's Magic Soaps and the Bronner Family Foundation, is a coordinating donor for various anti-GMO and anti-pesticide

Stories Worth Sharing

[EU Policies: Special pesticides committee risks making matters worse by pursuing political points, seeking Portier's counsel](#)

[Nathanael Johnson: Lynas' book on GMOs shows most important mind to change is your own](#)

[Caleb Onwe: Nigerian farmers eager to see if GM crops can counter pest attacks, drought](#)

[Marcel Kuntz: By publishing "preposterous innuendo" without rebuttal, Nature contributes to anti-glyphosate hysteria](#)

[Henrylito Tacio: Power of biotechnology needs to be harnessed to fight hunger in Philippines](#)

[Mary Mangan: Difficult for communications on scientific research to break through activists' "fog of misinformation and fear"](#)

[Andrew Magloughlin: IARC chooses another "anti-science zealot" as its leader instead of changing its ways](#)

[Susan Dudley: U.S. EPA science transparency effort could improve evidentiary basis for regulations](#)

advocacy campaigns.

Leveraging more than \$100 million in annual sales of organic personal care products, Bronner-funded projects include multiple campaigns in the news this month - including ones by U.S. Right to Know, the Organic Consumers Association and the Non-GMO Project.

Learn more about Bronner and his Magic Soaps [HERE](#).

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

[The Sunrise: Gates Foundation grant to facilitate adoption of insect-resistant, drought-tolerant maize in six Sub-Saharan countries](#)

[Farmers Weekly: Without neonics, sugar beet crops will face greater threat from viruses](#)

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

[Farm Bill passed by U.S. House, to be considered by Senate](#)

[French agriculture, ecology ministries seek stakeholder input on plan to end glyphosate usage within three years](#)

[European activists claim EFSA reviews of emergency neonic authorizations show agency's incompetence](#)

[Canadian Grain Commission says unapproved GM wheat not present in exports](#)

[U.S. activists plan protest Thursday at Kroger shareholders meeting to demand anti-neonic policy](#)

Calendar highlights

June 26	June 26	June 26
European Week of Bees and Pollinators scientific symposium	European Parliament committee meeting on EU authorization procedure for pesticides	University of Neuchatel scientist gives New Zealand lecture on neonic contamination of honey
June 27-30	June 28-29	June 29
Australian Bee Congress	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development conference on genome editing in agriculture	French League for the Protection of Birds national congress

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

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More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - June 22-24, 2018
 Date: Sunday, June 24, 2018 9 04:05 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

Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included anti-biotech NGOs urged people to complain to the USDA regarding GM labeling rules. Media and stakeholders commented on the GM wheat discovery in Canada. Media and anti-biotech NGOs commented on Gates Foundation grants for GM mosquitoes.

- As the July 3 deadline for comments on proposed GM labeling regulations approaches, anti-GMO activists campaigned to get people to contact the USDA to voice their displeasure. The Organic Consumers Association urged readers to sign a petition and contact the agency to complain about the "bioengineered" term and "QR codes and smiley faces the USDA wants to let food companies hide behind." *Public News Service* quoted organic farmer Paul Dorrance complaining about the rules and saying the logos are "clearly a biased symbol in favor of" GMOs. **See more**
- Media and biotech stakeholders commented on the discovery of herbicide-tolerant wheat in Alberta, and Japan and South Korea subsequently freezing Canadian wheat imports. The University of Saskatchewan's Stuart Smyth said the import suspension likely was an excuse to block Canadian wheat to drive prices down. He also blamed environmental NGO scare tactics. Canada's National Farmers Union called on the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to ban open-air field testing on GMOs. The *Edmonton Journal's* Paula Simons wrote that GM wheat is safe to eat, but poses an economic threat. **See more**
- The Gates Foundation recently announced a \$4.1-million grant to Oxitec to develop a GM mosquito that would curb the spread of malaria in Central America. *Wired* reported the project "could help eradicate malaria on this side of the Prime Meridian." *Sputnik* highlighted a Friends of the Earth claim that Oxitec's past results are exaggerated, and that a decline in *Aedes aegypti's* population could leave a niche open for an even more dangerous pest. **See more**
- Looking ahead to a biotechnology platform debate in July, German Green Party members advocated for party members to consider the benefits of gene editing. A Green Party state parliament member, Theresia Bauer, wrote in *Spiegel* that the party no longer can ignore benefits of genetic engineering. On Thursday, Green Party members noted some members consider it sacrilege to debate biotech merits, but asked, "What kind of party are we, if we ourselves do not allow the debate on new social developments?" **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: American Pharmacists Association amplifies STAT News' coverage of Trump administration's proposed transfer of responsibility for food safety regulations from FDA to USDA, highlights regulatory disputes between the agencies over GE animals and lab-grown meat](#)

[Commentary: Wall Street Journal excerpts Mark Lynas' book, "Seeds of Science," who says science is clear that GMOs are safe, world needs them, notes he formerly opposed biotechnology](#)

[Commentary: U.S. Right to Know's Stacey Malkan claims "Seeds of Science" author Mark Lynas makes inaccurate, unscientific statements on behalf of biotechnology, quotes scientists criticizing his](#)

statements on GMO safety, scientific consensus, pesticide use and safety; claims Lynas "partners with Monsanto"

News: Wired reports on new partnership between Oxitec and Gates Foundation, says new GM mosquitoes can help eradicate malaria

Commentary: Global Farmer Network CEO Mary Boote amplifies GMO Beyond The Science III in collaboration with Genetic Literacy Project, following GLP's earlier multi-part series, highlights examination of non-adoption of new technologies in developing countries

Commentary: Civil Eats notes U.S. consumers want GMOs labeled due to health, safety, environmental concerns, but USDA regs propose using confusing terms, QR codes, and that highly refined products be exempt from labeling

Commentary: March Against Monsanto's Nick Meyer amplifies poll by The Hartman Group which found that 46 percent of respondents now actively avoid GMOs, with top reasons being health related, transparency, environmental issues, and opposition to companies

Commentary: Weather Network Climate Change Reporter Isabella O'Malley examines various strategies to help feed 9 billion people by 2050, highlights use of GM crops such as golden rice as well as lab-grown meat, calls for strategies other than industrial ag

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: African news site correspondent writes that Nigerian farmers eagerly await opportunity to cultivate GM crops as counter to pest attacks, drought, climate change that have plagued their crops in recent years

News: The East African reports Kenya will become first East African nation to grow GMOs in open fields as farmers expected to plant GM cotton commercially in January 2016; field trials show Bt cotton yields are doubled

More Africa items

Asia

News: Xinhua reports on South China Agricultural University researchers' development of GE pigs able to better digest two key nutrients in food, resulting in less manure released into the environment, lowering pollution from fecal nitrogen

Interview: The Hindu interviews Kaveri Seed Company chairman G.V. Bhaskar Rao, he notes there are several GM crop technologies awaiting government approvals, which he believes will increase size of the seed market and significantly boost farmer income

News: Vietnamese news site condemns Bayer-Monsanto merger as joining "destroyer of the world" with company that has "history of genocide," connects Bayer to Holocaust, worries merger will bankrupt farmers

More Asia items

Europe

News release: Germany's Schleswig-Holstein state Green Party promotes conference on debating the Green Party's stance on new gene editing methods

Commentary: Vandana Shiva says Bayer's Monsanto purchase is attempt for Monsanto to escape its responsibilities, notes mock tribunal declared company guilty of ecocide, connects Bayer with IG Farben's World War II production of explosives, poisonous gas

Commentary: GMWatch publishes article stating Gates Foundation funding programs involving synthetic biology and gene drives in Africa are not charity but "philanthrocapitalism," attempting to use market force for good, but claims it could have far-reaching negative consequences

News: Sputnik reports on Gates Foundation's investment in GE mosquitoes whose offspring do not survive to adulthood, highlights opposition from Friends of the Earth, which claims eliminating mosquitoes could allow a more dangerous pest to fill the vacuum

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Bolivian news site reports authorities look to crack down on illegal entry of GM food from Peru, claims GM food harms health and hurts local producers

Commentary: National Autonomous University of Mexico professor and co-founder of Union of Scientists Committed to Society, praises AMLO's choice for Conacyt director, Elena Alvarez-Buylla, a "defender of corn" and biotech opponent, also UCCS co-founder, fellow UNAM professor; says she will "relaunch" science in Mexico

News: Brazilian business news site reports Sugarcane Technology Center developed pest-resistant sugar cane, market experts expect the product to gain market share once the GM cane is approved,

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News: Australian news outlet reports on debate over compensation for GM crop contamination, Green party's Diane Evers calls for establishment of a compensation fund, while Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party's Rick Mazza argues current laws are adequate

News: Australian Broadcasting Corporation reports gene drives can be used to eliminate feral species devastating environmental damage, but threat exists it could spread to animals' native lands, also can be weaponized

[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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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - June 21, 2018
 Date: Thursday, June 21, 2018 9:04:45 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 media reports in the U.K. that University of Edinburgh scientists used gene editing to breed pigs resistant to a widespread and costly virus. A grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will help the African Agricultural Technology Foundation promote adoption of insect-resistant and drought-tolerant plants.

- The *BBC* reported researchers from the University of Edinburgh's Roslin Institute used gene editing to produce pigs resistant to the PRRS virus, which the media outlet said is among the world's costliest livestock diseases. However, the Soil Association's Helen Browning said that creating disease-resistant animals discourages farmers from improving livestock welfare, maintaining that raising animals responsibly will keep them from disease. **See more**
- Ugandan news sites reported the Gates Foundation awarded a \$24.6 million grant to the AATF to support efforts at adopting TELA maize hybrids that are insect-resistant and drought-tolerant. The AATF will promote adoption of the varieties in six sub-Saharan countries: Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Mozambique, and South Africa. **See more.**

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North America

Commentary: Grist's Nathanael Johnson says Mark Lynas' book "Seeds of Science" demonstrates our clans determine our opinions, not facts; urges arguing in way that builds friendships rather than destroying them

Commentary: Non-GMO Project urges readers to send drafted letter to urge strengthening the federal GM labeling rules, claims most GMOs will be exempted, updates GMO list just once a year, hides GMOs by using term "bioengineered," uses favorable looking label

News: New York state news site reports tough going for dairy farmers, but niche markets include non-GMO; Cornell Cooperative Extension dairy specialist notes implication is if non-GMO milk is good then GMO milk is bad, but all milk is non-GMO

Commentary: Alliance for Natural Health promotes action alert for supporters to write Congress, EPA to demand review of endocrine disruptors, says study links common chemicals such as pesticides to male infertility; also suggests link to glyphosate residues in GM crops

Commentary: Microbiology student writes for Borgen Magazine that biotechnology is enhancing food security by improving yields and growing times, provides improved nutrition for malnourished people via biofortification

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: The Independent (Uganda) reports on award of \$24.6 million grant by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) for commercialization of TELA brand insect-resistant and drought-tolerant maize

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: India's Business Standard reports Competition Commission approves Bayer-Monsanto merger on condition that the merged entity give non-exclusive licensing of GM and non-GM traits currently commercialised in India or to be introduced in the near future

Commentary: Filipino business news site commentator says biotechnology gives humans capability to fight hunger, climate change, but anti-GMO forces believes the technology will harm health and environment despite scientific evidence to the contrary

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Commentary: Italian science writer notes that despite raising millions, Factor GMO turned out no science, scientists now in hiding, and looks like a Russian hoax; meanwhile, reputable scientists replicated Seralini's experiment with more scientific rigor and disproved his conclusions on GM corn and glyphosate

Commentary: EU Green Party MPs anticipate EU court ruling, say gene editing is just another industrial farming tool, should be regulated as GMOs, which are worthless and designed only to be herbicide-resistant and sell pesticides, make farmers dependent upon large agribusinesses

Commentary: German physician and sociologist delve into German Green Party's difficult relationship with science, notes some consider debate on merits of gene editing to be a sacrilege, but asks what kind of party cannot bear to discuss new developments, points out that Greens appear to be anti-technology

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Commentary: Argentina's Legal and Social Studies Center says Monsanto sued Argentina to force it to patent its GM seeds and allow its business model to function in the country, questions validity of extending patent law to GM seeds, says it could violate human rights

News: Chilean radio station reports ChileBio director says Chile is main producer of GMO seeds but exports them to northern hemisphere, clears up myths about GMOs, telling people they are safe and there are no GMO tomatoes

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

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

[More Oceania items](#)

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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - June 20, 2018
 Date: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 9:04:26 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 a statement from the Canadian Grain Commission affirming that GM wheat had not entered the country's export supplies.

- The Canadian Grain Commission announced today that it had analyzed 1,700 samples of Canadian wheat grown over the last three years and found no trace of an unapproved GM wheat variety. Last week, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency said that the unapproved wheat was found growing in Alberta last summer. In a separate statement, Korean NGO Consumer Justice Center called for stronger GMO labeling and inspection requirements in that country. **See more**

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

North America

News: Canadian-Radio reports Canadian Grain Commission samples 1,700 samples of Canadian wheat, finds no trace of GMOs, says unapproved GM wheat discovered in Alberta last summer was isolated event

Commentary: Lois Ross writes for Canada's Rabble, analyzes two important stories about Monsanto, highlighting recent discovery of unapproved GM wheat in Alberta, and Delhi High Court's rejection of Monsanto's patent rights on Bt cotton

Commentary: Food Revolution Network says proposed GM labeling regulations full of loopholes and unclear terms, notes most GMOs created to produce pesticides, such as Bt crops, or be pesticide-resistant to be sprayed with pesticides

News: Supplements news site reports as innovation slows, products with new omega-3, higher concentrates, combination supplements appear to differentiate products, includes new sources, such as GMO plant-based omega-3 and non-GMO source

News: Researchers answer questions on Food Safety Magazine regarding Maryland Bt corn study, note how it suppresses pests even on non-Bt corn fields, notes organic and non-GMO farmers benefit from GM crops

News: NBC reports University of Connecticut researchers working with University of Florida to use gene editing to fight citrus greening devastating citrus industry in Florida

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News release: AATF announces it received Gates Foundation grant to develop drought-tolerant and insect-resistant maize hybrids for African farmers

News: Namibian Broadcasting Corporation reports on Ag Minister Alphues Naruseb's tabling of Seed and Seed Varieties Bill to regulate production of seed varieties, he noted a "regulatory framework will ensure a minimum standard of genetic purity"

Commentary: ETC, African Centre for Biodiversity, Third World Network say synthetic biology threatens farmer livelihoods, biodiversity, bring biosafety concerns for humans, environment and renew concerns regarding biopiracy

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Reuters reports Japan seeks to buy wheat from U.S., Australia after freezing Canadian wheat imports following announcement of unapproved GM wheat plot in Alberta

News release: Korean NGO notes third discovery of unapproved GM wheat growing in North America, says South Korea needs to overhaul its inspection system "to protect the health of our people"

Commentary: Korean NGO posts activist's GMO presentation, activist says scientists push GMOs because they believe it will feed rapidly growing population; raises concerns about South Korea's evaluation of GM crops, says GMOs can be "poisonous," cites lack of labeling requirements in South Korea

News release: Indian government announces Competition Commission of India approved Bayer's Monsanto purchase subject to some divestment requirements, other conditions

News: Indian news site reports West Texas A&M University professor, Nabarun Ghosh, says GM mosquitoes can solve dengue fever, malaria issues; says Bt crops can affect non-targeted insects

News: Indian news site reports panel on doubling farmer income suggests adopting GM technologies for non-food crops since GM food still under debate; notes the technology is powerful tool for developing new crop varieties

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Commentary: Wageningen University notes upcoming EU court decision could give member states ability to decide on NBTs, notes it opens possibility for assessing varieties on case-by-case approach, which would serve public health and ag innovation

Study: Study in GM Crops & Food by Graham Brookes and Peter Barfoot of PG Economics finds that GM crop adoption has resulted in economic benefit of \$186.1 billion for the period 1996-2016, with 52 percent of gains going to farmers in developing nations

Campaign: Slow Food Foundation urges Italians to donate via their taxes to avoid GM corn and to support growing "rainbow corn" in South Africa in support of biodiversity

Campaign: German ecological farming activist group calls for German economics ministry to appeal to EU to cancel Bayer-Monsanto merger to protect biodiversity from GM crops; 150,000 signatures to be turned over June 21

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Uruguay's Subrayado reports on Mayor Orsi of Canelones' response to anti-GMO activists' demands at recent celebration honoring anniversary of Artigas' birth, he noted that such decisions need to be national in nature

News: Uruguayan news outlet reports on recent celebration in Sauce honoring 235 years of the birth of Artigas, mayor of Canelones acknowledged participation of environmental groups protesting transgenics, soybeans and fracking

News: Brazilian agricultural news site notes U.K. consulting firm PG Economics reports \$186 billion benefit for GMO farmers, and majority of the money went to developing countries

Commentary: AcBio, GRAIN and CALISA Nutricion write for Biodiversidad en America Latina y El Caribe, criticize G20 documents on agriculture, claiming it will lead to loss of autonomy for countries and allow for privatization of natural resources like seeds

[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 19, 2018
 Date: Tuesday, June 19, 2018 9 02:24 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 previews of events on Europe's use of new plant breeding techniques (NBTs). In the U.S., industry and official sources discussed efforts to regulate lab-grown meat.

- The European Parliament's agricultural committee previewed an "exchange of views" with Health Commissioner Vytenis Adriumaitis that is scheduled for tomorrow (June 20). New plant breeding techniques are an expected topic of discussion. Austria's Parliament announced that it was reserving a decision on whether to regulate NBTs under current GMO guidelines until the European Court of Justice weighs in on the policy; an article in *Euractiv* anticipated the decision in late July. [See more](#)
- U.S. media outlets previewed a July 12 meeting organized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to assess the current regulatory process for lab-grown or cell-cultured meats. An *Associated Press* article highlighted conventional meat producers' concerns over current marketing for so-called "clean meat." *Politico* reported that the White House Domestic Policy Council announced it would hold a meeting with both FDA and U.S. Department of Agriculture officials to work through competing jurisdictions on the products. [See more](#)

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North America

News: Politico Pro reports White House to meet with USDA, FDA to hash out approach to lab-grown or cultured meat products in wake of FDA announcement it has jurisdiction over such products, plans to hold public meeting on topic in July; USDA also claims jurisdiction

News: AP reports traditional meat producers challenge 'clean meat' descriptor of lab-grown meat as suggestion regular meat is dirty; FDA to hold cultured meat meeting next month; U of Michigan professor says alt meat industry is wise to avoid associations with 'frankenmeat'

News: The Wall Street Journal reports growing battle over meatless products being sold in meat cases at U.S. grocery stores, with U.S. Cattlemen's Association petitioning USDA to bar plant-based products from bearing labels that read "beef" or "meat," seeking similar restrictions on "meat" grown from animal cells

Commentary: Farm Journal's Pork Business highlights FDA's plan for July 12 public meeting to gather comments on foods produced using animal cell culture technology; so-called cellular ag raises questions whether regulations enacted to ensure food safety for conventional animal foods are adequate

Report: USDA Foreign Agricultural Service GAIN Report on Ethiopia's approval of biotech cotton notes planting of country's first biotech crop for cultivation expected to start in 2019, Environment Ministry authorizes confined field trials for drought-tolerant and insect-resistant maize

Commentary: Information Technology and Innovation Foundation argues special interest groups that have misrepresented GMOs now using fear-based marketing to raise questions about gene editing, lists beneficial ways CRISPR technology can make precise changes to genetic codes of organisms

Commentary: Writing on Medium, genomics scientist Mary Mangan compares anti-science misinformation campaigns conducted by paid activists to balanced communications about scientific research, projects, data, evidence, suggests science often gets overshadowed by fearmongering

Interview: University of Connecticut talks to plant science professor whose team is using CRISPR-based techniques in bid to create more resilient citrus crops; he discusses implications of USDA statement on gene editing, future of plant research

[More North America items](#)

Africa

Commentary: Ghana-based journalist promotes Italian study finding biotech enhances crop yields, nutritional value as evidence to challenge Ghanaian beliefs that "GMOs are evil," show potential of GMOs for country

News: Ghana news source reports Ghana OFAB chapter launches annual media awards to recognize ag-biotech journalism, submissions due June 30

Report: USDA Foreign Agricultural Service GAIN Report on Ethiopia's approval of biotech cotton notes planting of country's first biotech crop for cultivation expected to start in 2019, Environment Ministry authorizes confined field trials for drought-tolerant and insect-resistant maize

Commentary: Writer for Tanzanian news site warns GMOs will destroy the lives of African people, claims European have seen problems of GMOs and are diverting them to Africa, where they will cause drug dependency

Commentary: Nkechi Isaac of Cornell Alliance for Science amplifies statement by African Agricultural Technology Foundation's (AATF) Issoufou Kollo Abdourhamane that South Africa's successful adoption of GMOs shows that anti-GMO propaganda is baseless

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

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

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News release: Austrian Parliament announces Parliament health committee postpones review of proposed gene editing policy to await EU Court ruling

Event: International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) EU promotes final event of its "Keeping GMOs out of food" project, "Debate on New Genetic Engineering Techniques", to be held July 11 in Brussels to present main achievements of project, upcoming work on topic

News: EurActiv reports European Court of Justice "normally" would decide future of NPBTs before summer break in July, but no date set yet; if no judgment issued in July, source says ECJ to publish it in September; European Commission expects court judgment to bring clarity genetic modification definition

Announcement: European Parliament posts schedule for AGRI meetings June 20-21 in Brussels, including "exchange of views" between AGRI members and Vytenis Andriukaitis, commissioner for health and food safety, on topics to include plant health and New Breeding Techniques

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Chile's FayerWayer reports UNAM investigation finds transgenic corn has infiltrated nearly all of Mexico and is eaten by most people there, even as they assume government has banned its consumption; report notes long-running controversy about GMOs

News: Brazil's Globo Rural reports presentation at 8th Brazilian Soja Congress, organized by Embrapa, touts potential for sugarcane and soy to enter state of Sao Paulo, double planting area; Embrapa partnership with Corteva Agriscience aims to develop new soybean seeds using CRISPR technology

News: Bolivian rural news site reports farmers' groups make proposals to government for use of GM soybean and corn crops, plan to ask for transgenic events in sugarcane and cotton, say government appears open, no reason why events shouldn't be approved

[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, June 18, 2018 9 03:09 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 news that South Korea had suspended imports of wheat from Canada. U.S. activists announced a social media campaign targeting proposed GMO labeling guidance from the Department of Agriculture.

- South Korea announced that it would be suspending importation of wheat from Canada following an announcement this weekend that an unapproved GM wheat variety had been found growing in Alberta last summer. Japan had previously announced a similar suspension. In several media statements, representatives of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) affirmed that the wheat had not entered the food supply chain. **See more**
- Just Label It! announced a "Twitter rally" scheduled for tomorrow (June 19) in which activists with Stonyfield Farm, Environmental Working Group and others plan to discuss the U.S. Department of Agriculture's proposed GMO labeling guidelines and offer information on how consumers can respond to the proposal. **See more**

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North America

News: CBC reports on South Korea's ban on sale of Canadian wheat and flour, following Japanese ban, due to discovery of unapproved GM wheat strain in Alberta, Cereals Canada president Cam Dahl believes they have the answers that both countries are seeking

News release: Geoengineering Monitor, a civil society information hub run by ETC Group, Heinrich Boell Foundation and Biofuelwatch, releases fact sheets on various geoengineering technology developments and potential environmental, economic and social impacts

Commentary: Geoengineering Monitor, run by Biofuelwatch and ETC Group, with support from Heinrich Boell Foundation, publishes fact sheet on enhanced photosynthesis technology, warns about potential unintended consequences of GE rice on traditional varieties

Event: Just Label It to host Twitter Rally to tell USDA to support strong GMO transparency in its labeling rule (June 19, 2018), panelists will include Only Organic, EWG, Stonyfield, Nature's Path, Seasnax and Good Culture

Audio: Radio show on Canada's Global News features Canadian Food Inspection Agency Spokesperson, David Bailey, he provides background on Japan's decision to block wheat shipments due to discovery of unapproved herbicide-tolerant GM wheat variety in Alberta

News release: World Food Prize will announce its 2018 Laureate on June 25 at USDA in Washington, D.C., honoring an individual for work to enhance human development and confront hunger

Commentary: CropLife magazine editor Eric Sfiligoj examines ag industry efforts to protect monarch butterflies, highlights CropLife America's Kellie Bray's belief that if monarchs are labeled as endangered

it could be a potential game-changer for agriculture

More North America items

Africa

News: Ugandan Catholic radio outlet reports on Catholic Bishops of Uganda's statement against the National Bio-safety Act, signed by Archbishop of Gulu John Baptist Odama, claiming that such products will make smallholder farmers dependent

Commentary: Owei Lakemfa of Nigeria's Vanguard writes tribute post to Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) leader Nnimmo Bassey in honor of his 60th birthday, highlights his environmental activism, including his fight against GMOs

News: Nigeria's Independent reports on debate over whether GMOs are the answer to food insecurity, highlights claims against GMOs made by Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) and Nigeria Institute of Food, Science and Technology (NIFST)

Commentary: Silvia Ceriani and Elisa Virgillito recount recent meeting of Slow Food International Council with the Kenyan network, highlighting Beatrice Mbugua, who works to conserve traditional seeds and spreading their knowledge with a local seed bank

Commentary: Coventry University (U.K.) agroecology researcher Katie Whiddon writes blog post for African Centre for Biodiversity ahead of Adaptation Futures conference in Cape Town, calls for changes that center around smallholders and conscious consumers

More Africa items

Asia

News: China's AgroPages reports on Japan's rejection of Canadian wheat imports following discovery of unapproved GM wheat in Alberta, National Farmers Union accused Canadian Food Inspection Agency of failing to take necessary precautions

News: Korean news outlet reports on Ministry of Food and Drug Safety's announcement of tentative suspension of distribution and sale of Canadian wheat and flour imports, only allowing those confirmed to be GMO-free to be sold domestically

News: Reuters reports South Korea halts sales of Canadian wheat and flour following discovery of an unapproved GM herbicide-tolerant trait developed by Monsanto in wheat growing in Alberta

Commentary: Third World Network amplifies study in bioRxiv which found that use of CRISPR/Cas9 to develop virus-resistant cassava triggered evolution of a novel virus, notes the results point to a novel environmental containment consideration

More Asia items

Europe

News release: International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) EU announces publication of report jointly commissioned by European Public Health Alliance, Friends of the Earth Europe, IFOAM EU and Slow Food, which finds that EU has no coherent or complete food policy

News: Agence France-Presse reports on Japan and South Korea's suspension of wheat imports from Canada due to discovery of an unapproved GM variety in Alberta, Canadian Ag Ministry's Jesse Wilson noted tests concluded that the wheat did not enter the food chain

Commentary: Inf'OGM's Charlotte Krinke criticizes agribusiness companies' argument that GMO regulations would make it difficult for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to enter the market, claims it diverts attention from other issues such as safety

Commentary: Spanish NGO Fundacion Antama amplifies PG Economics report which found that GM crops have increased farmers' incomes by over 15,390 million Euros in 2016, 52 percent of the income went to farmers in developing countries

News: Luxembourg's L'Essentiel reports on Health Minister Lydia Mutsch's introduction of bill to strengthen legal basis for prohibiting cultivation of GM crops in Luxembourg, in addition to strengthening environmental controls

Commentary: Margriet Goris and Leonardo van den Berg of Agroecology Europe praise Brazil's recent IV National Agroecology Encounter (ENA), they argue that Europe should abandon "narrow, scientific definitions of agroecology," to encompass diverse cultures

News: The Guardian reports on Norwich-based startup Tropic Biosciences' development of fusarium wilt disease-resistant Cavendish banana varieties using gene editing, Chief Scientific Officer Eyal Maori described the urgency of the development

More Europe items

Latin America

Commentary: Ing Agr Gustavo Lopez of Argentine Association of Regional Consortiums of Agricultural Experimentation (AACREA) writes for local news outlet, promotes agroecology, noting goal of reducing environmental impact of ag as much as possible

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: New Zealand's Soil & Health Association provides comments on Ministry for Primary Industries' Discussion Paper on a new organic standard for NZ, supports a mandatory, nationwide organic standard to reduce consumer confusion and boost confidence

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: Caitrin.Martin@fas.usda.gov
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - June 18, 2018
 Date: Monday, June 18, 2018 4:51:17 PM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

Is the Non-GMO Project labeling craze about to run its course? The University of Saskatchewan's Stuart Smyth examines this question in the piece that leads off this week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter. Smyth notes that brands including Betty Crocker and Clover Leaf Seafood have dismissed the Non-GMO Project's label in recent weeks in a possible trend of companies casting doubt on the anti-biotech initiative. In a separate piece, *BEEF Magazine* columnist Amanda Radke explains how an "abundance of labeling claims" is leading to confusion among consumers.

Other pieces highlighted this week include a pair of articles on the potential nutritional value of Golden Rice, plus a scientific explanation of why glyphosate should not be considered harmful to bees.

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: Sustainable Food Alliance



The Sustainable Food Alliance is a nonprofit set up in partnership with the U.K.-based Sustainable Food Trust solely to funnel resources from U.S. donors to European campaigns promoting regenerative, organic and agroecology practices while

Stories Worth Sharing

[Stuart Smyth: Brands fighting back against Non-GMO Project's labeling "gimmick" that has no proven benefits](#)

[Amanda Radke: IFIC survey shows media and activist rhetoric turning public toward foods labeled non-GMO](#)

[David Zaruk: Small group used exclusionary methodology to create momentum against glyphosate in Europe](#)

[Iida Ruishalme: Closer look at research shows glyphosate does not pose threat to bees](#)

[Emil Javier: Thousands of children becoming blind, dying from Vitamin A deficiency as Philippines refuses to approve Golden Rice](#)

[Science 2.0: Cancer label for glyphosate would have no scientific validity](#)

[Alex Berezow: "Improperly educated, hyperpartisan" New York Times reporters spread pseudoscience on GMOs, pesticides](#)

[Andrew Porterfield: U.S. FDA rejects activists' attempts to misconstrue statement on nutritional benefits of Golden Rice](#)


[Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute videos show success of Bt brinjal: Part 1](#) [Part 2](#)

criticizing GMOs and pesticides.

Both groups receive financial support from the organic and natural products industries and are responsible for funding the U.K. NGO GMWatch and Gilles-Eric Seralini research attacking the safety of GMOs and pesticides.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the Sustainable Food Alliance.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES

Adele Peters: U.K. researchers attempting to use CRISPR to save bananas 

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

PG Economics: GM crops bring significant value to farmers in developing countries

Court rules cancer warnings not needed on glyphosate products in California

Hawaii governor signs bill to ban chlorpyrifos

Canadian Food Inspection Agency discovers unapproved, Roundup-tolerant GM wheat in Alberta

National Pollinator Week observed in United States

Calendar highlights

June 18-21	June 19	June 19-22
Plant Biology Europe	European Parliament committee meeting on EU authorization procedure for pesticides	International Conference on Environmental & Food Monitoring
June 20-21	June 21	June 25-27
4th Global Summit on Plant Genomics	U.S. Congressional Pollinator Protection Caucus briefing	World Biotechnology Conference

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR

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More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

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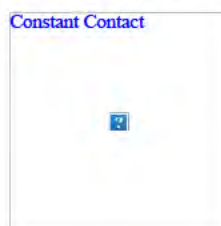
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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included the Canadian Food Inspection Agency announcement that unapproved GM wheat was found growing in Alberta last summer. The Food and Drug Administration announced a July 12 public meeting regarding lab-grown and cultured meats and may have signaled a conflict with the USDA on jurisdiction over the products.

- *Reuters, Russia Today,* and Canadian media reported the CFIA announced it discovered a small amount of unapproved, herbicide-tolerant GM wheat growing near a roadside in southern Alberta last summer. CFIA officials said surveys found no further spread of GM wheat in the area or contamination of Canada's wheat exports, and noted the variety poses no threat to humans, animals, or the environment. However, Japan announced it is temporarily suspending wheat imports from Canada until they can confirm no GM wheat is in shipments from Canada. A New Democratic Party of Canada statement called for a hearing to investigate the issue. An editorial on Newfoundland's *The Telegram* site said the discovery proves that unlikely things happen and said it should be a lesson for Canada's grain industry and for those producing GE salmon. **See more**
- FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb announced a July 12 public meeting to discuss lab-grown and cultured meat. *Politico* reported there may be a disagreement between the FDA and the USDA over which agency regulates such products. Gottlieb said the FDA "has jurisdiction over 'food,' which includes 'articles used for food' and 'articles used for components of any such article.'" However, a USDA spokesman responded that Gottlieb's claim "is so overly broad that it implies that USDA doesn't have a role," and that the department regulates "any product marketed as meat." **See more**

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North America

[News: Bloomberg reports FDA steps into lab-grown meat regulation, opposing USDA jurisdiction; FDA will hold meeting July 12 on safety, labeling, regulation; notes U.S. Cattlemen Association's petition to prevent lab-grown meat from using beef, meat labels](#)

[Commentary: Law firm reviews New York federal judge's dismissal of proposed class-action suit claiming Dannon Company violated false advertising, consumer fraud laws by advertising yogurt as "All Natural" when product contained ingredients from animals raised on GMO-rich feed](#)

[Commentary: Colin Todhunter writes India news site article stating studies disproved Seralini's conclusion was pro-GMO activism masquerading as journalism, says The Print refuse rebuttal by Aruna Rodriguez, notes author did not contact other side in reporting but relayed "alternative facts"](#)

[Commentary: Life science news site urges further research to determine cancer risk to humans from CRISPR-edited cells lacking intact P53 gene](#)

[Campaign: Organic Consumers Association petition for Whole Foods to require labels on GMOs by original Sept 2018 deadline; blasts Whole Foods announcement to delay rule, await final USDA GM label requirements](#)

Commentary: Wisconsin farm bureau member writing in Ag Daily maintains anti-GMO activist Vandana Shiva spreads falsehoods about GMOs, agriculture by claiming GMOs harmful, agriculture resource hog

More North America items

Africa

News: Kenyan news site reports field trials begin on Bt cotton; country anticipating textile industry to boom when commercial planting begins next year

News: Uganda newspaper amplifies reports that regional Catholic bishops oppose biosafety bill claiming inadequate protections against health and other risks to people, animals and environment

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Coalition for Agriculture Modernization in the Philippines chair Emil Q. Javier writes for Manila Bulletin, notes Vitamin A deficiency problem getting worse, points out 1,800 Filipino children die each year as a result, asks how much longer before country approves Golden Rice

Commentary: Science and politically focused website supports India farmers who, despite being illegal, want to use GM cotton seed due to benefits; farmers willing to risk prison in order to grow GM crops, stay competitive in global market

Commentary: Anti-GMO activist Vandana Shiva accuses CEO of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India of using subterfuge to introduce GM foods into India by proposing label that allows 5 percent GM ingredients in food

News: Indian business news site reports Bt cotton planted on more land this year, is getting better yields than national average

More Asia items

Europe

News: EurActiv amplifies Corteva Agriscience CEO citing constant environmental changes, increasing regulatory demands to stress importance of utilizing technology, continually developing new pest control products, cites potential for NPBTs to "dramatically improve the speed of things"

News: Spanish news site reports Navarra senator asks Spanish government how it will fulfill European Directive to allow regional, autonomous communities to restrict, prohibit GMO

News: French pro-ag site Alerte-Environnement reports anti-GM researcher Seralini has ties to alternative medicine association, homeopathic products company

Commentary: No Patents on Seeds urges organizations to join 40 European NGOs in call to European Patent Office to no longer patent seeds, limit gene editing patents; claims after Monsanto merger, Bayer has too much seed market control

News release: University of Copenhagen professor's research finds Danish politicians ignore public's concerns about ethics of GM foods, instead concentrate on risk vs benefit arguments

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Brazil's Agrolink reports indigenous people fighting Brazilian laws that disallow them to use GM crops for commercialization, GM crops are allowing group to provide basic needs for their families

Commentary: Mexican news site says GM corn is threat to contaminate native corn and honey in Yucatan, notes corn and honey hold historical, cultural significance beyond value as food

[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

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Today's global biotechnology developments included continued reporting on Indian farmers using illegal Bt cotton seed. An Agrifirm official says that Europe can grow enough non-GMO soy to replace GM soy imports from the U.S. and South America.

- India's *Business Insider* reported illegal, herbicide-tolerant Bt cotton seed usage continues to grow and blamed the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee for failing to enforce regulations. *The Times of India* reported authorities seized \$35 million in illegal seed and filed criminal charges against nine farmers. [See more](#)
- Netherlands news site *Nieuwe Oogst* reported Ruud Tijssens of Agrifirm, during a talk at Wageningen University, said Europe can grow enough non-GM soy to replace U.S. and South American GM soy imports, although it would cost an extra 150 euros to 170 euros per ton. Tijssens said that's possible, noting Poland's GMO ban and France is considering a ban. He also said GM soy cultivation leads to deforestation and contributes to global warming. German political foundation Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik publicized the Danube Soya Congress that will take place June 19-20, noting the farming group's goal is to replace U.S., Brazil, and Argentina GM imports. [See more](#)
- PG Economics released study results showing GM crops' economic impact on farmers amounted to \$18.2 billion in 2016 and \$186.1 billion from 1996 to 2016. The study indicated that 52 percent of the economic benefit went to farmers in developing countries. [See more](#)

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North America

Commentary: Alex Berezow of American Council on Science and Health criticizes various New York Times writers for spreading pseudoscience on topics like GMOs and pesticides, includes Michael Pollan, Mark Bittman, Eric Lipton and Danny Hakim

News: Baking Business news site reports Bimbo Bakeries USA launched organic bread line, says new brands with "easy-to-pronounce ingredients" are response to customer demand for organic bread

Study: University of California-Davis researchers publish survey results for nationwide Chinese consumer study on public perception of GMOs; notes about 47 percent have negative perception of GMOs, 69 percent get GMO info on the Internet, and nearly 14 percent believe GMOs are form of bioterrorism aimed at China

News: The Progressive Farmer reports study on human gene editing posted in Nature Medicine journal casts doubt on CRISPR, as researchers find one gene prevents CRISPR from working properly, possibly making repair faulty and resulting in mutations; notes possible implications for plant applications

News: Drovers contributor takes issue with marketing claims that conventionally raised meat is unsafe or unhealthy, says True Story PR campaign takes low road in criticizing its competitors but science doesn't support PR hack accusations

Commentary: Organic Consumers Association's Katherine Paul contends Ben & Jerry's uses cozy deal with MoveOn to greenwash its image when dairy it sources uses practices that saturated the landscape in glyphosate, atrazine, metolachlor, asserts it should trade in dirty dairy practices, go organic

More North America items

Africa

Commentary: African Centre for Biodiversity research coordinator suggests plans to reduce corporate power in South Africa, including restrict corporations to GM and hybrid varieties and phasing out GM seed, building alternative, small and medium corporations to challenge large corporations regionally

Announcement: Nigerian government now accepting public comments on application by Chi Farms Ltd. to import GM soy beans for feed processing; comments window ends July 8

More Africa items

Asia

News release: Seed Freedom announces Vandana Shiva meets with head of India food safety agency, pens letter to Prime minister opposing proposed GMO labeling initiative, calls for creation of independent commission to guide India food policy

News: Times of India report authorities sieze about \$35 million in illegal GM seed, file nine criminal cases against seed traders, notes farmers still planting Bt-3 seeds posing "huge biological threat"

News: Indian business news site reports illegal Bt cotton seed sales growing in India, says as pests become immune to Bollgard II variety, blames GEAC failure to enforce regulations, says illegal seeds put farmers at risk due to questionable seed quality

More Asia items

Europe

Campaign: French petition site posts campaign decrying calls for French TV journalist to resign after taking stance in defense of glyphosate safety, cites "broad scientific consensus" in support of this stance to stress concern over media, public angrily refuting scientific facts that dare to contradict popular opinion

Commentary: Slow Food Germany joins group of 40 institutions in calling for measures to end patents on conventional breeding of plants and animals in response to closure of Bayer-Monsanto deal, publishes the international call as well

News: Spain's Noticias De Navarra reports on regional Senator Idoia Villanueva's request for information from central gov't on what measures are in place to allow autonomous communities to restrict or prohibit cultivation of transgenic crops

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexico's Agencia Informativa Conacyt profiles 2017 National Science Award winner Mari Elena Alvarez-Buylla Roces, highlights her early interest in environmental and social issues, such as environmental conservation and negative impact of transgenics

News: Chilean agricultural news site reports PG Economics study show GM crops profit farmers by \$186 billion over 20 years, with biggest increases for farmers in developing countries

More Latin America items

News: Australian news site reports federal MP condemns Parliament investigation into compensating farmers for losses due to GM contamination, questions wisdom of compensation based on NGO's standards, accuses investigators of attempting to override Marsh court case decision, notes there is no basis for human health issues; organic farmer notes GM contamination devastating to organic farms

More Oceania items

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Today's global biotechnology developments included an environmental group's criticism of India's proposed food labeling guidelines, as well as new details about fines levied in Brazil over the planting of GM soy.

- In a statement, India-based environmental group Centre for Science and the Environment said that the country's proposed food labeling standards were not effective enough. Among other proposals, the group called for stricter guidelines on labeling foods produced through genetic engineering and urged the government to crack down on illegal GMO food imports. The statement was widely reported in local media outlets. [See more](#)
- Brazil's *O Globo* reported that additional details have emerged on the environmental agency IBAMA's fines against indigenous groups who leased their lands to industrial farmers, implicating several tenants and farmers as well as five indigenous associations. [See more](#)
- Bolivian news outlets reported that local farming and seed groups called on the government to approve GM crops, continuing a longstanding pressure campaign for a more liberal GMO cultivation policy. The oilseed and wheat producers association (ANAPO) pointed out that domestic soy production was significantly below oil processing capacity, adding that GM soy cultivation could help bridge that gap. [See more](#)

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North America

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project founder Jon Entine writes that although anti-GMO activists managed to block developing world from adopting GM crops, gene-editing techniques that mimic natural breeding is second chance for Europe, Africa to get things right

Commentary: University of Saskatchewan's Stuart Smyth says tide beginning to turn against Non-GMO Project after Betty Crocker takes stand for GMOs, Clover Leaf Seafood drops the non-GMO label; notes Non-GMO Project not able to claim their products are safer

Announcement: Federal Register - Dept of Justice's Antitrust Division announces final judgement filed in suit against Bayer and Monsanto over antitrust violation requiring Bayer to divest substantial collection of crop protection and seed assets; public comment period open for 60 days

Commentary: Fast Company staff reporter writes that U.K. researchers at startup Tropic Biosciences working to save banana, coffee using CRISPR technology

News: Organic Authority reports Kelly Clarkson credits "The Plant Paradox" book with helping her get off thyroid medicine and lose weight; says it involves avoiding GMOs and pesticides while eating organic food

News: Cleveland TV news site reports Kelly Clarkson used "Plant Paradox Diet" to get off thyroid medicine, lost 37 pounds; Clarkson said she cooks only with non-GMO and organic food and avoids pesticides, dietician recommends eliminating processed foods

Commentary: Natural News claims FDA says Golden Rice does not offer any nutritional benefits, says GM crop was approved in the U.S. due to good chance it will contaminate American rice imports

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Ugandan news site reports Catholic bisops ask Parliament to withdraw biosafety bill, claim citizens "not aware of the risks involved" such as negative health, environmental effects

Announcement: Convention on Biological Diversity announces partnership with Egypt to host African Biodiversity Summit (Nov. 13) examining land and ecosystem degradation in Africa

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News release: India's Centre for Science and Environment releases statement on draft Food Safety and Standards; recommends tighter regulation on illegal GM food imports, fewer exemptions for labeling GM food

Commentary: Indian NGO Down to Earth notes Centre for Science and Environment says agency's labeling regs have major gaps, want to tighten regulations on GM food labeling

News: Press Trust of India reports Centre for Science and Environment says Indian agency must set stringent standards for food safety and marketing, "aim to regulate illegal GM food" and "set a stricter bar" for GM labeling exemptions

News: Times of India reports Centre for Science and Environment urges Food Safety and Standards Authority of India to establish more stringent standards for GM food labeling, food safety standards

News: Indian news site reports as India wrestles with GM mustard approval, unapproved GM crops continue being imported into India due to lack of rules on the issue

News: Press Trust of India reports Bayer proposal would have company buying additional 26 percent stake in Monsanto India; notes company already has a 72 percent interest through its Monsanto purchase

News: Reuters reports U.S. pressures China on trade items, including biotech, beef, poultry; U.S. wants better, easier access for biotech crops

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: Germany's Gabot reports sales of food products with the "Ohne GenTechnik" label are expected to reach 7 billion Euros, VLOG CEO Alexander Hissting noted the growth represents consumer and retailer trust in the seal of quality

Event: German news site publicizes Danube Soy Congress June 19-20, notes group is dedicated to replace GM soy imports with "sustainable," non-GMO soy grown in Europe

News: Latin American Herald Tribune reports on International Biotechnology and Industrial Revolution Summit in Paris, Luis Alberto Lightbourn of Mexican biotech firm Bioteksa spoke about Mexico's need to increase exports, highlighted genetic discoveries

News release: GenOk awarded Norway Research Council grants to fund projects measuring impacts of biotech on human/nature relations, to inform genome editing decisions

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Bolivian news site reports producers asking government to approve GM soy use to help reduce the amount of imported soybean

New: Bolivia rural news site reports farming group seeking GM crop approval from Ministry of Productive Development

News: Brazil's Nortão Notícias reports on Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources' (IBAMA) fines of R \$ 129.2 million and seizure of 16.2 thousand hectares for illegal GM soybean cultivation on indigenous lands in Mato Grosso

News: Brazil's O Globo reports Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA) issued over R \$ 129 million in fines for cultivation of transgenic soybeans in indigenous lands in Mato Grosso

News: Oaxacan news outlet reports there are no permits for cultivation of transgenic crops in the state, although authorized in other states, researcher Flavio Aragón Cuevas highlighted concern about contamination of native corn varieties

News: Latin American Herald Tribune reports on International Biotechnology and Industrial Revolution Summit in Paris, Luis Alberto Lightbourn of Mexican biotech firm Bioteksa spoke about Mexico's need to increase exports, highlighted genetic discoveries

[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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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - June 12, 2018
 Date: Tuesday, June 12, 2018 9 03:23 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 an in-depth *Reuters* article summarizing the issue of herbicide-tolerant cotton use in India.

- A *Reuters* feature highlighted farmers' use of illegal, herbicide-tolerant cotton seed despite attempted government crackdowns. The report quoted several farmers on the interest in new seed varieties and noted that federal officials seemed reluctant to address the issue before an election. The article was widely syndicated. [See more](#)
- U.K.-based advocacy group GMWatch responded to outreach on the EU's GRACE, G-TwYST and GMO90+ GM crop assessments, arguing that the studies did not "refute" research by Gilles-Eric S eralini linking GM crops to cancer. The group claimed that because the studies did not replicate S eralini's study methodology and have not been published in a peer-reviewed journal, they can't offer any insights on the French researcher's work. [See more](#)

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

North America

Report: Global Farmer Network CEO Mary Boote writes Beyond the Science III report for Genetic Literacy Project, examining challenges facing modern farming, highlights negative impact of anti-GMO activism, amplified via social media, on small farmers in Africa

Commentary: UC Davis geneticist Alison L. Van Eenennaam and master's student Maci L. Mueller write for Progressive Dairyman, examining potential benefits of using gene editing to breed hornless dairy cattle, they lament FDA's current regulatory approach

Commentary: Carmen Drahl of American Chemical Society's Chemical & Engineering News amplifies study on development of GM crops capable of feeding on phosphite, not available to weeds, potentially mitigating pollution from fertilizer runoff

News: Food Chemical News reports a federal appeals court is considering revival of class action lawsuit alleging that Conagra is deceiving consumers by labeling cooking oils made from GE crops as "100 percent natural" (subscription required)

Commentary: Central Virginia gardening columnist cites studies contradicting consumer beliefs of organic benefits, highlights health-, environmental-conscious efforts of conventional farmers, laments unfounded public fear of pesticides, GMOs, urging consumers to find evidence before giving in to fears

Commentary: Steven Novella of New England Skeptical Society criticizes Independent Science News article spreading false information that FDA stated golden rice has no nutritional benefits, highlights FDA's response, notes golden rice will help target countries

Report: Friends of the Earth "From Lab to Fork" report asserts need for assessment, regulation, labeling of GE lab-created animal product alternatives, due to potential health, environmental risks; claims tissue donor animals fed with GE crops produced with atrazine, chlorpyrifos, glyphosate linked to cancer

Commentary: Sam Bloch of The New Food Economy examines debate over what to call lab-grown meat, Intrexon's Jack Bobo believes "clean" meat antagonizes consumers, should be rebranded as "craft" meat, similar to craft beer

More North America items

Africa

News: Kenya's Standard Digital reports on launch of first-ever field trials for Bt cotton, presided over by Horticultural Research Institute Director Charles Waturu, who described it as a breakthrough for the textile industry

Campaign: Several NGOs, led by Cadre de Concertation et de Coopération des Ruraux (CNCR), write letter to Government of Senegal, G7 members and the African Union, claiming New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition (NAFSN) has failed, calling for policies to boost small farmers

Commentary: Mersha Yilma of MELCA Ethiopia promotes recent workshop on need to incorporate Bio-cultural diversity and environmental education in school programs, topics included preservation of traditional knowledge, practices for sustainable conservation

More Africa items

Asia

News: Reuters reports many Indian farmers are planting Monsanto's unapproved herbicide-tolerant GM cotton variety, in spite of risk of arrest, a New Delhi gov't official noted it would be difficult to keep farmers from something they see as beneficial

Commentary: Yale's Environment360 analyzes Indian farmers' use of unapproved GM cotton seeds in spite of threats of arrest, amplifying Reuters' coverage, highlights Monsanto's withdrawal of the variety following trait fee dispute

Report: USDA Foreign Agricultural Service GAIN Report examines anticipated cotton production in India this year, highlights issues with availability of illegal Herbicide Tolerant and/or insect resistant cotton, forcing gov't officials to crack down on seed distribution

News: Vietnamese news outlet reports on National Assembly deputy Pham Van Tuan's endorsement of Science, Technology and Environment Committee's report on the Law on Planting, noting need to develop high-tech agriculture

Commentary: Aasma Sharma writes opinion piece for The Himalayan Times, emphasizes need of improving small farmers' livelihoods and production, advocates technological innovations like zero tillage, organic ag biotechnology and farm mechanization

More Asia items

Europe

Commentary: GMWatch's Claire Robinson claims EU-funded rat feeding studies do not refute Seralini's study, accuses Alliance for Science and the AFBV of making misleading statements, highlights differences in methodology

Commentary: GMWatch amplifies STAT News article on two new studies which found that CRISPR/Cas9 may increase risk that cells altered with goal of treating disease could trigger cancer, highlights UC Berkeley's Jacob Corn's statement that "genome editing isn't magic"

Commentary: Dods Monitoring consultant Alex Tiley writes for U.K. political news site, argues that Brexit provides the U.K. an opportunity to explore licensing of GM products currently tied up in the EU, and to consider domestic use of GM crops

News: Belgian news outlet reports on GM soy production in Argentina, agronomist Diego Fontenla noted organic farming is difficult due to lack of markets willing to pay higher prices, he pointed to negative

environmental impact of associated chemical use

Commentary: Beatriz Castro Fernandes of Spanish NGO Fundacion Antama examines abuses in food labeling that mislead consumers, notes GMO-free labels imply that there is something wrong with GM foods, in spite of scientific evidence supporting GMO safety

Interview: Spain's Publico interview biotech expert JM Mulet on his new book, "What is Healthy Eating?" he notes GMOs have been used for over 20 years, notes organic foods are more expensive but not necessarily any healthier

News release: Austrian NGOs Animal Spirit and Initiative Home & Environment (IHU) voice opposition to CETA ratification, warning about the investment court system ICS, negative impacts on animal welfare, and introduction of genetic engineering

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: China's AgroPages reports on Argentinian Ag Ministry's approval of Monsanto stacked GM corn events with resistance to herbicides, lepidoptera and colepterans, National Health and Food Quality Service (Senasa) found it is substantially equivalent to conventional

Commentary: Maria Guadalupe Rico writes for Mexico's El Sol de Tampico, believes Mexico's weapon against NAFTA should be raising tariffs on GM corn from the U.S., notes it would give Mexicans the opportunity to consume native varieties

News: Mexico's Televisa reports on Apiculturists of Yucatán coordinator Nelly Ortiz Vázquez's warning that honey exporters have detected traces of transgenic pollen, noting that chemicals used on GM soybeans negatively impact bees

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

Commentary: Bob Edlin of New Zealand Institute of Agricultural and Horticultural Science's blog notes call to debunk anti-GMO myths of GE-Free NZ and Greenpeace should be directed at new Chief Science Advisor, Juliet Gerrard

News: Radio New Zealand reports on its recent interview with former anti-GMO activist Mark Lynas, he notes it is not surprising that GMOs are largely banned in Africa, when reputable NGOs like ActionAid spread claims about cancer and infertility

[More Oceania items](#)

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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - June 11, 2018
 Date: Monday, June 11, 2018 9 02:07 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 Kenya had launched performance trials of Bt cotton. In Brazil, regulators fined farmers in indigenous territories for planting GM soy.

- Kenyan regulators announced that national performance trials of Bt cotton had officially begun in Kisumu County, following approval from the country's National Environment Management Authority. Charles Waturu, head of the Kenya Agricultural & Livestock Research Organization, told a local news outlet that the crop could help revive the country's "collapsed" cotton sector. [See more](#)
- In news first reported over the weekend, Brazilian regulators announced that they had fined several indigenous groups for developing large-scale agriculture utilizing GM soy in tribal lands. *Reuters* reported that indigenous groups were pressuring regulators to change the laws and allow farming on their territories, setting up a conflict between the native affairs agency and environmental regulators. [See more](#)

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North America

Commentary: Grist's Nathanael Johnson examines how activism is likely to change following disappearance of Monsanto's name, notes that while Monsanto has done bad things in its history, it is routinely blamed for things it did not cause

Commentary: Gary Truitt of Hoosier Ag Today believes Bayer's decision not to keep Monsanto's name is just the beginning of changes to come following recent large agribusiness mergers, notes much of Bayer's crop protection chemistry used in the Midwest will go to BASF

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Andrew Porterfield amplifies FDA's response to anti-GMO activists' misinterpretation of its golden rice evaluation, FDA clarified that rice intake in developing nations is much higher than in the U.S., and that golden rice would help

Commentary: Salvatore Ceccarelli writes for Independent Science News, examines link between decline of biodiversity and increased rates of inflammatory diseases, highlights risks associated with GM crops and pesticides, points to benefits of organic farming

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Kenyan news outlet reports on Kenya Agricultural Livestock Research Organization Director Charles Waturu's assessment that Bt cotton adoption would boost cotton production threefold and raise textile industry revenue up to Sh2 trillion

News: Kenyan news site reports crops in northwest region swarmed by locusts, notes additional damage of southern armyworm heightening fears of citizens without food, cites farmers urging government for

help, with ag ministry vowing support through pesticides, training

Video: Urban TV Uganda reports on debate surrounding the biosafety bill, features two farmers who want access to GM disease-resistant bananas, Biotechnologist Clet Wandui laments the polarization in Parliament, notes that GMOs are needed

New: News Agency of Nigeria reports on recent South-West Sensitisation program organized by Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology (OFAB), where former President Olusegun Obasanjo stressed need to embrace ag biotech innovations to boost food production

News: Nigerian news outlet reports on Agricultural and Rural Management Training Institute (ARMTI) Executive Director, Olufemi Oladunni's call for bio-security audits to prevent exports rejections, noting importance of trade for Nigerian farmers

Interview: Nigeria's Premium Times interviews National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) Director General Rufus Ebegba, he describes the GMO risk assessment and regulatory process, explains how NBMA reviews and responds to Nigerian citizens' comments

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

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

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: Agencia EFE reports on Spanish organic sector's expectation that new Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Luis Planas will promote organic production, highlights statements from Ecovalia, Vida Sana and Spanish Society of Ecological Agriculture (SEAE)

News release: French Association of Plant Biotechnology (AFBV) announces results of GRACE and G-TwYST programs in Europe and GMO90 + in France invalidate Seralini's claims that GM maize poses health risks, noting long-term studies provided no new information

Commentary: Science blogger for Italy's La Repubblica, Sylvie Coyaud, examines reports that Russia's Factor GMO study has fallen completely silent, notes the project appears to be part of Russia's routine disinformation about GMOs

News: Algerian news outlet reports Consumer and Environmental Protection Association's (APOCE) sounds the alarm following rejection of ag products sent to European countries, Canada and Qatar due to presence of GMOs in Algerian animal feed

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Brazil's Portal DBO reports on Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources' (IBAMA) fines against tenets, farmers and five indigenous associations for illegal planting of GMOs in Indigenous Lands in western Mato Grosso

News: Brasil De Fato reports on 17th Conference of Agroecology in Curitiba, MST member Roberto Baggio believes such events help make dialogue between city populations and rural producers closer and broader

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News: West Hawaii! Today reports on free talks in Waimea by Australian organic farmer and IFoAM-Organics International President André Leu, with goal of raising awareness about science behind pesticides, GMOs and organics

More Oceania Items

More Bonus Eventus Resources

<p>Stakeholder database</p> <p>More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.</p>	<p>Events calendar</p> <p>See where news could be happening next. Or let allies know about an upcoming event.</p>	<p>Bonus Eventus community</p> <p>Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.</p>
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 To: Diane.Wray-Cohen@fas.usda.gov
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - June 11, 2018
 Date: Monday, June 11, 2018 4:07:44 PM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

This week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter spotlights a pair of commentary pieces seeking a better understanding of why some in the public have rejected GMOs - and potential lessons moving forward.

Andrew Porterfield writes on this topic for the Genetic Literacy Project, with an eye toward preventing such a reception for gene drives. The SciMoms - Alison Bernstein, Anastasia Bodnar, Layla Katirae, Kavin Senapathy and Jenny Splitter - similarly explore how many GMO fears are based on socio-economic concerns, not science.

Other unrelated pieces note the International Agency for Research on Cancer's apparent unwillingness to change amid criticism of its monograph process, plus a closer look at new research that disputes Gilles-Eric Seralini's previous claims that tumors in rats were caused by genetically modified corn and glyphosate.

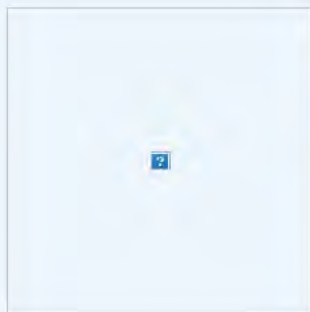
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In This Issue

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

Stakeholder Spotlight: Jessica Shade



Organic industry supporters including the [Organic Trade Association](#) and the Sierra Club have been quick to praise the [farm bill](#) proposed late last week in the U.S. Senate.

■ Stories Worth Sharing

[Geoffrey Kabat: Despite changes to its preamble, IARC unlikely to correct approach to identifying carcinogens](#)

[Andrew Porterfield: Lessons from rejection of GMOs should be applied to gain favor for gene drives](#)

[Josh Bloom: Nearly 100 percent of pesticides are made by the plants themselves](#)

[Dirt to Dinner: Juice Press should stop misleading consumers about GMO safety, trust farmers](#)

[Rajju Shroff: Foreign-funded activists spreading misinformation that Indian farmers overuse pesticides](#)

[Steven Novella: Three replications of Seralini research show no toxicity from GM corn or glyphosate](#)

[SciMoms: GMO fears usually more about socio-economic anxieties instead of food safety science](#)

[Michael Meier: Adoption of genetically modified soybeans helped modernize Brazil's economy](#)

The bill includes considerable funding for organic research and data initiatives while leaving out some provisions anti-pesticide NGOs opposed in the House version.

Jessica Shade, The Organic Center's director of science programs, has previously been vocal in support of other [Senate legislation to boost organic funding](#). She has defended the safety of organic imports in an [article in The New York Times](#).

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about Shade and the Organic Trade Center, the research arm of the Organic Trade Association

[CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES](#)

[ISSAA: Ethiopia approves cultivation of Bt cotton varieties, field trials of GM maize](#)

[Sonja Begemann: Arizona researchers develop GM corn that silences genes from dangerous aflatoxin](#)

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What's Trending?

[U.S. Food and Drug Administration announces plans to collaborate with USDA on advancing biotech innovations](#)

[Bloomberg: Putin food security strategy includes pushing organic food, billionaire oligarchs manipulating markets](#)

[U.S. House committee seeks testimony from new director of International Agency for Research on Cancer](#)

[French beekeepers stage national day of action to demand further pesticide reductions](#)

[Bayer plan to drop Monsanto name prompts wave of commentary](#)

Calendar highlights

June 11-14	June 11	June 12
Brazilian Soy Congress	European Parliament agriculture committee debates Common Agricultural Policy	"Understanding Obesogens" webinar with Bruce Blumberg
June 13-16	June 13-14	June 18
University of Wisconsin hosts conference on "The Agroecological Prospect"	Cereals conference	California trial begins on cancer claims involving glyphosate

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

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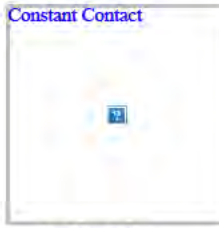
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 Date: Sunday, June 10, 2018 10:00:35 PM

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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 continued commentary on the Bayer-Monsanto merger. Biotechnology advocates and opponents reacted to the Accurate Labels Act proposed by U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran. A science teacher criticized anti-GMO activists for distorting an FDA statement and claiming Golden Rice offers no nutritional benefits. Impossible Foods CEO Rachel Konrad replied to an article that implied the company hides GM ingredient information.

- Media and activists commented on Bayer's plans to retire the Monsanto name. Activist statements focused on connecting Bayer to negativity associated with Monsanto. A Friends of the Earth campaigner said the group would be as critical of Bayer as it was Monsanto because products such as Roundup will continue production. However, a *France Culture* podcast quoted a Catholic Committee Against Hunger and Development statement that mobilizations would be more focused on products rather than against companies. [See more](#)
- Stakeholders reacted to the Accurate Labels Act, which seeks to ensure state labeling requirements are clear and scientifically accurate. An American Farm Bureau Federation statement supported the proposed legislation, noting California has warnings on aloe vera and that eating French fries could cause cancer, an exaggerated claim. Supporters included farming, baking and chemistry groups. The Environmental Working Group released a statement saying the bill would block states from warning consumers about "potential health risks like cancer and developmental harm to children." [See more](#)
- Alternative environmental news site *Natural Blaze* editor Heather Callaghan echoed earlier activist commentary by saying a U.S. Food and Drug Administration statement shows Golden Rice offers no extra nutritional value for vitamin A. Middle School science teacher and blogger Stephan Neidenbach claimed activists distorted FDA's statement, noting that "because the rice was developed for Asian markets where rice is a staple crop and vitamin A deficiency is much more prevalent, the FDA is just stating that it does not benefit U.S. consumers." Neidenbach said an FDA official later clarified this. [See more](#)
- Activists have criticized the vegan Impossible Burger because a key ingredient is GM heme - heme is naturally found in meat. A *GrubStreet* article insinuated the Impossible Burger producer, Impossible Foods, is hiding the fact the ingredient is a GMO and is avoiding compliance with safety standards. Impossible Foods CEO Rachel Konrad rebutted the article, noting the *GrubStreet* reporter relied on sources who are "anti-science, anti-GMO fundamentalists." Konrad also said GM heme twice was unanimously declared safe by a panel of food safety experts. [See more](#)

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North America

Commentary: Impossible Foods CEO Rachel Konrad replies to GrubStreet article, maintains company complies with food safety standards and is upfront about GMO ingredients, notes two panels declared heme safe, notes reporter uses sources who are anti-science, anti-GMO fundamentalists

Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science's Joan Conrow points out three European studies have disproved Seralini's claims that herbicide-tolerant, GM corn causes tumors in rats

News: The Ring of Fire Network amplifies Thom Hartmann interview with America's Lawyer Mike Papantonio, who warns Monsanto merger with Bayer will boost dangers to consumers, particularly from GMO seeds saturated with Roundup

News: Bloomberg reports Russian food exports now surpass value of all military hardware sales; Putin food security strategy, which includes promotion of organic, backed by billionaire oligarchs' market manipulations

News: Climate-energy newswire reports scientists develop GE pig to better digest nitrogen, phosphorous in feed, excrete fewer toxins; lead researcher hopes GMO regulations lax as GE pigs will improve feed efficiency, reduce carbon footprint

News: Fox News reports on singer Kelly Clarkson giving credit for weight loss to diet including foods with no GMOs and no pesticides

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Ethiopian newspaper reports government environmental ministry has approved GMO cotton following field trials that found no threat to environment, health; notes agricultural research institute will begin trials on GMO corn

News: Ghana News Agency reports Central Region farmers, other agricultural stakeholders speak out in favor of using GM crops to increase yields and food security, reduce costs

Commentary: Youth for Science and Development founder writes op-ed for Ugandan business news site, says biotech is crucial for Uganda's to become modern country, fight climate change, feed growing population

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Indian food news site reports Indian GMO circulating petition urging Food Safety, Standards Authority to include pesticide, genetic modification details on food labels; GMO says present threshold for including GM ingredients too low

News: Indian newspaper reports EU investigation discredits Seralini research paper claiming GM corn as source of tumors in rats; Indian environment minister used paper to ban Bt Brinjal

Commentary: Indian legal researcher writing in The Wire says Protection of Plant Varieties & Farmers' Rights Authority has moral, political responsibility to protect farmers' seed rights as companies demand greater patent protection over plant varieties

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Commentary: French blogger Houssen Moshinaly attempts to debunk myths, propaganda about endocrine disruptors, analyzes sperm decline, low IQ, disease claims, concludes endocrine disruptors are one of worst scapegoats of NGO "merchants of fear" activists

Commentary: Italian agricultural association notes Osservatore Romano writer Carlo Triarico says he didn't question integrity of Sant'Anna researchers on GMO safety study, but questioned lack of public funding for research, making private funding more critical and compromising research

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Brazilian agricultural news site reports CropLife study shows Chinese delays in approving biotech traits harms Brazil economically

News: Reuters reports Brazil cracks down on tribes for using reservation land to grow GMO crops, engage in large-scale agriculture, both banned on reservations; notes tribes pressing to change laws

Commentary: Brazilian environmental news site profiles Monsanto, claims WHO classifies Roundup as carcinogen, notes it is leader in producing GM food with "high cost" for world's inhabitants, equates Bayer with Monsanto

Commentary: Brazil's Movement of Landless Rural Workers amplifies Brasil de Fato interview with actress Leticia Sabatella, who took part with MST members in 17th Jornada de Agroecologia in Curitiba; she touts importance of agroecology to building sustainable future

News: Argentine business news site reports government approves GM alfalfa that uses Monsanto-developed traits, including glyphosate-tolerance; notes IARC determined glyphosate to be probable carcinogen

More Latin America items

Oceania

Oceania: Australian Food Sovereignty Alliance national committee issues statement, vows to fight industrial food systems, including biotechnology, and to promote seed sovereignty

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 worldwide media and stakeholder reporting and commentary on Bayer closing its Monsanto purchase. An annual agroecology fair in Rio de Janeiro focused on peasant farming. India's environmental minister says GM mustard is still being studied.

- Wire services, media and stakeholders reported and commented on Bayer completing its purchase of Monsanto today. German NGOs released a joint statement arguing that agribusiness consolidation endangers food sovereignty and called for a legal review on the purchase. *Farmer's Daughter USA* blogger Amanda Zaluckyj said farmers have legitimate concerns on the merger as consolidation could mean higher prices and fewer choices. A *Deutsche Welle* reporter noted that while Bayer will drop Monsanto's "toxic name," the corporation must prove it can overcome Monsanto's "evil reputation." **See more**
- Brazilian media highlighted the 17th Conference of Agroecology that brought together farmers, students and agroecology researchers. At the fair, the Landless Workers Movement said it struggles to maintain the right to use seeds and grains, adding that GM and hybrid seeds can contaminate organic farming. An Articulation of the Paraíba Semiarid official maintained smallholder farmers grow and sell food free from GMOs and poison. **See more**
- Indian Minister of the Environment Harsh Vardhan said GM mustard has not been shelved, but his ministry is "studying the issue with meticulous precision." Vardhan, who also is the Science and Technology minister, said controversial issues "cannot be taken without applying science and scientific minds and taking the opinion of all the relevant stakeholders." *India Science Wire* also reported TERI School of Advanced Studies researchers developed an early flowering GM mustard. The article noted global warming has shortened the growing season, and early flowering shortens the plant's life cycle without compromising yields. **See more**

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North America

Campaign: Daily Kos and several NGOs asks readers to sign petition to Amazon asking them to stop selling Arctic apples, claims the GM product has not been adequately tested for health, environmental risks; objects to non-browning quality, claims it shows apple is no longer fresh

News: New Food Economy reports prominent figure in organic movement says he supports using gene-edited crops in organic farming if they mimic naturally occurring varieties; questions if organic industry will follow

News: The Guardian reports on SexyPlant project with goal of genetically engineering plants to produce insect sex pheromones and disrupt mating, to reduce use of pesticides that harm beneficial insects, one pest being targeted is the fall armyworm

Commentary: Canadian news site columnist says Canadians unknowingly ate 4.5 tonnes of GE salmon last year, says "messed up" part is Canadians paid \$8.2 million in taxes to support salmon's creation, says companies skeptical about the GE fish, says AquaBounty is secretive about how it is made

Commentary: Caroline Cox of Independent Media Institute writes for AlterNet, warns readers about recent FDA tests which found glyphosate in several common foods, links it to several negative health effects and endocrine disruption, promotes organic

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Ghana news site reports OFAB Ghana Coordinator and scientist says GMOs pose no health threats, but political reporting has overshadowed science reporting in area; says that's why OFAB media awards created to encourage journalists to delve into science

Commentary: Stephen Greenberg of African Centre for Biodiversity voices opposition to Bayer's acquisition of Monsanto, examines Bayer's request for reassessment of requirement that it sell businesses to black economic empowerment (BEE) compliant companies

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Indian news site reports Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan says GM mustard has not been shelved, but ministry is studying the crop meticulously

Commentary: Public Affairs Forum of India president writes in Indian news site op-ed that biotech debate in India should consider climate change because GM crops can help fight environmental stresses, fights pests and weeds; says wide spectrum of technology adoption needed to help farmers survive

Commentary: India Science Wire notes researchers use biotech to develop early flowering mustard, says this is important because climate change is shrinking plant cycle

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News: Feed Navigator reports demand for non-GM dairy, poultry, eggs - from animals not fed GM feed - expected to rise 27 percent; Germany's non-GMO certification manager says keeping up with feed demands is not a problem

News release: Portuguese Communist Party releases statement objecting to procedural rule that gives Parliament no power to override European Commission decisions, objects to Commission's GM maize approval, maintains the Commission is closely connected to agribusinesses that produce GMOs

Commentary: Jean-Michel Bos writes for Deutsche Welle, examines Bayer's decision not to retain Monsanto's name following completion of the merger, highlights glyphosate use on GM crops Africa, warns about health risks such as cancer and infertility

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Audio: Jornal da USP interviews doctoral candidate in biology on GM crop safety, who highlights multi-year process behind GM crop evaluation and urges consumers to trust scientists

Commentary: Uruguay-based NGO dedicated to protect tropical forests opposes GM tree planting in Chile, claims they are fire hazard, deprive communities of water, pesticides used on them will contaminate water, and carry unknown risks

News: Mexican green news source Ecoticias highlights demands of major environmental organizations on World Environment Day, including prohibition of transgenic crops; Friends of the Earth coordinator says banning GMO crops is group's focus for day, noting 17 EU countries have banned them, but Spain

has not done so

Commentary: AgroVoz reports Argentina's Ministry of Agribusiness has approved dicamba-tolerant soybean variety, notes crop has been trialed by not commercialized due to IP concerns

Commentary: Steven Druker continues series in La Jornada claiming that regulatory agencies downplay GM crop risks, highlights academic societies and says they twist the science on safety,

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News release: GE-Free New Zealand announces it will ask Wellington Council to prohibit outdoor release of GMOs, make field testing discretionary; claims council's omission does not reflect community, farmers' concerns

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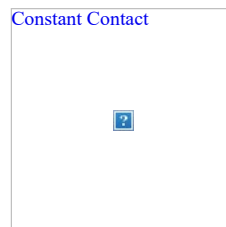
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Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included an announcement from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) promising updated biotechnology regulations.

- In a blog post to the FDA website, the Commissioner Scott Gottlieb announced that FDA was developing a "nimble" approach to new gene technologies such as gene editing and synthetic biology. Specifically, Gottlieb highlighted the creation of a new Biotech Working Group in May and said that the group would be releasing recommendations for a regulatory "action plan" in the coming months. *Politico* amplified the statement. **See more**
- Canadian activists amplified a report this week from *Maclean's*, highlighting the discovery of the two import companies selling genetically modified salmon. The groups Vigilance OGM and Canadian Biotechnology Action Network urged their supporters to contact restaurants, grocery stores and legislators in order to demand the salmon be labeled. **See more**
- News outlets in Kenya continued to report on the country's recently approved field trials for Bt cotton, though a *Kenya News* report noted that the country maintains its moratorium on GM imports. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: FDA commissioner, deputy commissioner announce plans to advance biotech innovation, will focus on "timely transition of technologies," notes new Biotech Working Group to promote innovation through science and risk-based regulatory framework, public outreach, partner engagement

News: Politico Pro reports FDA announces steps to encourage biotech advances, work closely with USDA on regulating plant, animal biotech products; notes newly formed Biotech Working Group to release plan for flexible regulatory framework

Video: Science writer interviews University of Saskatchewan's Stuart Smythe, who discusses shift in attitude towards GMOs as public discovers benefits of GM food, notes Betty Crocker announcement and Cloverleaf Seafood pulling non-GMO label off products

Commentary: Vigilance OGM announces finding two companies importing GM salmon, NGO's Thibault Rehn claims it's important to shed light on issue, says companies should be transparent on the issue

Campaign: C-BAN identifies companies that import GE salmon, urges readers to contact restaurants, grocery stores, and legislators urging them to reject GE salmon and see that it's labeled

Commentary: The Packer's Tom Karst writes Bayer's purchase of Monsanto won't appease NGOs, who are already proclaiming Bayer as "the new Monsanto," cites Andrew Kimbrell's statement, public input opposing GE Citrus tristeza virus to combat citrus greening

Commentary: Quartz reporter notes Bayer will retire Monsanto name once purchase is finalized, but "everything will stay exactly the same," highlights Roundup carcinogen status; Center for Food Safety's Andrew Kimbrell notes dropping name does not drop liability

Commentary: Stonyfield Organic's Gary Hirshberg and Just Label It's Scott Faber criticize USDA's proposed GM labeling rules, say it will confuse consumers by using confusing language, leaving loopholes so not all GM food is labeled, and allowing QR codes that exclude people without smartphones

News release: USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service announces preliminary determination for deregulation of herbicide-tolerant, GM cotton variety, notes 30-day period for public comment on environmental assessment

[More North America items](#)

Africa

Commentary: International Law Office interprets, explains South Africa's Genetically Modified Organisms Act, notes country also is subject to Cartagena Protocol

Commentary: U.S.-based NGO publishes researcher's uneasiness at disconnect between AGRA's plans for green revolution and Tanzania's small holder farmers

Video: NTV Kenya reports agency approves national trials for GM cotton to aid farmers, who report high cotton production costs due to numerous pesticide applications required for non-GM cotton; notes Kenyan research shows Bt cotton has protected against pests, reduced pesticide use, increased yields

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

News: Filipino news site reports flaw in seed law allows fake GM seed proliferation, hurts seed sector

News: The Indian Express reports area cultivated with illegal herbicide-tolerant GM cotton seeds is likely to fall this year, as state govt's took early action to crack down on sales, farm activist Kishore Tiwari noted the supply of HT seeds is clearly meeting a farmer demand

News: Manila Bulletin reports Golden Rice gets third major certification as U.S. FDA approves the GM crop, notes organizations developing Golden Rice to supply vitamin A to nutritionally deprived people

Commentary: Third World Network notes surveys show pink bollworm affected 80 percent of India's cotton crop, including Monsanto's Bt Bollgard II crop

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

Commentary: Italy's Libertarian Movement criticizes Nazi-Communist Task Force for a GMO-Free Italy's statement against Giorgio Fidenato to the Udine Public Prosecutor, argues they have no respect for the law, as Fidenato has two judgments in his favor

Announcement: John Innes Center introduces new Knowledge Exchange and Commercialization team dedicated to help commercialize products to help inform policy, get maximum benefit for society

News: Nieuwe Oogst reports on opening of new BeetLab, quotes Institute of Sugar Beet Research head on potential for gene editing to increase industry's competitiveness

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

Commentary: Brazil's Conselho de Informacoes Sobre Biotecnologia amplifies CropLife International study that shows Brazil would earn \$3 billion over 5 years if China's regulatory system were predictable,

science-based

Commentary: Mexican news site reports GM food is safe, offers benefits such as increased yields, increased nutrition, notes genetic modification no different than conventional breeding regarding safety

News: Mexican genetics news site reports ARRIGE seeks global governing of gene editing to promote its responsible use, notes bioethics specialist Gemma Marfany suggests regulating products rather than process

News: Televisa News summarizes activist and peasant efforts to block GM soy cultivation in the Yucatan, says groups' successes in declaring a GE-free state should inspire other communities

News: La Jornada reports Mexican anti-trust agency concerned about Bayer being only GM seed supplier in local markets, requires asset sell-off to BASF; adds that companies may appeal the decision

[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 developments included several activist campaigns in celebration of World Environment Day. Activists announced an agroecology march in Brazil, and Bolivian producers highlighted GM crop potential for the country's food oil production.

- Activists around the world highlighted new campaigns in honor of World Environment Day. In the Philippines, activists noted their ongoing concerns over GM crop introductions in the country and warned against Golden Rice approvals. Greenpeace previewed a new organizing platform to "elevate" environmental activism in Africa. **See more**
- The Movimento dos Pequenos Agricultores issued a statement previewing a public march today through Belo Horizonte, Brazil. The group expected more than 2,000 people to attend the event, which was designed to draw attention to the role of agroecology in Brazil. The march caps events that took place this week as part of the IV Encontro Nacional de Agroecologia (ENA). **See more**
- Bolivia's *La Prensa* reported on a statement from the president of the College of Agriculture Engineers of Santa Cruz highlighting the stagnation of the country's food oil production in recent years. The official went on to highlight efforts by agricultural producers to introduce transgenic crops to the country, adding that they could be one solution to growth. **See more**

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North America

Commentary: Washington Post columnist reports Bayer to drop Monsanto name after merger in campaign to win back consumer trust; Food & Water Watch says if Bayer keeps Monsanto "destructive" products, practices it will be synonymous with enviro, public health disaster

News release: Center for Food Safety reacts to Bayer's decision to drop Monsanto's name following completion of the acquisition, executive director Andrew Kimbrell noted the move is not surprising, but notes that Bayer will not drop liability in dropping the name

Commentary: The New Food Economy's features editor Joe Fassler argues that Bayer's decision to retire the Monsanto brand is a good thing for the GMO debate, notes it will encourage more in-depth conversations when there is no longer one company to be against

Campaign: Credo Action petition calls for resistance to proposed USDA labeling rules before July 3 input deadline; says consumers will be "misled" by "Monsanto's dangerous GMO labeling rule"

Commentary: Industrial automation news site editor says USDA proposed labeling laws shift accountability for public health/environment from government to food manufacturers

Commentary: University of Maryland School of Public Policy professor Kathleen M. Vogel writes for Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, analyzes research conducted by her students providing a global

snapshot of regulatory policies and attitudes towards CRISPR

News release: CRISPRcon: Conversations on Science, Society and the Future of Gene Editing taking place in Boston, hosted by the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard and the McGovern Institute for Brain Research at MIT

Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Andrew Porterfield examines how lessons from the GMO debate can lead the way for public acceptance of gene drive technology, notes importance of understanding and addressing potential public objections

News: Canada's Maclean's magazine reports on secrecy surrounding buyers of AquaBounty's GE salmon, highlights import documents obtained by NGO Vigilance OGM, AquaBounty stated it did not reveal its customers over fears that they would be unfairly attacked

Commentary: Marion Nestle questions whether golden rice will really help curb vitamin A deficiency, highlights FDA's conclusion that golden rice does not contain enough beta-carotene to merit a health claim

More North America items

Africa

News release: Greenpeace Africa announces launch of new online campaign platform, VUMA.earth, to allow users to set up petitions, communicate with supporters and set up offline events with goal of spreading the environment movement in Africa

Commentary: Writing for The Ecologist on World Environment Day, Daniel Cima of ENVJUSTICE, explains how environmental justice movement is transforming world, highlights data from ENVJUSTICE's Atlas of Environmental Justice notes 23 pesticide conflicts despite known negative impact on health, environment

Commentary: Francesca Mancuso of Italian green living magazine GreenMe writes for Lo Spillo, examines recent protest against release of GE mosquitoes in Burkina Faso organized by Citizen Collective for Agroecology, voices opposition to Monsanto

News: Burkina Faso news outlet reports on recent protest against GMOs led by Citizen Collective for Agroecology (CCAIE), CCAIE coordinator Blandine Sankara voiced concern about potential impacts of GE mosquitoes and Bt cowpea

News: GNA reports Ghana peasant farm groups with funding from anti-GMO Groundswell and OSIWA lobby president to adopt agroecology; supporters claim growing organic promotes health and benefits climate

News: Ghana Broadcasting Corporation reports on Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology Ghana Chapter's call for improvements in science and technology journalism, Professor Walter Sandow Alhassan noted role of media in increasing farmer awareness

News: Nigeria's Leadership reports on biotech tour organized by African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) and South Africa-based AfricaBio for a Nigerian delegation, with goal of sharing information on how small farmers benefit from biotech crops

More Africa items

Asia

News: Filipino news outlet reports on recent Salakyag Marches Against GMO Cartel Destroying PH Agriculture, on occasion of World Environment Day, Roselyn Balmes of Agro-Eco Philippines claimed GMOs degrade the environment and are bad for farmers

News: Philippines news source reports U.S. FDA declares GM Golden Rice safe for human consumption, agreeing with IRRI assessment that Golden Rice safe and nutritious, but plant still not approved for

cultivation and consumption in Philippines and Bangladesh**More Asia items****Europe**

News: The Guardian reports FoE Europe campaigner says Bayer may drop Monsanto name after purchase, but U.S. company's legacy will remain, warns Bayer will face same global resistance as Monsanto has if it continues to sell pesticides and GMO seeds, calls those bad for farmers, consumers, countryside

Commentary: The Guardian's John Vidal voices concern about impact of Bayer-Monsanto deal on farmers, amid other large agribusiness mergers, profiles Indian seed researcher Debal Deb's cultivation of over 1,000 traditional rice varieties to give to farmers

Commentary: French pro-ag news site Alerte Environnement criticizes Bio Consom'actors President Sophie Lakhdar's recent speech at EU Parliament hearing on new breeding techniques, notes she failed to reveal her role as a director of Biocoop

News release: France's Volunteer Reapers announce trial of 12 members set for June 6 in Beziers; activists charged after entering 34 stores to denounce sales of Roundup, other pesticides containing glyphosate; group promotes its fight against GMOs, citing direct link to use of herbicides

News: U.K.'s Feed Navigator reports French National Assembly adopts provision to require on-pack labels stating "fed with GMOs" for animal protein products from animals raised on GM feed, as well as labeling requirements concerning farming methods, geographical origins; bill now moves to Senate for review

Event: Friends of the Earth Spain hosts "Open Parliament on Transgenics: Legal and Political Framework for its Prohibition," argues Spain's cultivation of GM corn has no advantages for producers, consumers or the environment

News: Portugal's Lusa reports on Portuguese Environment Agency (APA) report which found that GM maize cultivation area increased by 3.6 percent in 2017 to 7.3 thousand hectares, Alentejo remained the region with the greatest area at 3,187.2 hectares

Commentary: Francesca Mancuso of Italian green living magazine GreenMe writes for Lo Spillo, examines recent protest against release of GE mosquitoes in Burkina Faso organized by Citizen Collective for Agroecology, voices opposition to Monsanto

Commentary: Slow Food Italy President Gaetano Pascale criticizes USDA's proposed GMO labels as deceptive, voices opposition to use of the term "bioengineered" with which consumers are not as familiar, and use of sunshine imagery

More Europe items**Latin America**

Commentary: Paula Machado and Verônica Pragana of Brazil's National Articulation of Agroecology (ANA) promote the IV National Meeting of Agroecology (ENA) march on June 3 in Belo Horizonte, with two thousand people participating

News: Bolivia's La Prensa reports on ag sector's migration from sunflower to soybean oil, highlights Santa Cruz producers' demand for gov't authorization of GMOs, they prefer GM soybeans due to resistance to pests and effects of climate change

Commentary: Greenpeace Brazil Director Asensio Rodriguez writes Environment Day piece, reflects on environmental threats, notes organized protests have been able to prevent passage of "Poison Package"

Commentary: Oscar Steve of Xataka Mexico examines reasons why 90 percent of Mexican tortillas are

contaminated with GM corn, points to contamination of native corn varieties by imported transgenic corn, highlights permits granted to Monsanto

News: Latin American news outlets report on near completion of Bayer's acquisition of Monsanto, and Bayer's decision not to retain Monsanto's name

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News: Australian farming news outlet reports on impact of Bayer-Monsanto merger on Australia's seed sector, Bayer's expected seed business sales will include a canola breeding facility in Horsham, Victoria, day-to-day breeding activities are unlikely to be impacted

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

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Today's global biotechnology developments included Bayer AG's announcement that it expects to close its takeover of Monsanto Co. this week. In France, a plant biotechnology group issued a statement amplifying the European Union's GRACE assessment showing a GM maize variety is safe.

- Bayer board chairman Werner Baumann announced to investors that Bayer expected to conclude its takeover of Monsanto this Thursday, June 7. During the call, Baumann noted that integration of the companies will begin as soon as BASF has acquired the seed and chemical divestments, which he estimated would take two months. Baumann added that the new company would be known as Bayer and the Monsanto brand name would no longer be used. Media outlets around the world covered the announcement, with commentary in U.S. and European news outlets highlighting the sometimes toxic nature of the Monsanto name. [See more](#)
- France's L'Association française des biotechnologies végétales (AFBV) issued a statement today highlighting the recent conclusion of the EU's GRACE risk assessment on MON810 maize. The French association noted that there have been three studies that have attempted to re-create results from a maize feeding trial conducted by French researcher Gilles-Eric Séralini and that all have shown the safety of the crop. [See more](#)
- News outlets in Burkina Faso amplified the Saturday march protesting the use of GM crops and mosquitoes in that country. While event organizers claimed that over 1,000 people attended the protest, media coverage has been limited. [See more](#)

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North America

Commentary: Fortune's Hallie Detrick examines Bayer's decision not to retain Monsanto's company name following completion of the \$66 billion deal, questions whether removing the name is enough, highlights controversy surrounding Roundup brand

News: Radio ag news source reports Bayer reduces expected earnings from Monsanto purchase after German company forced to divest from various businesses worldwide; EU frustrating U.S. farmers, biotech companies with roadblocks to international approval for GM plants

Commentary: The Farmer's Daughter USA blogger pans yogurt brand FAGE's TV commercial touting its non-GMO verification, says message aimed at millennials, but points out no differences between GMO foods and non-GMO counterparts

News: Food Tank reports that TEEB for Agriculture & Food has issued its preliminary "Scientific and Economic Foundations report," outlining environmental costs of food and agriculture production; calls for "true cost" accounting

Commentary: Beyond Pesticides urges supporters to submit comments to USDA on its proposed rule for labeling GE food, argues proposal fails in "every important respect," asks supporters to use text calling on USDA to reject package labeling with "unreliable" QR codes, also to reject labeling terms of

"bioengineered" or "be"

Study: Annual Review of Nutrition publishes article by U.S. and Canadian university researchers examining attitudes towards GE foods, suggesting much of lay opposition to GE food morally based, while attitudes of many people toward GE food follow "magical" law of contagion

[More North America items](#)

Africa

News: Senegalese news outlet reports on recent anti-GMO protest in Burkina Faso, in response to proposal to import and release GE mosquitoes, Citizen Collective for Agro-Ecology raised concerns about serious consequences for humans and the environment

News: VOA Afrique reports on recent protest in Ouagadougou where over 1,000 demonstrators voiced opposition to introduction of GMOs in Burkina Faso, defending "a healthy and independent agriculture"

News: Uganda's New Vision reports on Molecular Laboratory National Crops Resources Research Institute (NACRRI) cassava researcher Henry Wagaba's call on gov't to expedite passage of biosafety bill, noting farmers can not access resistant cassava varieties without regulations

News: Kenya's Business Daily reports on Agriculture and Food Authority's (AFA) support of Bt cotton adoption, noting potential to triple production and create up to 600,000 jobs in farms and apparel factories, Bt cotton is currently undergoing field trials

Commentary: Sabrina Masinjila of African Centre for Biodiversity recounts recent GMO awareness seminar organized by Tanzanian small farmers' network MVIWATA, Institute of Integrative Biology's Angelika Hilbeck claimed GMOs have failed to live up to promises

[More Africa items](#)

Asia

Commentary: Writing for The Ecologist, Colin Todhunter argues Bayer's purchase of Monsanto ratchets up corporate power over farming, food, will leave farmers and consumers facing more GMOs and pesticides, less choice, deeper price-gouging; he insists agroecology only alternative to corporate system

News: India news outlets reports on Bayer's announcement that it will complete its acquisition of Monsanto on June 7; Press Trust of India notes that Monsanto will not retain its company name

[More Asia items](#)

Europe

News release: Bayer announces plans to close its acquisition of Monsanto on June 7, Monsanto will no longer be a company name, Bayer Crop Science President Liam Condon issued statement on how the combined companies will boost agricultural innovation

Commentary: Germany's Sueddeutsche Zeitung runs op-ed arguing few will be sorry to see Monsanto go after Bayer purchase, insisting company's name stands for what people find bad about globalization, citing decades of legal disputes, alleged health hazards

News: Spain's El Pais consolidates wire service reports that Bayer will abolish Monsanto brand after purchase, says U.S. company's "terrible global image" means group to use Bayer name only, cites huge protests around globe over Monsanto products, policies

News: European news outlets report on Bayer's announcement that it will not retain Monsanto brand following completion of the merger, expected to close on June 7

Commentary: Gregory Rozieres writes for HuffPost France, questions why Monsanto is so hated when other companies like Dow, DuPont and Syngenta have similar histories, highlights high profile coverage

of Monsanto's efforts to discredit its detractors

Event: German NGO Aktion Agrar promotes bicycling tour June 15 through 17 through farms of Lower Saxony to see dairy operations that don't use soy feed from overseas, grow their own organic crops for feed without pesticides

News: La France Agricole reports on three French and European studies that invalidate results of Seralini's infamous rat study, French Association of Plant Biotechnology (AFBV) notes long-term studies do not show any toxic effects of GM corn

Event: European Food Safety Authority to host 5th Roundtable with industry associations (June 13, 2018) in Brussels to discuss administrative, scientific and communication improvements to increase transparency and dialogue during the risk assessment process

[More Europe items](#)

Latin America

News: Reuters reports Mexico's anti-trust agency orders Monsanto-Bayer to disinvest in GMO cotton seed business, all their vegetable seed businesses; regulators say moves needed to prevent Bayer from becoming Mexico's only provider of GMO cotton seeds, obtaining large market share of vegetable seeds

News: Mexico's La Jornada reports on letter from European honey importer group, Naturland cooperative, to Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto, asking him to take measures to prevent contamination by GM soy

[More Latin America items](#)

Oceania

News release: International Seed Federation announces launch of ISF World Seed Congress 2018 in Brisbane, Australia, ISF President Jean-Christophe Gouache emphasized seed industry's mission of unlocking potential of genetic resources to produce more while using less

[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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From: Jay Byrne
 To: Caitrin.Martin@fas.usda.gov
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - June 4, 2018
 Date: Monday, June 4, 2018 4:02:47 PM

Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

In 2014, a Russian-backed outfit promised the world's most comprehensive study into the safety of genetically modified crops and glyphosate. Despite plenty of hubbub about its plans, *BuzzFeed* reports that it never delivered.

The Ramazzini Institute pumped out a series of papers claiming to show glyphosate is dangerous, only to be received by European government regulators as a promulgator of junk science.

The Non-GMO Project portrays itself as an organization dedicated to educating consumers, but *Agweek* criticized its labeling practices as misleading.

All these deceptive tactics are explored in pieces highlighted in this week's Stories Worth Sharing. Other articles describe the push by young Ugandans for biotechnology, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's approval of Golden Rice and a report estimating the financial impact of China's delays in approving biotechnology products.

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: National Association for Genetic Safety



A new report from *BuzzFeed* raises the question of what happened to the now overdue

Stories Worth Sharing

[Dan Vergano: Russian group's promise for world's largest GMO study seems to have been a ruse](#)

[Lominda Afedraru: Youth in Uganda demand lawmakers embrace science, technology and innovation](#)

[Hank Campbell: Europeans have figured out the Ramazzini Institute's junk science on glyphosate](#)

[Sandhya Ramesh: Approved by U.S. FDA, Golden Rice could solve vitamin A deficiency in Asia](#)

[Jonathan Knutson: Non-GMO Project's labeling of non-GMO salt is "downright deceptive"](#)

[Amanda Zaluckyj: Farmers don't "drown" or "douse" their fields with pesticides](#)

[Gregory Bond: Like other chemicals, regulation of suspected endocrine disruptors should be based on risk instead of hazard](#)

[Andrew Newhouse: Biotechnology safely bringing back the American](#)

Factor GMO study that was billed as the definitive investigation into the safety of genetically modified foods and glyphosate.

Promoted in 2014 as a three-year, \$25 million study, any trace of the Factor GMO project has fallen off the map. A board member for the study told *BuzzFeed* he knows nothing about where the project stands, and Factor GMO isn't responding to inquiries.

The Moscow-based National Association for Genetic Safety (NAGS) was one of the key organizers of the Factor GMO launch.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about NAGS and Factor GMO.

CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES.

[chestnut tree](#)

[Reuters: Report finds China's slow biotech approvals costing U.S. companies \\$7 billion](#)

[Jenny Schlecht: Agriculture supporters #BakingWithBetty after science-based support of GMOs by Betty Crocker](#)

CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

What's Trending?

[Study estimates financial impact of China delaying biotech product approvals](#)

[Canada opens 90-day comment period on plan to phase out many uses of imidacloprid](#)

[Macron administration pledges to keep pursuing glyphosate phase-out despite exclusion from France's food bill](#)

[European Commission launches pollinator initiative that includes plan to strengthen pesticide risk assessments](#)

[Whole Foods Market delays plan to require GMO labeling with USDA proposal still in flux](#)

Calendar highlights

June 7	June 7-8	June 8
European Parliament pesticide committee to hear testimony from EFSA, ECHA, Chris Portier	Mid-South Agricultural and Environmental Law Conference	Pesticide Action Network Europe conference on creating pesticide-free towns

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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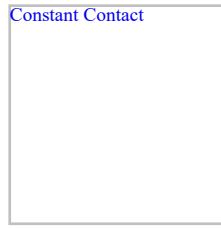
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From: Jay Byrne
 To: Diane.Wray-Cahen@fas.usda.gov
 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - June 1-3, 2018
 Date: Sunday, June 3, 2018 10:30:16 PM

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Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included a *BuzzFeed* report on Factor GMO, a Russian-led, three-year study on GMOs that raised money and disappeared. Kenya announced plans to revamp its textile industry, and part of its plan involves move to commercialize Bt cotton. The Australian and New Zealand governments are considering using gene drive technology to eradicate exotic species that threaten to wipe out native species.

- *BuzzFeed's* Dan Vergano reported it's been more than three years since a Russian group announced a three-year, \$25 million, independent study on GMOs. However, everything except the website, which still accepts donations, has disappeared. This led Vergano to question if the study was Russian propaganda against GMOs like *Russia Today's* "The Peril on Your Plate." [See more](#)
- An Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization official, Charles Waturu, announced plans to revitalize Kenya's textile industry, with a goal of increasing revenue from \$35 million to \$20 billion. The plan initially will rely on hybrids to increase yields, but Waturu there are plans to field test and commercialize Bt cotton. [See more](#)
- *Australian Broadcasting Corp.* reported the federal government is considering using gene drive technology to control or eradicate feral cats and protect native species the cats prey on. *The New Zealand Herald* also reported the New Zealand government is considering the technology to fight non-native rats, stoats, and opossum, which threaten to wipe out thousands of bird, reptile and fish species. [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: BuzzFeed reports on Russia's Factor GMO project, which was launched in 2014 and has since disappeared, University of California, Irvine's Bruce Blumberg was on the project's board but has heard nothing, highlights possibility that it was propaganda

Commentary: Joan Conrow of Cornell Alliance for Science promotes Rothamsted Research's field trials of two lines of gene-edited Camelina plants for increased omega-3 production, potentially impacting sustainable intensification of agriculture

Commentary: Leslie Nemo of Futurism examines U.S. FDA's recent approval of golden rice, highlights the long approval process and opposition, notes U.S. approval brings golden rice one step closer to those who need it most

Commentary: Issues in Science and Technology journal runs piece co-written by Henry I. Miller arguing FDA overreaching with regulation of animals modified using molecular GE techniques, has been disaster for R&D advances in entire sector, calling for White House to bring rationality to oversight of biotechnology products

News: Inhabitat reports more than 60 percent of millennials demand non-GMO food options, 68 percent willing to pay more for organic

News: Midwest Center for Investigative Reporting examines U.S. farmers' reluctance to transition to organic in spite of rising demand and higher profits, due to the costly and strict transition process, highlights reports of imports of fraudulent organic products

Commentary: Popular Science warns consumers that GMOs, any technology developed by Big Ag is inherently suspicious, should be avoided; quotes Jayson Lusk, Perdue economist, that GMOs can be avoided; Dominique Brossard, from University of Wisconsin-Madison, Glenn Stone agree new US labeling law unclear to consumers

Commentary: Biotechnology Innovation Organization reacts to Informa report on "The Impact of Delays in Chinese Approvals of Biotech Crops," which finds significant economic impacts; NGO calls for long-term solution so United States, China, rest of world can benefit economically from biotech products

More North America items

Africa

News: Uganda's Daily Monitor reports National Crops Resources Research Institute's biotechnology labs working on solutions to cassava diseases, but farmers cannot grow bioengineered varieties because of delays in approving biosafety law

News: Chinese news agency Xinhua reports Kenya plans to ramp up cotton production to dramatically increase textile industry income, includes plans for Bt cotton field trials, commercialization

Interview: Environmentalist Nnimmo Bassey explains to Premium Times government should oppose GMOs because they reduce plant diversity, pose a threat to human health from pesticide use, monopolize food system

Commentary: London-based Tanzanian writer/musician writing in Tanzanian newspaper warns introduction of GMO crops into Africa will harm small farmers by bringing in large-scale agriculture, driving up farming costs

Commentary: African news site reports activists march against Monsanto, GMOs on June 2 in Ouagadougou, claim Bt cowpea will cause food poisoning; credits first march in 2015 with ending Bt cotton cultivation

More Africa items

Asia

Commentary: Fortune India deputy editor points out Bt cotton helped make India world's largest cotton producer, cut farmers' costs through pesticide use reduction; points out recent policies endanger continued success by discouraging innovators from investing in research and development

News: Filipino tech news site reports vitamin A-rich golden rice will soon be available in the Philippines, following recent approvals by international food regulators, highlights Philippine Rice Research Institute's development of local varieties with the trait

Interview: Vietnamese professor tells Vietnam news site that GMOs are positive development because they improve yield, farmer income but should be evaluated cautiously because there could be threat to environment, health

More Asia items

Europe

News: Reuters amplifies German news outlet report that Bayer set to close Monsanto takeover on Thursday

News: The European Scientist reports research team bio-engineered tobacco to over-produce H-protein,

led to crop production increases of 27 to 47 percent by speeding up photorespiration; notes genetic modification could lead to higher yields in food crops

News: EU Observer reports European Commission leaving it up to Member States to come up with "strategic plans" for achieving goals of Common Agriculture Policy, such as reductions in greenhouse gases, but environmental groups criticize approach, warn environment "cannot survive" another decade of intensive agriculture

News: The Poultry Site reports Swedish Poultry Meat Association members barred from using GMO soya in feed, antibiotics critical in human health

Commentary: NGO GM-free Scotland discusses development of GM brewers yeast in California that would allow craft brewers to create beer with yeast alone, no hops needed; NGO urges people to avoid drinking beer made with "GM micro-fungus related to lot of diseases"

More Europe items

Latin America

News: Mexican news agency reports scientist Francisco Bolivar Zapata says GM crops increase yields, increase farmer income, does not negatively impact the environment or health

News: Brazilian news site reports that a review of 118 published scientific articles examining allergenic effects of GM foods found they do not cause more allergies than normal food and also do not promote allergies in people who are not allergic

News: La Jornada reports National Autonomous University of Mexico's Elena Alvarez says government must stop "toxic" GM corn from reaching Mexican tables and contaminating native corn species

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian Broadcasting Corporation reports government considering using gene drive technology to control feral cat population in attempt to save native animals, but scientists say there are risks,

News: The New Zealand Herald reports government considering using biotechnology to wipe out invasive predators by 2050; officials question whether enough funding available without biotechnology breakthrough

More Oceania items

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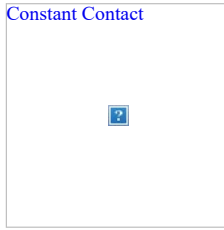
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