

From: Jay Byrne  
 To: Diane Wray-Cohen@fas.usda.gov  
 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Dec. 27-28, 2018  
 Date: Friday, December 28, 2018 9:04:48 PM

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## Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

### BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Global biotechnology developments during the past two days of monitoring included a study indicating Australia's delays in approving GM canola have had negative environmental and economic impacts.

- *The Western Producer* reported a study by researchers from the University of Saskatchewan and SGA Solutions used Canadian GM canola data to estimate how much the 10-year delay cost Australia, finding a net loss of 1.1 million tons, costing \$485.6 million in Australian dollars. The study found the delay caused additional inputs totaling 6.5 million kilograms to be applied and a release of 24.2 million kg in additional greenhouse gas emissions. **See more**

**HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:** Your next Global Biotech Snapshot will be sent on Wednesday, Jan. 2, when the regular schedule will resume. Please visit the monitoring portal for updates.

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## North America

**Commentary: Reason posts piece by science author Ronald Bailey calling USDA's new National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard "useless and costly," pointing out agency admits new rules not expected to benefit human health, environment; Bailey warns implementing rules will drive up food prices**

**Commentary: Well+Good contributor attempts to answer whether GMOs are "bad for you" quotes UCLA's Dana Hunnes who cautions people about who sponsors GMO studies because it influences favorable outcomes; says easiest way to avoid GMOs is to buy organic**

**News: Supermarket News report Food Marketing Institute (FMI) praised USDA's final GMO labeling rule, FMI President and CEO Leslie Sarasin commended USDA's introduction of more precise vocabulary to enhance consumer understanding**

**Commentary: U.S. Right to Know investigates UC Davis plant pathologist Pamela Ronald, highlighting her ties to what it describes as "industry front groups" like Genetic Literacy Project and American Council on Science and Health**

**[More North America items](#)**

## Africa

**News: AgroNigeria reports on Institute of Agricultural Research; Ahmadu Bello University Zaria's request for commercialization approval for GM cowpeas, researcher Mohammed Ishiyaku noted benefits of reduced production costs, reduced pesticide use and higher yield**

**News: Nigeria's This Day reports on accusations made by coalition of NGOs against National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA), led by Health of Mother Earth Foundation, the group alleges that NBMA is**

**a revenue-generating agency that does not prioritize public health**

**[More Africa items](#)**

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## Asia

**Commentary: M.S. Sriram of Indian Institute of Management Bangalore writes for Mint, examining discourse surrounding farmer suicides, including recent Mint article arguing that the idea is popularized by anti-GMO activists, believes farmer suicides should not be dismissed as a fake statistic**

**Commentary: Third World Network amplifies paper on socioeconomic impact of GMOs on Beekeeping in Spain and Uruguay, following EU Court ruling that honey or pollen products containing GMOs must be regulated as GMOs, even if the contamination is unintentional**

**[More Asia items](#)**

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## Europe

**Commentary: French pro-science blogger Houssen Moshinaly looks back at 2018 as "a dark year for science," citing EU Court of Justice ruling on NBT seeds, EU ban on neonics, efforts to ban glyphosate, predicts even worse 2019, criticizing activists, media for obscurantism**

**News: All About Feed reports on EU Commission report on EU protein crop production, highlights a few trends, including growing demand for non-GMO feeds, opening potential for premium feed production**

**Commentary: Wageningen University professor emeritus Hans Tramper continues his essay series on golden rice, amplifies ETH Zurich researcher and golden rice developer Ingo Potrykus' defense of the technology, noting it will benefit those who need it, not industry**

**News: Belgium's La Capitale subscription report says more farmers in Verviers region switching to producing GMO-free guaranteed milk, with dairy group Arla selling large part of Belgian production in Germany, smaller percentage in Netherlands**

**[More Europe items](#)**

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## Latin America

**Commentary: Federal Rural University of Rio de Janeiro agronomist Maria Thereza Pedrosa examines problems that can arise when NGOs use public funding to contradict gov't-supported initiatives, such as National Council of Food Security's opposition to Embrapa's GM beans in 2011**

**News: Argentina's Cholila Online reports on activist groups' concerns about gov't approval of GM potato and wheat varieties, Fernando Frank of Valle de Conlara Peasant Association warned about contamination of conventional wheat**

**Interview: Argentine Chief Cabinet Secretary of Agribusiness, Santiago del Solar, highlights the importance of gene editing in Argentina; says they will not put 20 million tons of grains at risk with the approval of transgenic wheat, note it's impossible to completely segregate wheat**

**Commentary: Uruguayan news site reports Chalmers University study finds organic food production harms planet more than conventional ag; forestry agronomist Gaston Carro says it's a fallacy, cites Rodale Institute study that found organic methods more drought tolerant, more profitable, while conventional farms use agrochemicals, have 40% more greenhouse gas emissions**

**[More Latin America items](#)**

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## Oceania

**News: Western Producer reports on study by University of Saskatchewan Melbourne-based SGA Solutions researchers which found that Australia's delay in adopting GM canola has negative economic**

and environmental costs

**News: New Zealand Herald reports on new regulatory hurdle for Impossible Burger, which has already been granted GRAS (Generally Recognised as Safe) status from U.S. FDA, FDA is now requiring that theme be formally approved as a color additive**

[More Oceania items](#)

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<p><b>Stakeholder database</b></p> <p>More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.</p>	<p><b>Events calendar</b></p> <p>See where news could be happening next. Or let allies know about an upcoming event.</p>	<p><b>Bonus Eventus community</b></p> <p>Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.</p>
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Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Global biotechnology developments during the holiday monitoring included Argentina nearing a decision that could make it the first to approve genetically modified wheat. German media reported rapeseed containing traces of unauthorized GM rapeseed has been distributed throughout the country. Commentary continued on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's biotech disclosure rules.

- Argentine news sites and NGOs expressed concern over the government's recent approval of a GM potato and pending decision on commercializing drought-tolerant wheat. An editorial in *El Ancaesti* said the decisions place profitability over public health. Santiago del Solar, chief of staff for the secretary of agribusiness, noted that GM wheat would be highly disruptive to trade markets and is nearly impossible to completely segregate from conventional wheat. Del Solar said the agency would not endanger the country's export of 20 million tons of wheat. **See more**
- German media reported about six tons of rapeseed with traces of unapproved, glyphosate-tolerant rapeseed have been distributed to at least 10 German states. Some of the seed has been planted, and German authorities said the seed and plants must be destroyed, with farmers receiving compensation. The GM rapeseed is identified as Bayer's Dekalb GT73 variety. The NGO Keine-Gentechnik said French authorities also discovered trace amounts of the GM rapeseed in conventional seed. **See more**
- Agricultural groups, politicians, media and NGOs continued to comment on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's recently released GMO labeling regulations. U.S. Rep. Chellie Pingree of Maine criticized the rules as "an insult to consumers," accusing the USDA of launching a pro-GMO marketing campaign. *Capital Press* reported several NGO leaders called the rules misleading for consumers. The regulations received praise from several agricultural groups, including the American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Corn Growers Association, the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives and the American Soybean Association. **See more**

**HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:** Your next Global Biotech Snapshot will be sent on Friday, Dec. 28, before the regular schedule resumes on Wednesday, Jan. 2. Please visit the monitoring portal for updates.

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## North America

**Commentary: MIT PhD candidate Gabi Serrato Marks writes for Massive Science, examines potential for GMOs to help mitigate effects of climate change, such as use of GE mosquitoes to curb spread of disease, and GE seagrass to aid in carbon reduction**

**News: Quartz reports USDA loophole could exempt one-sixth of products from GM status, requiring no disclosure on labels; American Farm Bureau Federation calls rule victory for consumers**

**News: Restaurant Business reports menu trends in 2018 included greater transparency as consumers sought food free from GMOs, antibiotics, hormones and preservatives, all perceived as healthier choices**

**Commentary: Food Babe Vani Hari offers peak inside her upcoming book "Feeding You Lies," which she says will shake up food industry deceptions like "non-GMO" and "all-natural" labels,**

**News: National Review reports USDA releases GMO labeling rules, does not cover highly refined products, sets threshold allowance at 5 percent, and allows 4 disclosure options**

**[More North America items](#)**

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## Africa

**Commentary: Michael J. Ssali of Uganda's Daily Monitor responds to reader criticism of his support for passage of the Biosafety Bill, highlights gov't funding of GE crops to protect them from being decimated by drought and pests**

**News: Nigeria's Daily Trust reports on public presentation held by National Biosafety Management Agency ahead of commercial release of Bt cowpea, researcher Ishiyaku Mohammed explained economic gains, as well as environmental benefit of reduced pesticide use**

**Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science notes Ugandan scientists, science NGO representatives educating local leaders on benefits of GM plants in effort to spread word to farmers; notes country's failure to pass biosafety law stalling effort to distribute disease-resistant GM cassava to farmers**

**News: Ugandan news site reports anti-biotech NGOs happy with amendments to newly passed biosafety bill**

**[More Africa items](#)**

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## Asia

**Commentary: Manu Joseph of India's Mint describes the concept of "farmer suicides" as having "the qualities of stupendously successful fake news," notes activists like Vandana Shiva benefit the most from spreading propaganda that debt is leading farmers to suicide**

**Commentary: The Hindu associate editor says controversy over Swaminathan's flawed, co-authored paper criticizing GM crops and subsequent disavowal highlights "perils of agenda-driven activism in the cloak of scientific rigor"**

**Commentary: Colin Todhunter interviews Aruna Rodrigues on India's GMO issue; Rodrigues dismisses Fedoroff as longtime GM supporter whose advice was dismissed regarding Bt eggplant, says Fedoroff is wrong to advocate for biotech crops because numerous studies indicate possibility for harm, says agroecology is far better to mitigate climate change**

**News: Xinhua reports Chinese scientists claim to develop GM pigs immune from classical swine fever virus, university researchers use CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing tool; gene-edited pigs infected with virus survived CSFV that killed unedited pigs**

**[More Asia items](#)**

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## Europe

**Commentary: German NGO Keine-Gentechnik notes German farmers planted rapeseed with traces of GM variety, notes Bayer reports 6 tons of the seed sold in Germany and farmers will have to destroy crops if seed has been planted**

**News: Norwegian newspaper devoted to research news reports tests showed rats suffered no ill effects after being fed GM corn for six months, twice length of typical tests; findings refute Seralini research, but member of biotechnology advisory board says GMOs must be considered on case-by-case basis**

**Study: Food and Chemical Toxicology publishes review article led by Russian university researchers addressing what happens to DNA derived from GM food in human body, finding limited evidence dietary DNA can integrate in genome of somatic cells or gut bacteria, noting mechanical and chemical processing compromises DNA integrity**

**News: Northern Ireland ag publication reports MEP Diane Dodds urges Prime Minister Theresa May to return to Parliament with Brexit deal that delivers in best interests of Northern Ireland; worries a fast-tracked Brexit could create divergence standards for glyphosate, GM products**

**More Europe items**

## Latin America

**News: Argentina's Pagina 12 reports on concerns following gov't approval of GM potatoes and wheat, with several NGOs warning about negative impacts on human health and the environment, and allegations about conflicts of interest in safety assessments**

**News: ETC Group's Silvia Ribeiro writes for La Jornada, claims reports of unexpected side effects in gene-edited animals include rabbits with elongated tongues, sheep with extra vertebrae**

**Commentary: Federal Rural University of Rio de Janeiro agronomist Maria Theresza Pedroso examines problems that can arise when NGOs use public funding to contradict government-supported initiatives, such as National Council of Food Security's opposition to Embrapa's GM beans in 2011**

**Commentary: Brazilian news site applauds Mexico's Lopez Obrador for promising to ban transgenic seeds; article claims transgenics fail to increase yields, boost incomes of small farmers, harm ecosystem**

**More Latin America items**

## Oceania

**News: Australia's Farm Online reports on Pairwise CEO Tom Adams' speech at Bayer's Future of Farming Dialogue in Germany, he emphasized need to focus on consumer appeal to ensure future of new gene editing technologies**

**More Oceania items**

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

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## Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

### BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Global biotechnology developments in today's monitoring included continued commentary on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's biotech disclosure regulations.

- Stakeholders continued commenting on the USDA's newly released GMO labeling rules. Biology Fortified's Anastasia Bodnar deemed them confusing, pointing out the rules acknowledge GMOs are safe and the labels are for marketing purposes. A Non-GMO Project blog objected to exemptions for processed ingredients and gene-edited products. *Consumer Reports* said the rules prevent easy identification of GMOs. **See more**

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## North America

**News: Reuters reports on USDA's publication of final GMO labeling rule, Center for Food Safety's Andrew Kimbrell accused USDA of betraying the public's trust, American Soybean Association's Davie Stephens believes it allows for transparency for consumers**

**Commentary: Non-GMO Project blog criticizes USDA's final GMO labeling rule, objecting to various exemptions, promotes itself as being the only source of transparent labeling that consumers seeking to avoid GMOs can rely on**

**Report: USDA Foreign Agricultural Service GAIN Report provides 2018 annual biotech update for the EU, finds that the EU relies heavily on imports, and that EU Court's ruling on new breeding techniques has potential to inhibit research and create trade disruptions**

**Campaign: Biotechnology Innovation Organization sends letter to President Trump, welcoming his recent meeting with President Xi of China to address issues of forced technology transfer, intellectual property protection and agriculture, calls for work to resolve barriers to biotech approvals,**

**News: South Dakota news outlet reports on Calyxt's plans to release four to six new gene edited crop varieties in 2019, following excitement surrounding its high oleic, gene edited soybean variety, Calyxt's Thomas Stoddard noted need for more acres to meet demand**

**[More North America items](#)**

## Africa

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

**[More Africa items](#)**

## Asia



**News: Vietnamese news outlet reports on data showing that transgenic maize outperforms traditional maize varieties in terms of production, and reduces input costs, enabling farmers to earn 28 percent more profit**

[More Asia items](#)

## Europe

**News: Deutsche Presse-Agentur reports Environment Ministry announces seven Rhineland-Palatinate companies have been supplied with contaminated GM rape seed; rapeseed from modified GT73 line approved in EU for use as food and feed, but cultivation banned; majority of GM seed already sown in two districts**

**News release: Bavaria environment, consumer protection ministry report nine farmers impacted by GM rapeseed contamination, must eradicate crops**

**Commentary: Christophe Noisette of Inf'OGM examines Argentina's approval of AquaBounty's gene edited tilapia variety, questions whether results of increased growth and food conversion rates are realistic under real breeding conditions**

[More Europe items](#)

## Latin America

**Announcement: Oscar Bautista Villa of Mexico's Green Party calls for update to GMO biodiversity law to establish deadlines for gov't agencies to take action to respond to violations that pose risks or lead to damage to human health or the environment**

**News: Argentinian ag news site reports on Brazilian and Argentinian regulatory bodies' approvals for research in gene edited animals, Intrexon is working on a gene edited tilapia in Argentina, and Agro Partners Consulting is working on hornless cattle in Brazil**

**News: Colombia Reports reports on criticism of Colombia's ambassador to the U.N. for abstaining in vote on peasant right declaration, highlights concerns about intellectual property rights on GM 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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## Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

### BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Global biotechnology developments in today's monitoring included the U.S. Department of Agriculture releasing its GMO labeling regulations. The European Parliament announced its agriculture and environment committees will meet to discuss the European Court of Justice decision on gene editing. And there was new promotion of a study by Ghanaian scientists finding that commercializing GM cowpea would add millions of dollars to the country's economy.

- Media and stakeholders reported and commented on the new USDA labeling rules for GM products. *The Wall Street Journal* reported Grocery Manufacturers Association general counsel Karin Moore said the USDA "made a sound decision to empower industry to give (consumers) more information about the products they consume." Anti-biotech NGOs criticized the rules, noting the regulations don't take effect until 2022, do not require GMO-derived products to be labeled and allow QR code use. Food and Water Watch executive director Wenonah Hauter said the rules "intentionally confuse consumers" by using the term "bioengineered" rather than the more familiar "GMO." **See more**
- The European Parliament's agriculture and environment committees will meet Jan. 7 to exchange views on the EU court's decision on regulating new breeding techniques. The announcement noted the decision would allow only large companies to invest in such techniques and "does not provide the necessary regulatory clarity needed by EU researchers, innovators and academics." **See more**
- Ghanaian journalists writing for the Cornell Alliance for Science reported a study concluded releasing a new variety of GM cowpea would increase the area's economy by \$52 million by 2025. The study also found that a five-year delay in approval would mean a loss of \$35 million for Ghana. Savannah Agric Research Institute scientists have completed field trials on the Bt cowpea and are expected to apply for commercial release soon. **See more**

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## North America

**[News: U.S. news outlets report on USDA's announcement of GMO labeling guidelines, which companies will be required to implement by 2022, the rule may face legal challenges as food and consumer groups review its provisions](#)**

**[News release: Environmental Working Group's Scott Faber criticizes USDA's final GMO labeling rule, claims it fails to carry out Congress' intent to create a mandatory disclosure standard that includes all GE foods using terms consumers understand](#)**

**[News: Canada's Country Guide reports on University of Guelph study showing steps needed for successful weed control in non-GMO soybeans, especially considering challenges associated with herbicide resistant-weeds](#)**

**[News release: FoodChain ID \(formerly Genetic-ID founded by Maharishi movement Raja John Fagan\) announces record sales month for Non-GMO Project certifications; Fairfield, IA-based for-profit claims more than 1,000 submissions in November](#)**

**Commentary: Science communicator blog amplifies Grace GMO 90+ project, other studies refuting Seralini GMO risk claims, says research is big step in fighting back against biotech pseudoscience**

**More North America items**

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## Africa

**Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science publishes talk by Nigerian farmer Chibuikwe Emmanuel at meeting hosted by World Bank for some Alliance Fellows, he calls on World Bank Group to take three steps to ensure access to ag innovation, promotes GM cowpea development**

**News: Nigeria's Sahel Standard reports on National Biosafety Management Agency Director General Rufus Ebegba's reaction to protests led by Health of Mother Earth Foundation following release of GM cowpea, accusing activists of acting out of ignorance**

**News: Business in Cameroon reports national cotton development company Sodecoton revokes decision to introduce GMO cotton in order to boost output; officials say they have developed conventional cotton varieties that aren't GM but are high-yielding**

**News: Zambia's Q-FM reports Zambia Consumer Association appeals to government to rescind decision to allow import of some products containing GMOs; ZACA executive secretary accuses National Biosafety Authority of spreading misinformation about GMOs, claims they damage human liver, kidney, other organs**

**More Africa items**

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## Asia

**Commentary: Sandhya Ramesh writes for India's The Print, amplifies rebuttals to controversial paper by P.C. Kesavan and M.S. Swaminathan on GM crops by members of the scientific community, highlights potential of GM mustard to reduce imports**

**Commentary: Writing in India's The Print, geneticist argues Swaminathan controversial paper on GMOs is worrisome, relies on biased research, limits progress to achieve regulations needed to give farmers access to good technology**

**News: Business Recorder reports Pakistan running out of fresh water, facing famine, malnutrition causing reduction in average height of Pakistanis; speakers at University of Karachi news conference cite urgent need for country to adopt modern ag technologies, note biotech crops have contributed to food security, sustainability globally**

**News: Voice of China reports China deputy ag minister responds to TV reports ag department cafeteria doesn't serve GMOs, says while cafeteria doesn't have supply chain carrying GM products, country promotes biotech innovation, prudence, safety assessments**

**More Asia items**

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## Europe

**News: EurActiv Germany reports on concerns about impact of EU Court ruling on new breeding techniques, highlighting reactions from politician Kees de Vries, German Farmers' Association (DBV) and German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture**

**Commentary: Vandana Shiva says study finding organic farming more harmful to climate than conventional is pseudoscience, good PR for ag industry, argues research should measure "health per acre" vs "yield per acre"**

**Commentary: European Scientist highlights tendency, consequences of media putting negative spin on science-based info, cites French report alleging unproven link between GMO soybeans, mad cow disease, notes confusion, misinformation often accompanying media amplification of IARC**

**carcinogenicity reviews**

**Commentary: Writing in Euronews, French farmers says politicians do disservice to country by pandering to consumer GMO/pesticide disillusiones resulting from living in an affluent society free of hunger**

**More Europe items**

**Latin America**

**News: Brazil news site reports Sugarcane Technology Center approves second variety of borer-resistant GM sugarcane, promises economic gains with increased productivity, better quality sugar; notes environmental studies found no adverse impact on soil, cane biodegradability, or non-invasive insect populations**

**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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Global biotechnology developments in today's monitoring included reporting on the Nigerian government's approval for farmers to cultivate GM cowpeas.

- Nigeria's *The Guardian* reported the federal government approved GM cowpeas following nine years of field trials. National Biosafety Management Agency Director-General Rufus Ebegba noted the new technology faced suspicion and concerns. Ebegba said, "We would not fail in the discharge of our responsibility in the area of safety to humans in regulation of application, handling and use of GMOs." Media also reported anti-biotech NGOs led by Health of Mother Earth Foundation met with press to denounce the approval and called on the government to ban GM food imports and cultivation "due to their health risks." Richard Olafare, president of the Seed Entrepreneur Association of Nigeria, said the seed industry would not accept GMOs from foreign lands and that any GM crop should be domestically produced. [See more](#)

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## North America

**Commentary: "Farmer's Daughter U.S.A." Amanda Zaluckyj criticizes Non-GMO Project for profiting off of demonizing safe technology, hopes that USDA's new federal labeling standard will diminish Non-GMO Project's market value**

**News: Fish Information and Services reports Intrexon and AquaBounty announce GE line of tilapia they developed won't be considered as GMO in Argentina; companies note tilapia developed using GE techniques, don't contain any foreign DNA or new combination of genetic material**

**News: Ontario farm news source reports on remarks by Intrexon official at recent Grow Canada conference in Ottawa; Jack Bobo says agriculture faces challenges from public resistance to new technology, change, discusses importance of communicating science knowledge to consumers**

[More North America items](#)

## Africa

**News: The Guardian Nigeria reports on release of GM cowpeas to farmers, National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) Director General Rufus Ebegba urged Nigerian farmers not to shun new technologies based on fear of the unknown**

**News: Local news source reports NGO, Health of Mother Earth Foundation, calls on Nigerian government to ban the importation of GMO food products and crops "due to their health risks;" notes HOMEF director accuses the nation's National Bio-Safety Management Agency of being "compromised"**

**News: AgroNature Nigeria reports Seed Entrepreneur Association of Nigeria (SEEDAN) President Richard Olafare warned GMOs from foreign nations will not be accepted by Nigerian seed industries, calling for efforts to domesticate the technology**

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

**News: ISAAA reports Japan's Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare announces proposal to allow most genome-edited food currently under development to be marketed without safety screening by the state; the decision is expected to accelerate the creation of more nutritious and improved crops**

**News: India's Financial Express reports Delhi High Court allows Competition Commission of India to investigate Monsanto, its group companies and country directors for alleged violations of anti-trust laws; court dismisses Monsanto's pleas, says firm's directors will be held liable for abusing dominant position in India's Bt cotton business**

**Commentary: Third World Network's Biosafety Information Centre amplifies study by Brazilian researchers, published in Environmental Pollution, that finds glyphosate and Bt proteins are toxic to stingless bees; NGO notes native Brazilian bees exposed to Bt proteins from transgenic plants**

**News release: Israeli biotech company Evogene Ltd. And Brazilian plant breeding company Tropical Melhoramento & Genetica S/A (TMG) announce collaboration to develop non-GMO nematode-resistant soybean variety using genome editing technology**

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**Commentary: Philippe Joudrier writes first of two-part series on mutagenesis for European Scientist, examines distinction in recent EU Court ruling between random and targeted mutagenesis, examines different types of mutations that can arise**

**Commentary: Gilles-Eric Seralini writes for Reporterre, defends his original findings about toxicity of GMOs and glyphosate in spite of publication of new, independent study contradicting them, notes his studies have yet to be repeated**

**Commentary: Blogger Nathalie MP writes for France's Contrepoints, examines publication of third study confirming safety of GM maize, contradicting Seralini's findings, laments impact of the hype surrounding his study on public perception of GMOs**

**Commentary: Karl Bockholt of Germany's Agrarheute believes use of CRISPR gene editing technology could help boost winter beet yields by making them resistant to cold temperatures, notes such techniques are not available for use in Europe**

**Commentary: German NGO Netzfrauen criticizes Gates Foundation's partnership with WHO, says Bill Gates brings GE lobby with him, cites his hunger alliance with Monsanto, vaccination alliance with Big Pharma**

**Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Andrew Porterfield examines EU's contradictory policies on glyphosate and copper sulfate, notes that while European agencies have deemed glyphosate safe, they have warned about health and environmental risks of copper sulfate**

[More Europe items](#)

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## Latin America

**News: Brazil news site reports Sugarcane Technology Center approves second variety of borer-resistant GM sugarcane, promises economic gains with increased productivity, better quality sugar; notes environmental studies found no adverse impact on soil, cane biodegradability, or non-invasive insect populations**

**News: Mexico's La Jornada Maya reports Mayan beekeepers meet with federal officials in Mexico City,**

**ask for ban on use of agrochemicals, aerial and transgenic fumigations in Yucatan Peninsula, want peninsula declared emergency zone for use of agro-toxins; agencies agree to review use of fipronil and neonics in field**

**News: Brazil's Valor reports on hopes voiced by Syngenta global head of crop protection Jon Parr that 2019 will be more stable without elections; Parr described economic advantages for the company following its acquisition by ChemChina**

[More Latin America items](#)

## Oceania

**News: ISAAA reports Australian OGTR receives application for GMO chickpea for field trial of with drought and environmental stress tolerance; notes GM chickpea would not be used for food or feed, public can comment on risk assessment and management plan**

[More Oceania items](#)

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

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## Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

### BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Global biotechnology developments in today's monitoring featured an Argentina regulatory exemption of Intrexon-AquaBounty GE tilapia and an escalation in the GMO debate in Nigeria.

- Animal biotechnology was a popular topic in today's reporting. *The Washington Post* [reported](#) on advances in research with gene-edited animals, noting Charles Long of Texas A&M University plans to move parts of his research to Brazil, where the regulatory path is more certain. The coverage coincided with a National Association of State Departments of Agriculture [news release](#) on its plan to make a regulatory framework on animal biotechnology a top policy goal for 2019. In related news, Intrexon and AquaBounty announced Argentina's National Advisory Commission on Agricultural Biotechnology (CONABIA) granted a regulatory exemption for development of a gene-edited tilapia, FLT 01, citing it as the first gene-edited animal to receive a regulatory exemption due to its designation of non-GMO ([see more](#)).
- It was an active day on biotech issues in Nigeria. There was continued coverage of a recent biotech media training roundtable that featured comments from experts on the importance of Nigeria's embrace of biotechnology. Cornell Alliance for Science amplified warnings by the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria's (ARCN) Yarama Ndirpaya that Nigeria will be worse off if it fails to embrace new technologies of the gene revolution ([see more](#)). Nigeria news outlets also covered a demonstration Monday by a coalition of anti-GM groups that are issuing a public denouncement of Nigeria's unchecked admission of GM crops and products. The group is calling for nullification of all GMO permits already granted and a review of Nigeria's biosafety law ([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: Washington Post reports on advances in research with gene-edited animals, amid ongoing regulatory challenges, Charles Long of Texas A&M University plans to move parts of his research to Brazil, where the regulatory path is more certain](#)**

**[News release: National Association of State Departments of Agriculture members identify top policy goals for 2019, new areas of focus include animal biotech, with plans to advocate for a regulatory framework that ensures timely approvals](#)**

**[Campaign: Change.org petition by Calgary resident urges Canadian ag minister Lawrence Macaulay to create 35 percent subsidy up to \\$350,000 to help Canadian farmers transition to non-GMO, organic crops; claims supermarket foods inundated with pesticides that are carcinogenic, EDCs harmful to health, environment](#)**

**[Campaign: Non-GMO Project partners with Mother Jones Magazine, "the go-to destination for in-depth investigation of Big Ag," to offer cut-rate ads for non-GMO verified products in April 2019 edition; publication to be part of Non-GMO Project "2019 Non-GMO Challenge"](#)**

**[News: Civil Eats reports growing number of farmers believe climate change real, discusses whether](#)**

**federal government might help them make changes needed to adjust; National Farmers Union official says farmers won't be able to genetically engineer their way out of climate change**

**More North America items**

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## Africa

**News: The Daily Sun reports National Biosafety Management Agency, anti-GMO groups battle over release of GM crops into Nigerian market; opponents accuse government of trying to destabilize nation's agricultural systems by letting some companies, such as Monsanto, do business; NBMA director calls critics "ignorant"**

**Commentary: Writer for Nigeria's Leadership presents arguments in favor of Nigeria embracing genetic revolution, quoting experts from OFAB, other pro-agricultural technology groups; African Agricultural Technology Foundation official touts its work on Bt cowpea to build resistance against pod-borer**

**Commentary: Daily Monitor publishes ACODE NGO oped supporting Uganda GMO regulations which include strict liability rules citing alleged GM crop risks to health, environment and economy; uses example of Burkina Faso Bt cotton as evidence of need for strict liability to protect Ugandan farmers against harm from companies like Monsanto**

**Commentary: Nkechi Isaac of Cornell Alliance for Science amplifies warning by Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria's (ARCN) Yarama Ndirpaya that Nigeria will be worse-off if it fails to embrace new technologies of the gene revolution**

**Commentary: Joseph Opoku Gakpo and Reuben Quainoo of Cornell Alliance for Science amplify study predicting that Ghana's new GM cowpea variety will add \$52 million to the sector's production economy by 2025, a five-year regulatory delay could cost \$35 million**

**More Africa items**

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## Asia

**Commentary: Gayathri Vaidynathan writes for Science magazine, examines Indian geneticist M.S. Swaminathan's statements distancing himself from a controversial article he co-authored on GMOs, he believes GM crops are appropriate for some uses, but not others**

**News: Press Trust of India reports on Delhi High Court ruling dismissing Monsanto's plea to stop a Competition Commission inquiry in to top officials' role in alleged unfair business practices in India's seeds market**

**More Asia items**

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## Europe

**News: Politico Pro reports U.S. sugar producers ask to be left out of proposed trade agreement with EU over concerns they would be hurt by increased imports from Europe, cite EU regulations, labeling requirements for GM crops and food products, which they say would prevent U.S. producers from competing on level playing field**

**News release: Minneapolis-based Calyxt announces receipt of EU patent on use of CRISPR/Cas9 for genome editing in plants, claims it has precise methods of gene editing that create plants with desired traits, without creating off-target effects**

**Commentary: Seppi examines media coverage following publication of independent study contradicting Seralini's findings in his infamous GM rat feed study, highlights Stephane Foucart's article in Le Monde, criticizes Seralini's appearance on FR3 Normandy**

**News: French news source reports industry lobbyists in EU trying to weaken precautionary principle by including 'principle of innovation' in Framework Program on Research and Innovation, notes**

**precautionary principle used to help justify EU ban on neonics deemed harmful to bees**

**[More Europe items](#)**

## Latin America

**News release: Intrexon and AquaBounty announce Argentina's National Advisory Commission on Agricultural Biotechnology (CONABIA) granted regulatory exemption for development of gene-edited tilapia, FLT 01, enabling more sustainable production**

**News: Venezuela's Globovision reports on Confederation of Agricultural Producers (Fedeaagro) President Achilles Hopkins' call for approval of a new Law on Seeds that allows use of transgenic crop technology, highlighting benefits of drought-tolerance traits**

**Announcement: Brazil's State Agency announces National Technical Biosafety Commission's (CTNBio) authorization of a second GM sugarcane variety developed by Sugarcane Technology Center (CTC), with resistance to the sugarcane borer**

**Commentary: Elivan Martinez Mercado of Puerto Rico's Center for Investigative Journalism writes data check article on arguments made by economist Jose Joaquin Villamil, about alleged flaws in journalistic investigation revealing that multinationals like Monsanto received over \$526 million in tax privileges, finds his statements to be false**

**[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, December 17, 2018 9 02:53 PM

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## Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

### BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Global biotechnology developments in today's monitoring included Australia's final report on its gene technology policy and media reports announcing Catherine Geslain-Laneelle as the French government and European Union nominee to be the next director of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

- Australia's Department of Health published the final Third Review report of the National Gene Technology Scheme, reflecting stakeholder feedback from the consultation period that occurred over the past six months. The report presents 27 recommendations, including guidance that advances in gene technology, such as synthetic biology, continue to remain within the scope of the scheme. The review recommends that an action plan be agreed upon by the Legislative and Governance Forum on Gene Technology. Discussions may take place at the 8th Office of the Gene Technology Regulator National Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) Forum scheduled for March 28-29. **See more**
- Agence France-Presse reported France and the European Union are [submitting](#) a single applicant to lead the FAO. Geslain-Lanéelle, who led the European Food Safety Authority from 2006-2013, is cited as having experience dealing with biotech decisions, among other agricultural and environmental issues. **See more**

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

## North America

**Report: Global Nutrition Report 2018 examines progress and challenges ahead for ending malnutrition, lists increased investment for introduction of biofortified crops as an example of a solution**

**News: Politico Pro reports on debate over USDA-FDA spending bill, including debate over which agency should have regulatory authority over lab-grown meat, Ag Subcommittee Chairman Robert Aderholt noted efforts to find common ground**

**News: Forbes reports co-founder of Ecovative testing ways to use mycelium, root structure of mushroom, to create plant-based "bacon" and "meats," says goal is to produce substitutes that have meat-like structure**

**Commentary: 2018 World Food Prize Reserve Corp Members Maria A. Martinez and Glen Morris recount this year's events under the theme "Rise to the Challenge," highlighting work of 2018 laureates Lawrence Haddad and David Nabarro to address food and nutrition security**

[More North America items](#)

## Africa

**News: Kenya's The Star reports on assurances by National Biosafety Authority CEO Dorington Ogoyi that support for commercialization of GM cotton is not part of a "backdoor" plan to release other GM crops, he noted it has undergone necessary safety assessments**

**News: Nigeria's Independent reports on African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) Regional Director Issouhou Abdurhamane's call on gov't to embrace GM crop technology to boost the economy, pointing to potential for Bt cotton to revive the textile industry**

**News: Uganda's Independent reports on ongoing debate surrounding revised biosafety bill, civil society organizations welcome inclusion of a strict liability clause, while scientists like geneticist Clet Wandui Masiga believe the clause will discourage research**

**Commentary Lominda Afedraru of Uganda writes for Genetic Literacy Project, examines various biotech developments across Africa, and struggles in various countries over their regulation and commercialization, examining Uganda, Nigera, Kenya and Ethiopa, among others**

**News: Southern African news site reports on controversy surrounding GM crops in Zambia, following National Biosafety Authority authorization of GM product imports, highlights opposition by Zambia National Farmers Union, warning about impact on the local market**

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

**News: Pakistan Today reports on Prime Minister Imran Khan's call for increased efforts to meet 15 million bale target for cotton production, he called for review of biosafety rules for GM crops to make them simpler, more efficient and timesaving**

**Commentary: Third World Network email blast summarizes discussion on conflicts of interest at U.N. Biodiversity Conference, following U.S. and Canadian NGOs' use of FOIA requests to investigate conflicts of interest surrounding promotion of gene drives**

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**News: Agence France-Presse reports France and the European Union submit application to leadership of U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization, Catherine Geslain-Laneelle, who led EFSA from 2006-2013, and has experience dealing with issues surrounding biotech**

**News release: French NGO Confederation Paysanne, a member of European Coordination Via Campesina, criticizes results of 90+ study that contradicts Seralini's study on GM rat feed, maintains opposition to GMOs based on health and environmental risks**

**Campaign: Several Swiss and Norwegian civil society organizations write letter to EFTA-Indonesia CEPA trade agreement negotiators, urging them not to include any obligation requiring Indonesia to join or implement UPOV 1991 Act**

**News release: European Coordination Via Campesina calls on EU and member states to immediately enforce June 2017 decision banning patents on living organisms, reacting to Syngenta's success in appealing the ban for patenting a pepper variety**

**News: Politico Pro EU reports on concerns raised by the Netherlands about EU Commission proposal to require food companies to publish key safety information at the beginning of the authorization process, pointing to impact on small businesses**

**Commentary: Stanka Becheva of Friends of the Earth Europe writes for EurActiv, believes EU ag ministers must support a protein plan that cuts down on factory farming, and promotes non-GMO, organic and healthier feed chains**

[More Europe items](#)

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## Latin America

**Commentary: Catiana de Medeiros of Brazil's Landless Workers' Movement (MST) recounts graduation of 44 young agronomists committed to agroecology from MST's Instituto Educar, launched in 2014**

**[More Latin America items](#)**

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## Oceania

**Report: Australia's National Gene Technology Scheme publishes final report on Third Review of the Gene Technology Scheme, reflecting stakeholder feedback, recommends that advances in gene technology like synbio continue to remain within the scope of the Scheme**

**[More Oceania items](#)**

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 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Dec. 17, 2018  
 Date: Monday, December 17, 2018 5:51 04 PM

## Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

**New research** was published last week concluding that organic farming, due to its use of more land to produce the same amount of crops, is **worse for climate change** than conventional farming. The study received high-profile news coverage, including a piece highlighted below from Alexa Lardieri in *U.S. News & World Report*.

This week's newsletter also includes items taking a closer look at the Organic Consumers Association's stances on various issues and explaining that seed patents aren't just for GMOs. Also, David Zaruk provides some tips for getting through the holidays if contentious topics come up at your family gatherings.

Following this edition, Favorable Outcomes will take a brief break for the holidays. Look for our next newsletter in early January. We hope you enjoy a festive holiday season and have a happy new year!

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: Environmental Health Sciences



Environmental Health Sciences was founded by "Our Stolen Future" co-author Pete Myers in 2002 to "increase public understanding of the scientific links between environmental

### Stories Worth Sharing

[Alexa Lardieri: Study finds "organic food is so much worse for the climate" than conventional agriculture](#)

[Hank Campbell: Organic Consumers Association not really pro-organic but "against any science a client will pay them to be against"](#)

[David Zaruk: How to make it through family gatherings with a zealot who relies on "alarmist fabrications"](#)

[Leia Flure: Money from seed patents gets reinvested in research and development of better plants](#)

[Hembree Brandon: Research estimates massive drop in farm income, crop production if glyphosate is banned](#)

[Drew Kershen: Deadly food poisoning incidents a cautionary tale about abandoning science and technology in farming](#)

[Jerry Weinberger: "Deep ecology" doctrine evident in Non-GMO Project warnings on food that won't sicken or kill anyone](#)

[Aishwarya Kumar: Biologist Nina Fedoroff says there's "no evidence" GM crops grown today are dangerous when consumed](#)




factors and human health."


EHS publishes Environmental Health News and both operate under the NGO Virginia Organizing, which funds and houses the Science Communication Network.

Documents recently exposed via various Freedom of Information Act requests reveal the Science Communication Network helped coordinate attacks on glyphosate linked to claims from the International Agency for Research on Cancer and litigators that the herbicide causes cancer.

Click here to **LEARN MORE** about Environmental Health Sciences.

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Vic Martin: With misleading labels like non-GMO salt, consumers must be "armed with facts and not swayed by fear or emotion" 

Podcast: Kevin Folta and Rob Saik discuss Erin Brockovich article "laced with scientific inaccuracies" about glyphosate 

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**What's Trending?**

Study in Nature concludes organic farming is worse for climate due to increased land usage to produce same amount of food

French agricultural research institute study debunks Seralini claims about negative impact on rats from GM corn

Austria latest European country to grant exemption allowing neonic usage on sugar beets in 2019

**Calendar highlights**

December 18-20	December 19-21	December 19
IQue No Te Alteren Las Hormonas EDC webinar series	International Conference on Agriculture and Biotechnology	Green Week in German Bundestag

**CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR**

<p><b>Stakeholder database</b></p> <p>More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate</p>	<p><b>Monitoring portal</b></p> <p>Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.</p>	<p><b>Bonus Eventus community</b></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

### BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included a study that found organic farming has greater impact on global warming than conventional farming. An International Food Policy Research Institute paper concluded adopting GM cowpea and GM rice would have a multimillion dollar impact on Ghana's economy. Gilles-Eric Seralini maintains the latest study that contradicts his 2012 research on rats was not long enough to show damage.

- The scientific journal *Nature* published a study by researchers from Sweden's Chalmers University and U.S.-based Princeton University that concluded organic farming has a greater impact on climate change than conventional farming due to organic's lower yields. *Sputnik* reported the principle applies to virtually all agricultural branches, such as beef cattle raised with feed grown using fertilizer and pesticides. **See more**
- An IFPRI discussion paper found that approving and releasing GM cowpea and GM rice for cultivation in Ghana would have multimillion dollar benefits. Paul Boadu, research associate for Forum for Agricultural Research, said climate change is impacting the country's current rice variety and reducing yields, but the GM rice, which is nitrogen-efficient, would generate more yields and increase farmers' incomes. **See more**
- Seralini denounced the National Institute for Agriculture Research study that contradicted his study released in 2012 claiming GM corn caused cancer in rats. The six-month INRA study found no metabolic changes in the rats. It is the latest independent study with similar findings. *Franceinfo* reported Seralini said his study also would not have found impacts if it had been stopped after six months. *Alerte Environnement* criticized Seralini for defending his "pseudo study alone against the entire scientific community." *Le Monde's* Stéphane Foucart reported the study "is the epilogue of the "Seralini affair." **See more**

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## North America

**News: U.S. News & World Report amplifies study indicating growing food organically has harsher impact on climate, environment than conventional ag due to amount of land use, notes similar finding for production of organic meat, dairy products due to need of organic feeds**

**Commentary: Wall Street Journal reports critics say editing animal DNA could introduce unwanted mutations that pose a threat to human health when consumed, proponents say they're engineering mutations just as traditional crossbreeding does, only faster; GenOk researcher adds scientists don't always know how gene editing works**

**Commentary: Institute for Functional Medicine announces availability of handout "Understanding Organics, GMOs, and Pesticides" to help patients differentiate value of claims like non-GMO, pesticide-free, all-natural in promoting healthy lifestyle choices**

**Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Colin Khoury posts new version of May 2017 article examining claims that GMOs and modern ag have led to 75 percent loss in crop diversity, notes recent research shows that diets have gotten more diverse in the last 50 years**

**News: Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology News reports on Chinese researchers' development of pigs resistant to classical swine fever virus (CSFV) combining CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing technology with RNAi**

**Commentary: Ensia's Mary Hoff and Kaitlyn Kubat amplify report in Trends in Ecology and Evolution which looks at 15 trends with implications for biodiversity in 2019, highlighting potential advantages and disadvantages of salt-tolerant rice, gene editing and omega-3-rich canola**

**News: Reuters reports U.S. ag-food groups GMA, U.S. Grains Council testify at EU trade hearing, call on administration to ease regulatory burdens on biotech with EU**

**More North America items**

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## Africa

**Research: IFPRI discussion paper evaluates economic effects of select GM crop adoption in Ghana; findings show multi-million-dollar benefits for insect-resistant cowpea and nitrogen-efficient rice use and potential losses due to regulatory delays in product approvals**

**News: Kenya media source reports cotton farmers to start planting GM cotton by May 2020, a year later than expected; government opted to have crops go through two rounds of field trials before commercial plantings**

**News: Nigeria's Blueprint reports on Kilimanjaro Women Farmers initiative's call on Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) parliamentarians to help with their campaign against GMOs in Africa, claiming they cause cancer and contaminate the soil**

**News: News Agency of Nigeria reports African Agricultural Technology Foundations says African sub-regions lack knowledge on GMOs because some have interest in preventing biotech in Africa**

**More Africa items**

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## Asia

**News: India's News 18 reports on biologist Nina Fedoroff's call on Indian gov't to give Indian farmers access to GM crops that are currently in the pipeline, noting there is no evidence of risk to humans or animals**

**News: India's Mint reports on study in Nature demonstrating successful cloning of hybrid rice variety Rice Japonica, creating prospects for farmers to reap benefits of improved crops without having to buy expensive new seeds each year**

**News: India's Economic Times reports climate change conditions like drought, extreme heat forcing researchers to focus on developing GM seeds to handle the stresses; seed company researcher says it can take up to 7 years to introduce a new variety, success rate can be less than 1 percent**

**More Asia items**

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## Europe

**Commentary: EuropaBio's Beat Spath writes for GMOinfo, welcomes publication of latest study debunking claims made in Seralini's infamous rat study, laments that the damage has already been done in terms of spending taxpayer money and spread of misinformation**

**News: Sputnik News reports Nature-published study claims organic food is worse for climate than conventionally produced foods; adds growth in global organic products market has continued in 2018 with North America consolidating its leading position**

**Report: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2018 report on global warming impacts lists biotechnology among responses to mitigate crisis, though cautions outcomes to new technology use are**

**uncertain**

**News: Agence France-Presse reports on publication of publicly-funded study which found no impact on health or metabolism of rats fed GM maize for six months, contradicting Seralini's findings**

**News: Franceinfo reports Gilles-Eric Seralini defends his claims about negative impact of GM maize on rats following publication of new study with contradictory findings, he criticized the six-month trial period as insufficient**

**News: Le Monde's Stephane Foucart reports on publication of study led by INRA that contradicts Seralini's controversial findings about impact of GM maize on rats, concluding that there is no toxicity**

**Commentary: Risk Monger David Zaruk explains how to best discuss topics during Christmas with zealot family members who oppose biotech, pesticides, modern medical treatment**

**News release: Greenpeace says COP24 climate change meeting ends without commitment to action; says New Zealand needs synthetic nitrogen fertilizer ban, cow numbers reduced, massive commitment to regenerative farming**

**More Europe items**

**Latin America**

**News: Mexico's Expansion reports AgroBio warns maintaining ban on transgenics will hurt country's farm sector, argues expanding ban on GM corn to cotton will cause production costs for some crops to increase, pharmaceutical industry also will be affected**

**News release: Mexico's National Institute for Forest, Agricultural and Livestock Research (INIFAP) promotes expert opinions that country's native corn counteracts climate change, touts its work to improve genetics of criollo corn without GM, launches strategy for conservation of species**

**News: La Nacion reports request to approve GM wheat has support from producers facing weather issues, but others worry it will disrupt Argentina's export market,**

**More Latin America items**

**Oceania**

**News: Australia's Stock Journal reports on Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative director Hugh Beckie's warning that South Australia grain growers will be disadvantaged if its moratorium on GMOs remains in place, blocking access to new biotech advancements**

**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 reporting amplifying a study from France's National Institute of Agricultural Research (INRA) that found GM corn had no adverse health impacts on rats. U.S. House committee leaders are pushing to deny funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture to regulate cell-based protein.

- French and international media reported INRA study revealed a six-month diet of GM corn had no health impact on rats, contradicting research by Gilles-Eric Seralini. *Agence France-Presse* reported the study was done by the public research consortium, within the framework of the Risk'OGM program funded by the French Ministry of Ecological Transition. Journalist Sylvestre Huet, blogging for *Le Monde*, noted Seralini's discredited study received much media attention, but studies disproving his conclusions have drawn less attention. **See more**
- *Politico* reported the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee is pressuring appropriators to remove a spending bill provision that would give the USDA "sole authority to regulate the budding cell-based protein sector." It reported that White House officials asked legislators to remove that portion of the bill after the USDA and Food and Drug Administration agreed to split jurisdiction on the new products. **See more**

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## North America

**Commentary: GM Crops and Food publishes op-ed co-written by Henry I. Miller panning United Nations for CBD's biosafety protocol based on precautionary principle, arguing approach harms environment and public health, stifles environmentally friendly innovations that can increase agricultural productivity**

**Commentary: Stacy Malkan of U.S. Right to Know claims Big Ag companies hide info on negative effects to health, environment from their products, using third-party allies to promote industry agenda, provides updated fact sheets on agrichemical corporation collaborators**

**Study: Nature - U.S., Swedish researchers assess efficiency of change in land use for mitigating climate change, finding organically farmed food has a bigger climate impact**

**Commentary: City Journal runs piece by Michigan State University political science professor warning doctrine of "deep ecology" so pervasive it affects policy, pointing out absurdity of Non-GMO Project labeling when no scientific proof GM foods have ever harmed or killed anyone**

**News: Politico Pro - House Energy and Commerce Committee pushing appropriators to reject spending bill provision that would give Ag Dept sole authority to regulate cell-based protein sector; Agriculture-FDA Appropriations Subcommittee Democratic member says issue "still up in the air"**

**[More North America items](#)**

## Africa

**News: Kenya's Business Standard reports ag officials hint at adoption of GM cotton following visit to**

**ongoing field trials, noting importance of reviving the industry with the view of achieving the President's agenda; second round of trials will be conducted in the next rainy season**

**News: Nigeria's The Guardian reports Kilimanjaro Women Farmers initiative calls on ECOWAS parliament to join campaign against commercialization of GM crops in Africa, claiming planting of GM seeds renders soil useless for indigenous crops, consumption of GM foods causes cancer, other human health problems**

**[More Africa items](#)**

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## Asia

**Commentary: Partner with India-based intellectual property law firm highlights key legal issues at stake in Supreme Court of India's review of Monsanto Bt Cotton patent**

**Commentary: Third World Network email blast highlights study claiming dominance of herbicide-centric weed control in U.S. Midwest unlikely to fade any time soon in favor of more sustainable integrated weed management**

**[More Asia items](#)**

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## Europe

**News release: France's National Institute of Agricultural Research (INRA) promotes study it led under Risk'OGM program that found MON 810 or NK603 transgenic maize diet has no effects on health and metabolism of lab rats; study published in Toxicological Sciences found no ill effects linked to consumption, even over long periods**

**News release: Sweden's Chalmers University of Technology amplifies study finding production of organic food has much larger climate impact than conventional farming due to larger areas of land required, notes lack of scientific evidence to prove organic food healthier than conventional alternatives**

**Commentary: German women's platform highlights tests claiming chemicals in baby food, milk powder, raising concerns about GMOs and glyphosate among other substances,**

**News: French ecology news site Reporterre highlights Yellow Vest camp established near Monsanto factory in southern France to protest manufacturing of GMOs, pesticides harmful to health, environment**

**[More Europe items](#)**

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## Latin America

**News: Argentine news site reports first potato resistant to PVY virus will go on sale next year via Tecnoplant, productive and economic benefits estimated at \$45 million per year in country's market**

**[More Latin America items](#)**

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## Oceania

**Commentary: Third-generation family farmer from an arid part of South Australia touts the use of GMO drought-tolerant wheat in Argentina; laments that South Australia bans GM crops "based on markets alone," says access to GM varieties "can't come soon enough"**

**[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 continued reporting and commentary on the European Parliament's approval of a report recommending changes to the way food safety risk assessments are communicated. The U.S. Congress approved the farm bill, sending the legislation to President Donald Trump.

- Commentary continued on the European Parliament's approval of a report that advises making European Food Safety Agency opinions more transparent. Socialists & Democrats spokesman Pavel Poc said increased transparency is needed to ensure a "high level of protection for the environment, public and animal health." **See more**
- The House approved the five-year farm bill. *Politico* reported that House Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Conaway (R-Texas) said he has "all the confidence in the world" that Trump will sign the bill. Before the approval, the Organic Consumers Association urged its supporters to contact legislators to oppose the bill, saying it would limit the group's ability to keep synthetic and non-organic substances out of organic farming. **See more**

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

## North America

**News: Good Times reports FDA announced intention to redefine word "healthy" and exactly which foods can be labeled as such; redefinition will be first update since 1993**

**Campaign: Organic Consumers Association asks supports to demand policy makers reject Farm Bill language limiting ability to remove synthetic, non-organic substances from organic farming "National List"**

**News release: hint water brand launches kid-friendly Tetra boxes of flavored water without sugar, sweeteners, notes them as Non-GMO certified; CEO says brand wants to help the whole family lead healthier lives**

**Commentary: Mark Lynas of Cornell Alliance for Science amplifies paper in PNAS examining impact of widespread misinformation online on scientific knowledge on issues like GMOs, climate change and vaccines, highlights effect of partisan polarization**

**Commentary: Author Devin Thorpe writes for Forbes, examines how investing in regenerative agriculture can help mitigate effects of climate change and protect the environment while generating profits, highlighting success of Farmland LP and Delta Institute**

**Commentary: Drovers columnist argues marketing is most controversial aspect of lab-grown meat issue, noting they will be presented as more humane, environmentally-friendly; predicts labeling will identify these products as cultured or "cell-based"**

**[More North America items](#)**

## Africa

**Commentary: Angola news site reports on creation of biosafety framework to control Modified Living Organisms; Cartagena Protocol is first international agreement to guide safe use, handling and movement of living modified organisms from modern biotech that may have adverse effects on biodiversity, human health**

**News: South African Government News Agency reports science storytelling in spotlight at media workshop at sidelines of Science Forum South Africa; forum expected to attract 3,000 researchers, scientists policymakers and students and will cover topics including GM foods,**

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

**News: Brazil's Agrolink reports on Japanese gov't announcement of policies to facilitate development of foods using new gene editing technologies, enabling their marketing without prior safety assessment, highlights University of Tsukuba's work on tomatoes**

**Commentary: Carta Maior, news portal of the Brazilian Left, offers analysis of Chinese contradictions in soybean production chain, notes experts say much of the GM soy is processed as a food ingredient and sold illegally at retail, resulting in risks for local producers**

**News: Macau Daily Times reports on lawmaker Mak Soi Kun's call for clarification on how the gov't is ensuring food safety, voicing concern about import of unlabeled GM foods, following reports of the first gene-edited baby in China**

**News: South Korean news site reports on history of country's potato cultivation and use; debate surrounding safety of GM seeds and crops also reviewed**

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**News release: Health and Environment Alliance welcomes EU Parliament's vote to revise General Food Law to require publication of all data relevant to EFSA evaluations of health and environmental safety**

**News: German news site reports EU Parliament calls for more transparency on genetic engineering, pesticides in agriculture; Greens rep contends proposal doesn't go far enough, criticizes EP rapporteur Renate Sommer for requesting to exclude EFSA from transparency criteria**

**News release: French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM) finds that GM maize MON 810 and NK603 produced no detectable effects on health and metabolism of rats under GMO 90+ 1 project conditions**

[More Europe items](#)

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## Latin America

**News: Mexican news site reports organizations like Greenpeace question AMLO's promise to ban GMOs due to his appointments for secretary of agriculture and chief of staff, both linked to promotion of transgenics**

**News: Brazilian site AGROLINK reports Argentina launches its first transgenic potato Pope Spunta Ticar; new GM crop is resistant to PVY virus, providing reductions in production costs and agrochemical use**

[More Latin America items](#)

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## Oceania

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

**More Oceania items**

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## Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

### BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included news that the European Parliament approved a report recommending changes to the way EU food safety risk assessments are communicated. NGOs in the region also warned that a Wednesday vote on future research priorities included provisions that could undermine environmental and health protections.

- The European Parliament adopted a report recommending changes to the region's food safety risk assessment transparency rules, prompting the report's author to step down from her position as rapporteur over "anti-competitive" provisions. Among the controversial provisions were demands that the European Food Safety Authority publish risk assessment studies at the beginning of the evaluation process. The report's author warned that this would invite "ideas piracy" and kill European innovation. [See more](#)
- Activists with Corporate Europe Observatory and Friends of the Earth Germany (BUND) warned European regulators not to approve provisions for a so-called "innovation principle" in the Horizon Europe research agenda. The groups called the measure a Trojan horse for industry interests that would undermine the precautionary principle. A vote on the Horizon Europe framework is expected Wednesday. [See more](#)

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## North America

**Commentary: John Cohrssen and Henry Miller write for Investor's Business Daily, criticizing FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb for doubling down on what they see as failed policy on animal biotech, pointing to benefits of new GE techniques for animal breeding**

**News release: State University of New York promotes work by researchers from its College of Environmental Science and Forestry assessing how transgenic American chestnut trees developed there might affect environment; studies suggest trees produce no ill effects on seeds, fungi or larval frogs**

**News release: National Health Federation demands label transparency, criticizes use of term 'biofortified,' warns GMOs could be allowed under label term; NGO asks for members to help fund upcoming Codex committee meetings on pesticide residues and food additives in spring of 2019**

[More North America items](#)

## Africa

**Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science blogger amplifies paper by African scientists calling for investments in biotechnology to help address world's plastic pollution problem, suggesting GMOs could be engineered to eat plastic waste, noting scientists around world have tackled the problem**

**News release: Testbiotech laments conclusion of U.N. Biodiversity Conference without concrete results on gene drives, Testbiotech sent 70,000 postcards to Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel demanding gov't action against release of gene drive technology**

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

**Study: Genome Biology publishes paper by Chinese and Australian university researchers describing current applications of genome editing in plants, focusing on its potential for crop improvement in terms of adaptation; discusses prospects for integrating technology with conventional crop breeding strategies**

**Commentary: Third World Network summarizes agreements reached at U.N. Biodiversity Conference regarding risk assessments for GMOs, including debates over gene editing and gene drives, argues risk assessment work is back on track**

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**News: European wire services report on Parliament's approval of new transparency rules for food safety risk assessments, rapporteur Renate Sommer criticized the vote, arguing that publication of relevant studies at time of application would threaten EU food industry**

**News release: EU Green Party spokesperson Bart Staes issues statement following Parliament's approval of new transparency requirements for food safety risk assessments, he argued that industry should be able to judge whether its own products are harmful**

**News: Politico Pro EU reports on EU Parliament's adoption of report on new food safety risk assessment transparency rules, rapporteur Renate Sommer resigned after being outvoted on key provisions that she believes will damage competitiveness**

**News release: Friends of the Earth Germany calls on German MEPs to reject 'innovation principle' in upcoming Parliamentary vote on Horizon Europe research program, argues that innovations must be subject to the precautionary principle**

**News: Agribusiness Intelligence reports on campaigners' call for rejection of 'innovation principle' ahead of EU Parliament vote on Horizon Europe research program (subscription required)**

**News release: European Public Service Union calls for rejection of 'innovation principle' ahead of EU Parliament vote on Horizon Europe regulations, amplifies Corporate Europe Observatory report warning that it seeks to undermine the precautionary principle**

**Report: Corporate Europe Observatory publishes summary briefing against European Risk Forum's (ERF) Innovation Principle, which will be up for vote as EU Parliament decides on Horizon Europe regulation, argues it favors industry while undermining health and environmental safeguards**

**Announcement: German MEPs of the FDP Parliamentary group ask Federal Gov't how it is positioning itself regarding new breeding techniques like CRISPR/Cas, following EU Court ruling to classify mutagenesis methods as genetic engineering under EU law**

[More Europe items](#)

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## Latin America

**Campaign: National Network for the Defense of Food Sovereignty in Guatemala (REDSAG) voices support for Declaration of Peasant Rights, demands that Guatemalan gov't to protect and conserve natural resources threatened by agroindustry**

**Commentary: Friends of the Earth Argentina shares final declaration of Common Goods and Sovereignty Forum, as part of Week of Action against the G20, includes demand for food sovereignty, agroecology and right to seeds**

**Commentary: Agronomist Eduardo Allgayer Osorio writes for Brazil's O Sul, explains what GMOs are,**

**highlighting many advantages and history of successful applications in Brazil, believes main motives for opposition to GMOs are geopolitical**

**[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 the launch of a new protest and awareness campaign from the French farmers union Fédération nationale des syndicats d'exploitants agricoles (FNSEA) to highlight concerns about new environmental policies. In India, an anti-biotechnology commentary from prominent scientist M. S. Swaminathan continued to generate controversy.

- French farmers launched a week of advocacy protesting "agri-bashing" from environmental NGOs, with local media outlets reporting that police had shut down a small demonstration in Guéret with tear gas. FNSEA president Christiane Lambert met with President Emmanuel Macron's staff, highlighting the group's call for implementing income protections outlined in the food bill and revoking new taxes on agricultural chemicals. Lambert noted that legislators have promised to reintroduce the food bill provisions in a Wednesday meeting of the Council of Ministers. **See more**
- India-based media contributors continued to criticize commentary from leading agricultural researcher M. S. Swaminathan, who published a statement in *Current Science* claiming that GMOs were not sustainable and could lead to "genotoxic effects." In a Friday statement, scientific adviser K. VijayRaghavan promised to issue a scientific rebuttal to the article. *Swarajya* published commentary from Swaminathan responding to the criticism, saying his argument had called for refocusing on developing crop stress tolerance versus commercial traits like pest resistance and herbicide tolerance. **See more**

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## North America

**News: SeafoodSource reports on Canadian gov't requirement that AquaBounty's Prince Edward Island-based facility undergo new federal risk assessment, following concerns raised by companies and environmental groups about lack of mandatory GMO labeling**

**Commentary: Maria Mihalik of Institute of Food Technologists writes for Associations Now magazine, explains IFT's motivations in commissioning director Scott Hamilton Kennedy to create "Food Evolution," IFT CEO Christie Tarantino-Dean notes it is still creating conversations**

**Commentary: UC Davis PhD student Elena Suglia writes for Scientific American, examines growing concerns that increased CO2 levels as a result of climate change are making crops less nutritious, promotes efforts of scientists to address the problem, points to golden rice**

**News: CNN reports on various beef alternatives available on the market, each touting environmental benefits, including plant-based options like Impossible Burger, as well as newer lab-grown meat options**

**Event: Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) Wallace Stegner Lecture to feature Vandana Shiva (Feb. 12, 2019), at Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts in Mountain View, California, highlights Shiva's Navdanya organic farming initiative in India**

[More North America items](#)



## Africa

**News:** Cameroonian news outlet reports on Head of State Paul Biya's approval of deal with Arab Bank for the Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) to boost the cotton sector, Cotton Development Corporation (Sodecoton) plans to increase production using GMOs

**News:** Zambian news outlet reports on Zambia National Farmers' Union (ZNFU) President Jervis Zimba's call on gov't to make its stance on GMOs clear, following issuance of permits for import of GM products, claiming the move will threaten non-GMO exports

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

**Commentary:** G. Padmanaban, former director of the Indian Institute of Science and Chancellor of Central University of Tamil Nadu, writes for The Hindu in response to anti-GMO claims in recent paper by M.S. Swaminathan, argues GM crops in India are not a failure

**News:** India's Swarajya publishes letter from MS Swaminathan clarifying his views on GMOs following controversy surrounding review paper in Current Science, includes response from Principal Scientific Advisor Vijay Raghavan, who points out flaws in the review paper

**Report:** USDA Foreign Agricultural Service GAIN Report examines Japanese Health Ministry's continued discussions on genome edited food, at recent Research Sub-Committee for Genetically Modified Food public meeting, representatives of six groups voiced their opinions

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**News:** Agence France-Presse reports on slow start to farmers groups FNSEA and Jeunes Agriculteurs' planned protests against "agri-bashing," two planned events did not take place, while some farmers later clashed with police, more events are planned

**News:** Ouest-France reports farmers groups FNSEA and Young Farmers Union seek to avoid uncontrollable protests, FNSEA President Christiane Lambert noted farmers will denounce "agri-bashing" but must be respectful of people and property

**News:** France's Journal de Gers reports farming groups FNSEA, Jeunes Agriculteurs (JA) and Confédération paysanne invited themselves to a Chamber of Agriculture Meeting, FNSEA and JA will join Dec. 12 protests on issues like "agri-bashing" and glyphosate

**News:** Austria's Der Standard reports on warning by Nobel laureates in chemistry, Frances Arnold and Gregory Winter, about exaggerated fears of GM food, they described ways in which gene editing can address food security issues, spoke out against restrictive regulation

**Commentary:** The Ecologist's Oliver Tickell believes U.K.-EU Withdrawal Agreement fails on key environmental issues, voices concern about Environment Secretary Michael Gove's plans to allow use of new gene editing techniques post-Brexit

**Announcement:** Germany's Central Commission for Biosafety (ZKBS) issues position statement following EU Court ruling on gene editing, finds the ruling is not based on scientific knowledge, calls for urgent updates to EU genetic engineering law, points to potential trade disruptions

**Review:** In a paper in Life Sciences, Society and Policy, Giovanni Tagliabue examines common scientific errors made by critics of GMOs and new breeding techniques, such as equating unintended effects with harm and misinterpreting different types of risk

[More Europe items](#)

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## Latin America

News release: Argentinian organizations Tching Community of the Comchingon People and the Coordinator in Defense of the Punilla Native Forest announce Encounter for the Earth event (Dec. 15-16, 2018), reiterating demand for peasant rights to food sovereignty, seeds and biological diversity

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

<p><b>Stakeholder database</b></p> <p>More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.</p>	<p><b>Events calendar</b></p> <p>See where news could be happening next. Or let allies know about an upcoming event.</p>	<p><b>Bonus Eventus community</b></p> <p>Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.</p>
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From: Jay Byrne  
 To: Diane.Wray-Cohen@fas.usda.gov  
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Dec. 10, 2018  
 Date: Monday, December 10, 2018 5:59:15 PM

## Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

A theme running through several of the pieces highlighted on this week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter is skepticism about the ability of organic farming - as well as agroecology and regenerative agriculture - to provide food security and environmental benefits to the world.

Writing for the Breakthrough Institute, Ted Nordhaus examines the findings of a World Resources Institute report that instead suggests the need for sustainable agricultural intensification. Ivo Vegter, in South Africa's *Daily Maverick*, argues that organic farming is relying on "magic" instead of science to solve food production needs. And Stuart Smyth of the University of Saskatchewan argues that it's time for environmental NGOs to accept vast evidence that agricultural technology is the best way forward.

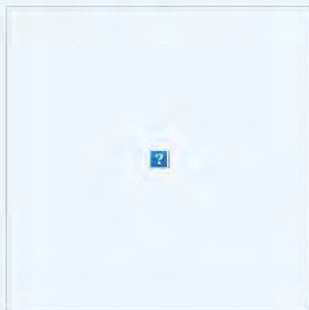
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### In This Issue

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

### Stakeholder Spotlight: Food Tank



Food Tank was founded in 2012 by Danielle Nierenberg and Ellen Gustafso as a "think tank" on global sustainable food systems.

Food Tank partners with a wide range of stakeholders, which includes organic trade interests and anti-GMO/anti-pesticide

### Stories Worth Sharing

[Stuart Smyth: Will environmental groups ever accept "vast amount of evidence" on benefits of technology traits and chemicals](#)

[Ted Nordhaus: World Resources Institute report skeptical of regenerative farming and agroecology](#)

[Ivo Vegter: Organic farming, built on "unscientific principles of magic," provides no substantial benefits](#)

[Jean-Paul Oury: "Food Evolution" documentary arrives in France, could change perception of GMOs](#)

[Hank Campbell: The Guardian lets famed scaremonger Erin Brockovich reel off "series of logical fallacies" about glyphosate](#)

[Katherine Baker: Sharing an underappreciated perspective about the role of GMOs in sustainably producing food](#)

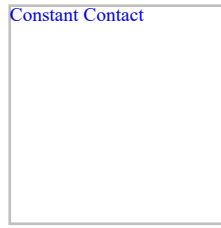
[Truth in Advertising: Bumble Bee Foods, Non-GMO Project give mixed messages on labeling of tuna as non-GMO](#)

[Andre Heitz: Recently published items evidence of Nature journal's "slipping editorial standards and a descent into activism"](#)

[Amanda Zaluckyj: Environmental Working Group belongs on Santa's naughty list for claims about glyphosate contamination of food](#)



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 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Dec. 10, 2018  
 Date: Monday, December 10, 2018 5:59 05 PM

## Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

A theme running through several of the pieces highlighted on this week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter is skepticism about the ability of organic farming - as well as agroecology and regenerative agriculture - to provide food security and environmental benefits to the world.

Writing for the Breakthrough Institute, Ted Nordhaus examines the findings of a World Resources Institute report that instead suggests the need for sustainable agricultural intensification. Ivo Vegter, in South Africa's *Daily Maverick*, argues that organic farming is relying on "magic" instead of science to solve food production needs. And Stuart Smyth of the University of Saskatchewan argues that it's time for environmental NGOs to accept vast evidence that agricultural technology is the best way forward.

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advocacy groups.

Last week, Food Tank promoted **World Soil Day** and highlighted the sentiment of the U.N. **sustainable development goals** that soil health is key to environmental and human health.

It also **amplified and applauded** anti-GMO campaign funder David Bronner, CEO of Dr. Bronner's Magic Soaps, stressing the need to design agricultural production systems that go beyond organic to encompass labor and social values envisioned in regenerative practices.

Click here to **LEARN MORE** about Food Tank.

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PROFILES**

Cameron English: Pediatrician explains similarities between anti-vaccine movement and biotechnology opposition 

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**What's Trending?**

Nobel Prize winners in chemistry warn that unwarranted fear of GMOs limit scientists' ability to address food security needs

Belgium approves derogation to allow neonic usage on sugar beets, Austrian environment minister considering proposal

California judge considers excluding regulatory assessments from glyphosate cancer cases

French farmers union organizes response to government "agri-bashing" from glyphosate regulations, taxes

**Calendar highlights**

December 12	December 12	December 12-13
"Does our environment seriously affect health?" seminar hosted by France's Inserm	France's ANSES scientific conferences on bee health	European Commission Plants, Animals, Food and Feed committee meeting (agenda)

**CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR**

<p><b>Stakeholder database</b></p> <p>More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate</p>	<p><b>Monitoring portal</b></p> <p>Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.</p>	<p><b>Bonus Eventus community</b></p> <p>Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.</p>
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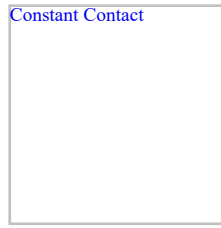
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## Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

### BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

The weekend's global biotechnology developments included news that Zambia's biosafety regulator had approved GMO import permits for three local companies, touching off activist criticism. French news outlets previewed farmer protests scheduled for Monday.

- Zambia's National Biosafety Authority announced it licensed three companies to import products that may contain GM ingredients. The agency CEO emphasized that the decision had come after a thorough assessment of environmental and health risks. Jervis Zimba, president of the Zambia National Farmers Union, told media outlets the group would continue to fight the import and cultivation of GMOs in Zambia. The Zambia Consumer Union and the African Consumer Union issued statements calling to disband the agency's board and revoke the permits, citing risks to consumers and local foods. **See more**
- French news outlets reported that farmers union FNSEA organized protests for Monday to protest "agri-bashing" by environmental activists and consumers. The group also demanded speedy implementation of a food bill provision that would guarantee prices for certain agricultural products. *Agence France-Presse* quoted a political scientist on the long mistrust between environmentalists and farmers over issues such as GMOs and pesticide use, while *Reuters* noted that environmental NGOs had accused the union of capitalizing on media coverage around the "yellow vest" protests. **See more**
- In a Stockholm news conference, new Nobel Prize for Chemistry winners Frances Arnold and Gregory Winter noted their concern over how consumer suspicion of technology was impacting research and development of sustainable food solutions. The prize winners specifically highlighted how the controversy over GM crop cultivation had grown despite scientific advice on safety and benefits. **See more**
- European and African anti-biotechnology activists targeted prominent science communicator Mark Lynas over the weekend. The African Centre for Biodiversity, GMWatch and anti-GMO activist Angelika Hilbeck claimed that Cornell-affiliated Lynas had used farmers' images without their permission when writing about the Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) project. The activists went on to claim that promotional stories about the project may have prompted the government's recent decision to halt and destroy the WEMA field trials. Activist news sites Sustainable Pulse and EnviroNews Nigeria amplified the report. **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: Vox summarizes controversy over use of gene drives to control malaria, notes UN Biodiversity Conference rejected a moratorium on gene drives but says uncertainties around judging consent could threaten future projects**

**Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science blogger applauds UN CBD's decision letting gene drive technology proceed in research projects aimed at fighting diseases, preventing extinction of endangered species; science community, African governments praise compromise position**

**Commentary: Ted Nordhaus of The Breakthrough Institute amplifies new report by World Resources**

**Institute (WRI) that embraces need for sustainable agricultural intensification to boost productivity, he argues regenerative ag and agroecology are not sufficient**

**News: Western Producer reports on Canada's progress in convincing importers to consider adoption of low level presence policies for traces of unapproved GM crops in shipments, Agriculture Canada is promoting discussions on its policy model**

**News: Big Think discusses future of lab-grown meat, whether consumers will accept it as costs go down, benefits become more clear, notes study showing lab-grown meat would reduce emissions and land use required for meat production**

**Commentary: Stacy Malkan of U.S. Right to Know examines Hank Campbell's departure as president of American Council on Science and Health, explores internal documents showing that ACSH advocacy benefits chemical, tobacco and pharmaceutical corporate interests**

**More North America items**

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## Africa

**News: ZNBC News reports Zambia National Farmers' Union claims GM food imports threaten country's agenda to improve agriculture, diversify economy; agriculture department says procedures followed before permits given to import only processed foods, not GM crops or animals**

**Commentary: Uganda's Daily Monitor expects recently passed genetic engineering regulatory bill to lead to increased crop production, less use of pesticides, higher profits for farmers, even revival of cotton production**

**News: Xinhua reports that African Consumer Union and Zambia Consumer Union criticize Zambian regulator's approval of GM food import permits, notes farmer's union had warned of a government "ploy" to legitimize GMOs**

**News: Lusaka Times reports NGOs and local farm organizations calling for Zambia biosafety authority to be dissolved after granting GMO import approvals; quotes deceased president opposition and health risk claims**

**News: Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation reports on National Biosafety Authority's granting of permits to three distributors for import of products containing GMOs, Zambia National Farmers Union President Jervis Zimba warned about harm to the ag sector**

**News release: Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana (PFAG) speaks out against calls supporting introduction of GMOs, argues that GM seeds will only increase control of multinational companies via patents, and that they will worsen poverty**

**Announcement: Nigerian NGO Health of Mother Earth Foundation announces it will host a side event at U.N. Climate Conference in Poland on Dec. 13, examining opposition to developments in the field of geoen지니어ing, co-hosts include La Via Campesina and ETC Group**

**More Africa items**

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## Asia

**News: The Hindu reports on Principal Scientific Adviser K. VijayRaghavan's criticism of paper by M.S. Swaminathan claiming that GM crops are a failure as "deeply flawed," indicating plans to issue a scientific rebuttal soon**

**Commentary: Third World Network amplifies conclusion at U.N. Biodiversity Conference that rapid and fast-paced developments in synbio, as well as potential adverse effects, must be anticipated, monitored and assessed, summarizes the debate and conclusions**

**News: Japanese news outlet reports on Health, Labor and Welfare Ministry draft proposing that foods produced via gene editing be exempt from regulation if external genes are not integrated into the food, making them indistinguishable from conventionally produced products**

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## Europe

**Interview: Agence France-Presse interviews political scientist over motivations behind Dec. 10 "agri-bashing" protests, says mad cow and GMO controversy drove initial wedge between farmers and consumers**

**News: French news outlets report farmers union FNSEA organizes protests for Monday (Dec. 10) to protest 'agri-bashing' and call for income protections in the country's food law**

**News: The Guardian reports that winners of this year's Nobel prize for chemistry warned that consumer fears of biotechnology are limiting scientists' ability to provide solutions to food security, climate problems**

**Commentary: Navdanya International summarizes Vandana Shiva appearance at Berlin's 'Visions for Agriculture 2050' panel, notes Shiva strongly argued for removing human interference in favor of agroecology**

**News: Le Scienze syndicates story from CRISPerMania blog that 10 grape varieties derived from CRISPR technology have been registered, but gene-edited grapes face hurdles; grapes must be registered in each region of Italy, all DNA must come from common vine to earn certification as Vitis vinifera**

**News: Die Tageszeitung reports Munich Environmental Institute has filed suit in EU court to open minutes of EU-Canadian free trade agreement talks; EU Commission provides only summaries of discussions; talks have focused on issues such as glyphosate, genetic engineering**

**Commentary: New German science blog CRISPR-Whisper launches, reports on activities and results from German Research Foundation priority program, 'More Than Defense,' which aims to teach molecular biology to laymen, present information in comic book insets**

**News: AgriHolland reports on shortage of vitamin B2 in animal feed, following discovery of an unapproved GM strain with potential to contribute to antibiotic resistance, highlights potential impact on organic, non-GMO animal feed markets**

**News: ProPlanta reports that Germany's Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety assuaged concerns over GM riboflavin in animal feed, notes presence was very low and poses no health risks**

**News release: Swiss NGO Uniterre issues statement condemning consequences of deregulated trade, following discovery of distribution of unapproved, antibiotic-resistant GM bacterial strain across Europe, laments increasing distance from the truth about food**

**More Europe items**

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## Latin America

**News: Argentina's agribusiness secretary writing in La Nacion explains how country has become a leading player in international trade by embracing technologies such as GMOs, gene editing; opening markets in U.S., Asia, South America**

**News release: Argentina's CONICET summarizes Dec. 4 meeting on gene editing, highlights presentations from local plant researchers and others using the technology in medicine and public health**

**Commentary: Editor of Argentine newspaper calls for government to regulate GM products only on basis of health, environmental impact, not base approvals on commercial evaluations**

**News: Mexican news outlet reports National Laboratory of Genomics and Biodiversity plans to prepare a document supporting benefits of GM foods for national food security, with hopes of swaying opinion of President Manuel Andres Lopez Obrador**

**Video: CNN Mexico examines President Andrés Manuel López Obrador's reiteration of promise to ban GM**

**crops in the country, explores what GM crops are and what the vision of the new gov't is**

**Commentary: Biotech researcher Martin Ernesto Tiznado Hernandez writes for Mexico's SDP Noticias, notes that while risks of transgenic plants cannot be fully known, GM plants have potential to improve nutrition and crop resilience to stress**

**Commentary: Plant researcher writing in SDP Noticias explains GMO crops have potential to solve impending food crisis; notes 141 Nobel laureates support GMOs, but Mexican president opposes them**

**[More Latin America items](#)**

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## 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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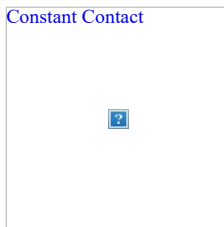
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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Dec. 6, 2018  
 Date: Thursday, December 6, 2018 9:04:11 PM

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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 International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements announcement it will host a side event on regenerative agriculture at the U.N. climate change summit. The Center for Food Safety released a series of videos focusing on regenerative farming, also claiming its techniques will mitigate climate change. Commentary continued on Uganda's new biosafety law and its strict liability clause.

- IFOAM promoted its event, "Scaling Up Regenerative Solutions to Climate Change," scheduled for Wednesday (Dec. 12) in Katowice, Poland. The organic group claims regenerative agriculture can help limit climate change through carbon sequestration, food sovereignty and biodiversity preservation. [See more](#)
- A series of videos produced by the Center for Food Safety focused on its efforts at "regenerative farming" in Hawaii. The videos feature interviews with academics and farmers. In one video, Rebecca Ryals, associate professor of agroecology at the University of Merced, claims cost-effective eco-management can help reach one-third of the goals for climate change by 2030. [See more](#)
- Biotech advocates and detractors commented on the biotech bill recently approved by Uganda's Parliament, focusing on the its strict liability clause. The clause states that those who introduce a GMO shall be legally responsible for any damage caused by the product. Agnes Kirabo, executive director of Food Right Alliance, said the bill benefits large agribusinesses while harming local researchers. Meanwhile, a statement from anti-biotech NGOs called the bill a "major win" due to the liability clause. [See more](#)

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## North America

**Commentary: University of Wyoming weed scientist Andrew Kniss writes blog post examining Charles Benbrook and Graham Brookes' different findings on whether GM crops have increased herbicide use, notes their data are mostly in agreement, differences arise from reliance on assumptions regarding herbicide use on conventional crops**

**Video: Center for Food Safety releases video series featuring academics and farmers in Hawaii talking about how regenerative farming can help mitigate and adapt to climate change, restore soil, help feed local communities**

**News: Scientific American reports on Pew survey on American attitudes towards food additives, GMOs; notes half believe GMOs and additives bad for health and those people tend to eat organic food, notes those positive about GMOs believe science has positive impact on food**

**News: Politico reports USDA likely to release GMO labeling rule before Jan. 1, notes USDA wants labeling rule to synchronize with FDA's Nutrition Facts panel time frame; notes lawsuit by consumer groups complicates matters**

**News: Mississippi TV news site reports state's ag commissioner wants lab-grown meat clearly labeled, calls Impossible Burger "fake meat," adds that "I won't eat this stuff"**

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**More North America items**

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**Africa**

**News: Ugandan news site reports new biosafety law's strict liability clause benefits large, multinational companies by ensuring no research or development on GMOs will take place in Uganda**

**News release: Anti-biotech NGOs issue statement on Uganda biosafety bill, say it is "major win" due to strict liability clause punishing those marketing and developing seeds**

**Commentary: Spanish news site claims multinationals use "tricks" to impose GM crops on African nations, notes Tanzanian ag minister banned GM crop trials after researchers published trial results without authorization, allowed trial tour by Mark Lynas who said Tanzanians were "poor and hungry," says farmers group complained Monsanto's product was inferior, and support gov'ts decision on GM trials**

**News: Nigerian news site reports "despite growing opposition" against GMOs, minister release Bt cotton varieties, saying they will resist pest attacks and devastating diseases; notes other countries cultivating Bt cotton report no human or animal health effects**

**News: Ghanaian news site reports entomologist calls for gov't to commercialize Bt cotton; says GM cotton variety would accelerate economic growth; says it would reduce farmers' costs by cutting pesticide use**

**More Africa items**

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**Asia**

**News: Japanese news site reports Japanese health ministry official says most gene-edited foods can be commercialized without safety screening, notes that would quickly bring more nutritious food to market quickly; but consumer groups call for mandatory safety assessments on gene-edited food**

**Commentary: Kalyani Prasher of The Weather Channel India examines growing demand for organic food, highlighting challenges for organic farmers, believes organic methods are better for the environment and produce healthier, safer food**

**More Asia items**

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**Europe**

**News: Belgian news agency reports company issues recall on animal feed, pet food contaminated by GM bacteria, warns pet owners not to feed the product to their pets**

**News release: Testbiotech notes EFSA dismissed Mexican allergen study on Bt toxin due to methodological flaws, no new info; Testbiotech notes Mexican scientists say EFSA is incorrect on crucial details, emphasize their findings should be investigated in more detail; Testbiotech says EFSA's judgment is biased**

**News release: U.K.'s John Innes Centre announces gov't funding for bacterial plant disease research; first phase involves consortium working to prevent one of most devastating plant pathogens in world from spreading into U.K.**

**More Europe items**

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**Latin America**

**Announcement: Mexico's National Council of Science and Technology announces new director, Alvarez-Buylla met with Conacyt employees, says humanities, sciences and technologies to be promoted at highest level**

[More Latin America items](#)

## Oceania

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[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 World Resources Institute calling for "dramatically" increasing agricultural yields to meet food demands without increasing land use or greenhouse gas emissions. Canadian regulators announced new safety assessments for genetically engineered salmon.

- The World Resources Institute capped a years-long investigation into future food demands and environmental pressures by releasing a new report, "World Resources Report: Creating a Sustainable Food Future." In 22 policy recommendations, the group highlights the need for meeting future food, land use, and environmental needs and goals; it notes that "flexible regulations" will be needed to encourage researchers and private industry to develop low-resource, highly productive plant and animal varieties in the future. The report was jointly produced with the World Bank, the United Nations environment and development programs and two French agricultural research agencies. [See more](#)
- Canada's *CBC* reported that officials with Environment and Climate Change Canada had confirmed that a GE salmon egg production facility was undergoing a new environmental assessment now that the company was seeking to expand production. The news was applauded in an email message from activist group Canadian Biotechnology Action Network, which claimed its public pressure campaign had forced regulators to act. [See more](#)

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

## North America

**[Announcement: World Resources Institute announces Sustainable Food Future report urges action to increase food production on less land while preventing deforestation, greenhouse gas emissions, exacerbating poverty](#)**

**[News: New York Times reports World Resources Institute study finds world needs drastic changes due to climate change, must grow more food on less land](#)**

**[News: Canadian Broadcasting Corp. reports GM salmon undergoing new federal risk assessment after company announces plans for new production goals; new assessment began last July](#)**

**[News: Pacific Standard reports USDA to finalize GM labeling rules this week, notes it will include "more somber" logo design](#)**

**[News: Intellectual property news site reports EU court ruling stifling patents for gene-edited products; expert questions patenting product that can't go to market](#)**

**[Commentary: Writing for Genetic Literacy Project, retired agronomist Andr   Heitz criticizes journal Nature for "descent into activism" for publishing study on environmental effects of food system, notes signatories on follow-up letter lack expertise](#)**

[More North America items](#)



## Africa

**Announcement: International Institute for Sustainable Development notes Convention on Biodiversity adopts process to develop global biodiversity framework and procedures to avoid conflicts of interest in expert groups, extends Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group for synbio**

[More Africa items](#)

## Asia

**News: Japanese news site reports gov't considers requiring reporting on all gene-edited food projects, even those not covered by current regulations; notes consumer groups worried over gene-edited food safety**

**News: Pakistani business news site reports GM crops enables farmers to grow food in more sustainable manner, ensuring adequate food supply with economic, social, environmental benefits; says experts say GM crops can reduce pesticide use while reducing losses to pests**

**News: Press Trust of India reports scientist in U.K. using genetic engineering to explore ways to safely grow crops in arsenic-contaminated soil**

[More Asia items](#)

## Europe

**Commentary: German anti-biotech NGO Keine-Gentechnik amplifies FoodWatch article criticizing EU Commission for doing nothing about GM bacteria in animal feed; quotes FoodWatch campaign director saying EU Ag Ministry "knowingly disregarded the health of consumers"**

**Campaign: Anti-biotech NGO promotes film against new breeding techniques, claims gene-edited products are "hidden GMOs"**

[More Europe items](#)

## Latin America

**News: Argentine news site reports MP Atilio Benedetti says he's confident Argentina seed law will be approved in 2019, says much progress achieved in 2018**

**News release: Argentina's National Agricultural Technology Institute announces researchers use CRISPR to modify bovine embryos to remove beta-lactoglobulin allergen present in cow milk**

[More Latin America items](#)

## Oceania

**News: Australia's Food and Beverage magazine reports on Ipsos survey looking at food habits in 29 countries, only 41 percent of Australians said they would never eat genetically engineered food, compared to a global average of 54 percent**

[More Oceania items](#)

## More Bonus Eventus Resources

### Stakeholder database

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

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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Dec. 4, 2018  
 Date: Tuesday, December 4, 2018 9:04:36 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 Norway's Bioteknologirådet (Biotechnology Council) had recommended the country soften its Gene Technology Act.

- In a report presented to the public today, Norway's Biotechnology Council released its proposal on regulating products of new plant breeding techniques (NBTs). The council, noting the months-long consultation process, emphasized that local researchers were investigating various climate-resilient and healthier gene-edited crops. While the group highlighted the need to include NBTs under current GMO guidance, they called for a tiered system that would ease the regulatory process for products resulting in changes that could be achieved via natural breeding methods and for products that do not incorporate other species' DNA. The proposal echoes similar recommendations in Japan and Australia. [See more](#)
- The Italian seed association Assosementi issued a statement in support of calls to revise Europe's GMO Directive. In its "Prima I Geni" report, co-authored with genetics society SIGA, the group says that "conscious and informed" policies will ensure Italy can participate in the innovative work being completed in the sector. [See more](#)
- In a brief regulatory update, the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) announced that it had completed its review of the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard. *The Progressive Farmer* reported that several details of the disclosure standard had not been clarified before the draft went to OMB for review. [See more](#)

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## North America

**News: The Progressive Farmer reports much-anticipated federal GMO disclosure standard cleared by OMB, clearing USDA to publish the rule; notes 'confusion remains' over details of the standard**

**Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science's Joan Conrow highlights call by European scientists for policy makers to safeguard gene editing, other innovations in plant science and agriculture, after ECJ ruling that calls for subjecting genome editing, other precision breeding techniques, to GMO regulatory scheme**

**Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science blogger highlights ag expert's remarks at COP CBD meeting in Egypt warning over-reliance on precautionary principle can impede innovation; expert responded to stances taken by those pushing for more stringent regulations of genetic engineering, gene drives**

**Commentary: Scientific American runs piece by Yale Law School professor Dan M. Kahan arguing science literacy important but 'science curiosity' also needed to ensure science literacy supports enlightened self-government, warning science literacy alone can deepen cultural polarization**

**Commentary: Fred Pearce writes for Yale Environment 360, examines "Sparing vs Sharing" debate over whether more intensive agriculture on smaller areas is better for the environment, as opposed to use of more land for small-scale, eco-friendly farming**

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**More North America items**


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**Africa**

**News: Nigeria's Leadership reports NASC calling for community policing to identify 'fake seeds' in the local market; quotes NBMA boss who says country must not allow unapproved GMOs**

**Commentary: Columnist for South Africa's Daily Maverick, Ivo Vegter, debunks claims that organic foods are healthier and better for the environment than conventional foods, highlights risks posed by organic-approved pesticides, notes organic's main success is profitability**

**News: Beninese news outlet reports on West African Caravan's delivery of a Green Booklet to the Ag Minister upon arriving in Cotonou, outlining concerns about land-grabbing, GMOs, use of synthetic fertilizers and phytosanitary products and threats to peasant seeds**

**Video: Uganda's NTV shows Civil Society Organizations welcoming liability clause in revised biosafety bill, includes statements from representatives of Food Rights Alliance, Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE) and SEATINI**

**More Africa items**

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**Asia**

**Commentary: Indian NGO Down To Earth amplifies study showing leafy wild plant Gandhari saag can be much better source of vitamin A than GM golden rice, notes experts at Conference on Food Sovereignty and Indigenous Food Systems call for reviving India's indigenous food culture**

**News: Korean consumer news outlet reports on continuing debate over GMO labeling regulations, civil society groups argue that GMOs present health risks and must be labeled for consumers' right to choose, food companies believe labels will create unnecessary anxiety**

**More Asia items**

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**Europe**

**Commentary: Kristin Halvorsen and Ole Johan Borge of Norwegian Biotechnology Council write for local news outlet, they explain need to modernize legislation on genetic engineering, highlighting the Council's proposal to distinguish different types of products**

**News release: Norwegian Biotechnology Council announces delivery of its proposal on modernizing genetic engineering regulation to Climate and Environmental Minister, Ola Elvestuen, calling for softening of current rules to accommodate new tools like CRISPR**

**News: Norwegian news sites report on Biotechnology Council's recommendations to soften GMO regulations, calling for modernization of the law to reflect different levels of genetic modification**

**Commentary: Aina Bartmann of Norway's Network for GMO-Free Food and Feed examines Biotechnology Council's recommendation for appointment of a public committee on future GMO regulations, highlights concerns about unintended effects on ecosystems**

**News release: Foodwatch reiterates criticism of EU Commission's handling of spread of illegal, antibiotic-resistant GM bacteria strain, in spite of warning from EFSA, notes at least eight tons of contaminated feed have been distributed around Europe**

**Announcement: European Food Safety Authority posts Open Procedure for preparatory support for statistical evaluation of comparative analysis of GM plant field trials, and for evaluation of toxicity studies supporting GM food and feed safety assessment**

**News release: Italian Seed Association presented "First the Genes" manifesto at a meeting co-organized with Italian Society of Genetics (SIGA), General Secretary Alberto Lippardini called for mobilization of the scientific community to push for changes to the GMO directive**

[More Europe items](#)

## Latin America

**Commentary: Mexico's Debate posts UNAM professor Javier Aguilar article saying the state of Sinaloa 'does not need' transgenic corn; notes Aguilar's research has established harmful effects of transgenic seeds**

**Commentary: Germany's Heinrich Boll Foundation posts Spanish-language critique of G20 meeting in Buenos Aires, promotes release of FoE's Agrifood Atlas, asserts it shows use of transgenic seeds, herbicides such as glyphosate and 2,4-D hurting health of Argentina's people**

[More Latin America items](#)

## Oceania

**Letter to the editor: Chairman of New Zealand NGO Clean Waters to the Sea, Wayne Parsonson, writes for local news outlet in response to column by Gavin Forrest of Federated Farmers, criticizes his support for GM crops, promotes regenerative and organic practices**

[More Oceania items](#)

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 Date: Monday, December 3, 2018 9:00:29 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 confirmation of a *Le Monde* report on illegal GM riboflavin in European animal feed. Switzerland's Federal Council announced it would seek recommendations on new breeding techniques from key agencies. German organic watchdogs said illegal GM seeds were found in several crop varieties.

- Following a late November report from *Le Monde*, officials with the French Directorate of Competition at the Ministry of Finance (DGCCRF) confirmed that "antibiotic-resistant GMOs" had been distributed in about 150 tons of animal feed intended for various European countries. *Agence France-Presse* reported that the potential contamination could extend to over 1 million tons of animal feed. [See more](#)
- In a meeting last week, the Swiss Federal Council reviewed the country's regulatory approach to new plant breeding techniques and assigned the federal Departments of Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC) and Economic Affairs, Education and Research (WBF) to produce a consultation template for feedback. The council promised a broad proposal on "cornerstones" for updating the regulation by summer 2019. [See more](#)
- Bioland, Greenpeace and IG Seed announced the results of their annual seed testing regime, finding that a batch of corn and a batch of soybean seed had tested positive for GM traits. Tested samples of oilseed rape, mustard, tomato and alfalfa were clear of genetically modified varieties. The groups highlighted the importance of zero tolerance policies and said they were heartened by the recent European court decision on NBTs. [See more](#)

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## North America

**News release: French-Canadian NGO Vigilance OGM promotes coalition appeal to environment minister to install transparent environmental assessment process for production of GM salmon in Canada, notes government about to accept GM salmon production, allowing construction of first GM fish plants**

**Report: Paper in PNAS examines growing influence of widespread dissemination of misleading and biased information about scientific matters, authors recommend that scientists develop online strategies to counter misinformation campaigns, in addition to improving clarity of their communications**

**Commentary: Mark Lynas of Cornell Alliance for Science examines climate scientist Michael Mann's decision to voluntarily release emails targeted by climate denier groups, notes anti-GMO groups use similar tactics to harass university scientists working on biotech**

**Commentary: Law firm's Food Safety News reports on advancements in gene editing in the U.S. following USDA's statement on deregulation, highlights claims by Friends of the Earth and Consumers Union about potential health and environmental risks**

[More North America items](#)

## Africa

**Commentary:** Ugandan science journalist Lominda Afedraru writes for Genetic Literacy Project, examines Ugandan researchers' hopes that biotech will help boost food production amid climate change, highlights controversy surrounding recently passed biosafety bill

**Commentary:** Lominda Afedraru of Cornell Alliance for Science examines Ugandan scientists' concerns about liability clause in the new biosafety bill, amplifies Young Farmers Association's statement calling on activists to stop spreading false information about GMOs

**News:** Uganda's The Sunrise reports on controversy surrounding liability clause in the new GMO bill, SCIFODE's Peter Wamboga Mugirya and Commissioner for Science Technology Advancement, Arthur Makara, believe the clause will discourage research and innovation

**News:** Ugandan radio outlet reports on scientists' optimism following Parliament's passage of the GMO bill, General National Agriculture Research Organisation Director, Ambrose Agona, believes it will allow farmers to access drought-tolerant and pest-resistant seeds

**News:** South Africa's Business Tech reports on Science and Technology Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane's statement that current laws and policy frameworks must be updated to handle new technologies such as gene editing

**News:** Nigeria's Blueprint reports on National Agricultural Seeds Council Institutional Biosafety Committee (NASC-IBC) workshop where NASC Director General Olusegun Philip Ojo called for intensive, coordinated regulation to ensure that only approved seeds enter Nigeria

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

**News:** Japan's Citizens' Biotechnology Information Center December 2018 Bio Journal reports on Investigative Panel of the Pharmaceutical Affairs and Food Sanitation Council, MHLW's discussions on policies for regulating genome editing

**Commentary:** Colin Todhunter writes editorial for Real Independent News and Film, amplifies paper by M.S. Swaminathan, known as father of the Green Revolution in India, and P.C. Kesaven, echoing claims about failure of GM crops to live up to promises

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**News release:** Swiss Federal Council discussed new advances in gene editing technology at its recent meeting, the Council finds that the applicable law should adapt to new developments based on risk, while taking into account the precautionary principle

**Commentary:** Swiss GM-Free Alliance (SAG) reacts to Federal Council's consideration of adapting legal regulation of new gene editing techniques, argues that basic principles of the Genetic Engineering Act apply to new technologies

**News:** Swiss news outlet reports on Federal Council's proposal to adapt genetic engineering law to new technologies, the Council believes new methods and their products should be classified according to risks to humans, animals and the environment

**News:** Agence France-Presse reports on French gov't confirmation that about 150 tons of animal feed contaminated by an illegal GM ingredient has been distributed in France, supplied to possibly over 100 client farms

**News:** France's Le Point reports on publication of analysis which shows how cognitive biases make people suspicious of technological innovation, like GMOs, points to gap in understanding of GMO safety between scientists and the population (subscription required)

**News:** Italiafruit News reports anarchist group Black Cross claimed responsibility for vandalism at the

**Crea research center in Montanaso Lombardo, speaking out against development of so-called GMO 2.0, Crea director Luigi Cattivelli noted it was an action against science**

**News release: German NGO Bioland, along with IG Seed and Greenpeace, announce results of inspections for contamination of seed samples with GMOs, they see a zero-tolerance policy as essential, call for swift implementation of EU Court ruling on gene editing**

**News: Bavarian Agricultural Weekly reports on discovery that two out of 839 seed samples were contaminated with GM seeds, according to reporting from Greenpeace, Bioland and IG Seed, Bioland president Jan Plagge emphasized importance of zero-tolerance**

**[More Europe items](#)**

## Latin America

**Report: USDA Foreign Agricultural Service GAIN Report examines Mexico's Secretariat of Agriculture Livestock, Rural Development, Fishery and Food's (SAGARPA) publication of new Mexican Official Norm for evaluating environmental risks of GM trials**

**News: Argentina's Infobae reports on Agriculture and Livestock Commission of Deputies president Atilio Benedetti's confirmation that debate on changes to the seed law will not resume until 2019, Argentine Seed Association sees it as a wasted opportunity**

**News: Argentina's La Capital reports on San Jorge Council initiative calling for 1,500 meter exclusion zones for pesticide spraying, and for programs to promote agroecology and organic ag**

**[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: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Dec. 3, 2018  
 Date: Monday, December 3, 2018 4:41:43 PM

## Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

In this week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter, we highlight a series of pieces detailing the promise of new crop breeding techniques – as well as the threat to these breakthroughs from activist opposition and increasingly strict European regulation.

Other pieces examine new survey insights into U.S. consumers' resistance to genetically modified foods and give reasons why funding to the International Agency for Research on Cancer should be cut off.

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: ActionAid Uganda



ActionAid Uganda is part of ActionAid International.

The NGO claims its mission is to tackle the root causes of the injustice of poverty rather than just meeting people's immediate needs; however, it plays a key role in lobbying on political issues and is a leading opponent of GMOs and conventional agriculture development, instead

### Stories Worth Sharing

[Steven Cerier: If NGOs succeed in attacks on new crop breeding techniques, "we all stand to lose"](#)

[Amanda Zaluckyj: We need to support brands that don't see "fear as fashionable"](#)

[Colin Berry: European regulatory scheme turning its back on reason, blocking "miracles of modern science"](#)

[Kenneth Artz: Heartland Institute says IARC "more into fearmongering than science," shouldn't get another penny from U.S.](#)

[Stuart Smyth: Good to see African nations pushing back against NGO misinformation on gene drives](#)

[Steven Novella: Survey shows U.S. public thinks scientists are divided although every major organization has endorsed GMO safety](#)

[Josh Kruskal: Survey indicates attitudes about GMO foods formed "long before children are able to make informed decisions"](#)

[Ieuan Evans: "Farfetched" to believe neonic seed treatments are killing off honeybees faced by numerous destructive pests and diseases](#)

[Hank Campbell: "Anti-science" environmental NGOs capitalize on emotional, hot button words to spread their message](#)

[Know Ideas: Smirnoff using "fuzzy" logic to claim non-GMO vodka is better, move also breaks labeling rules](#)

favoring alternative organic agroecology.

ActionAid Uganda was instrumental in blocking the passage of science-based, enabling biosafety legislation in the country and adding a range of highly restrictive amendments, which Nobel Laureate Sir Richard Roberts called "poison pills" designed to block development and use of biotechnology-developed products.

Click here to **LEARN MORE** about ActionAid Uganda.

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**What's Trending?**

French version of "Food Evolution" documentary premieres at AgroParisTech

Uganda Parliament approves biosafety bill containing liability clause that could discourage research

Activist groups praise U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity call for strict risk assessments on gene drives

French government to remove 132 products from market, review 69 others as part of glyphosate phase-out process

**Calendar highlights**

December 4	December 4	December 6
Argentina Ministry of Education, Culture and Technology seminar on gene editing	Bioteknologirådet open meeting presenting GMO regulation proposals	European Parliament Special Committee Meeting on Authorization Procedures for Pesticides (agenda)
December 7-8	December 9	December 10-13
International Conference on Biotechnology and Bioengineering	Swiss NGO Public Eye screens "Seed: The Untold Story" documentary with panel discussion	Brazil National Seminar: Agrochemicals, Socio-environmental Impacts and Human Rights with Vandana Shiva

**CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR**

<p><b>Stakeholder database</b></p> <p>More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate</p>	<p><b>Monitoring portal</b></p> <p>Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.</p>	<p><b>Bonus Eventus community</b></p> <p>Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.</p>
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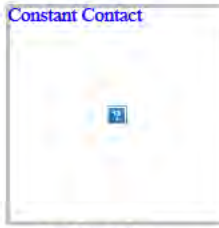
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## Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included reporting and commentary on the U.N.'s Convention on Biological Diversity. U.K. Environment Secretary Michael Gove said scientists and farmers will be free to use agricultural innovations following Brexit.

- The science journal *Nature* reported nations at the Convention on Biological Diversity rejected gene drive moratoriums, but agreed to regulations "vague enough that both proponents and skeptics of gene-drive technology are touting victory." The agreement calls on governments to conduct risk assessments and to seek indigenous and local peoples' consent before releasing gene drives into the environment. ETC Group, Friends of the Earth International and German Green Party officials acknowledged they preferred a moratorium but said "strict risk assessments" will be sufficient. **See more**
- *The Times* reported British Environment Secretary Michael Gove promised that following Brexit, scientists and farmers "would be freed from a European court ruling" restricting gene editing technology. A *Political Concern* blogger criticized Gove's statement and noted a Soil Association official urged the U.K. to mirror European Union regulations. **See more**

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## North America

**News: The Washington Post reports U.N. group gives go-ahead to researching gene drives to fight diseases; opponent says requirement to obtain consent from those affected may impose "precautionary barrier" to releasing organisms**

**Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science posts blog by Joan Conrow amplifying study published in Environmental Research Letters that suggests the type of yield gains made possible by GE will be needed to offset impacts of climate change on agriculture; study also touts need for developing nations to embrace new technology**

**News release: ETC Group and Friends of the Earth International welcome U.N. Convention on Biological Decision calling on governments to conduct strict risk assessments and consult with indigenous peoples before releasing gene drive technologies**

**Video: Know Ideas Media's Nick Saik says Smirnoff uses "fuzzy" logic claiming its non-GM vodka, a Class 1 carcinogen, is healthy, but marketing tactic will appeal to people who fear GMOs; says company violates federal alcohol label laws, but distillers how figured out how to circumvent them**

**Announcement: USDA seeking applicants for biotechnology risk assessment research grants; grants will be used to determine effects of introducing into environment GE organisms, including plants, microorganisms, insects, vertebrates**

**News: EcoWatch reports on new paper by InterAcademy Partnership (IAP), "Our Food Systems Are Failing Us," ahead of U.N. Climate Change conference in Poland, the report encourages innovation to**

**reduce meat consumption, such as development of lab-grown meat**

**News: Capital Press reports Pew survey shows growth in percentage of Americans who distrust GMO foods; notes growth is largest among those with little scientific knowledge, while those with high degree of scientific knowledge were unchanged**

[More North America items](#)

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## Africa

**Commentary: Michael J. Ssali writes for Uganda's Daily Monitor, says GM crops can help farmers address serious agricultural issues but legislators continue to distrust biotech and their own scientists**

**News: Ugandan news source reports Parliament passes amended Genetic Engineering Regulatory Act 2018, bill sets life sentence for anyone misusing GMO to harm people, plants or environment, scientists have protested provision**

**Commentary: African Centre for Biodiversity posts audio of interview of its researcher, Linzi Lewis, on Cape Town radio station after South African government rejects Monsanto's triple-stacked GM drought-tolerant maize**

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

**Commentary: GMWatch warns plant geneticist known as "father of green revolution in India" has opened himself to attacks after reversing views on GM crops, urging ban on Bt crops for health reasons, calling Bt cotton failure**

**Commentary: India's ThePrint runs op-ed by director of NGO warning against restricting positive uses of gene editing out of fear of unknown, pointing out CRISPR technology can be used with affordable kits sold online, touting GE's potential for producing inexpensive food**

**Commentary: Kazuhito Yamashita, Research Director for Canon Institute for Global Studies, writes article for Japan's Webronza, explains why claims that TPP trade agreement with the U.S. would lower food safety standards are false, pointing to similar approaches to GMOs**

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**News release: German Green Party's Steffi Lemke and Harald Ebner react to closure of U.N. Biodiversity Conference, while they believe a moratorium on gene drives would have been better, they welcome agreement on strict rules**

**News: The Times reports Environment Secretary Michael Gove promises scientists, farmers will be free to use gene editing technology despite European Court of Justice ruling that effectively stops use of food produced using technology**

**Commentary: Agricultural Biotechnology Council and EuropaBio's GMOinfo initiative amplifies statement by Polish Professor Janusz Bujnicki, member of EU Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism, calling for updating the GMO law to reflect scientific advances**

**Commentary: Inf'OGM raises concern European Commission may decide finding means to detect, trace unknown GMOs may require too much time, resources**

**News: France's Marianne magazine reports on spread of contaminated livestock feed with an illegal, antibiotic-resistant GM bacterium strain, highlights launch of investigations in France, and MEP Guillaume Balas' criticism of EU Commission for endangering public health**

[More Europe items](#)

## Latin America

**Commentary: Brazilian Landless Rural Workers Movement claims victory after state court found Syngenta responsible for shooting death of farm worker by security force guarding test plots**

**News: Argentina's Ambito reports proposed revisions to the Seeds Law will not enter Extraordinary sessions in 2018, and will not be addressed again until March, highlights Argentine Agrarian Federation's argument that plants are not patentable**

**News: Latin American news sites report Mexico President Lopez Obrador reaffirms during inaugural speech that transgenic foods will be banned in the country**

[More Latin America items](#)

## Oceania

**News release: GE Free New Zealand notes Convention on Biological Diversity opts to require risk assessments for gene drives, says some scientists pressure to remove regulations; claims gene editing promotion intends to deflect "terrible failures of" GMOs**

[More Oceania items](#)

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 Date: Thursday, November 29, 2018 9:02:33 PM

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## Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

### BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included news the Ugandan Parliament approved the country's biosafety bill and that Bayer would eliminate 12,000 positions.

- The Ugandan Parliament announced it passed the Genetic Engineering Regulatory Bill, which includes a strict liability clause that makes scientists liable for complaints related to their research "regardless of whether the particular anomaly was directly caused by the scientist," according to a Cornell Alliance for Science article. In the article, agronomist Andrew Kiggundu said isolation requirements also will prevent smallholder farmers from being able to cultivate GM crops. [See more](#)
- Bayer announced it would eliminate 12,000 positions by the end of 2021 as it exits the animal health business and other markets. CEO Werner Baumann said the staff reduction is unrelated to glyphosate lawsuit losses. However, German MP Anton Hofreiter criticized the layoffs, saying Bayer's purchase of Monsanto was irresponsible due to the glyphosate lawsuit risks. Hofreiter said Bayer's declining stock prices illustrate the problem. *BBC* and *Agence France-Presse* each reported the lawsuit losses are making investors nervous. [See more](#)

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

## North America

**Commentary: Stephan Neidenbach writes for Medium, criticizes Smirnoff's response to his questions about their non-GMO claims, notes they are ignoring Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau's (TTB) rules against making health claims directly on products**

**Commentary: Laura Pennington of Top Class Actions examines consumers' argument that class action lawsuit against Nestle should proceed, alleging that Nestle's Non-GMO label is misleading as it looks similar to but does not meet standards of the Non-GMO Project label**

**News: Successful Farming runs piece giving 10 predictions for future of gene editing in livestock from University of California-Davis geneticist Alison Van Eenennaam and Mitch Abrahamsen, chief commercial and scientific officer for Minnesota-based biotech company Recombinetics**

**News: Miami NPR affiliate reports U.K.'s Oxitec has halted effort to release GM mosquitoes in Florida Keys and Texas county but plans to re-apply with new version of technology; controversial plan calls for GM male mosquitoes to breed with wild females, allowing only male offspring to survive**

**News: Bangor Daily News reports on Maine residents' praise of the food sovereignty law allowing communities to create ordinances for direct exchange of produce and food between farmer and consumer**

[More North America items](#)

## Africa



**Commentary: John Agaba of Cornell Alliance for Science examines Ugandan scientists' concerns that strict liability clause in revised GMO bill will discourage research, Parliamentary Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation chairperson Fred Kyakulaga believes it will prioritize safety**

**Announcement: Ugandan Parliament announces passage of Genetic Engineering Regulatory Bill 2018, Committee Vice Chairperson Lawrence Akugizibwe noted the Committee agrees with the President about making patent holders strictly liable for any harm**

**Commentary: Modern Ghana columnist offers vision in which climate change joins pesticide pollution of groundwater, soil, leveling of rain forests as factors in worldwide environmental destruction**

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

**News: Pakistan's Business Recorder recaps workshop on "Plant Biotechnology for Food Security" at Lahore University, where research highlighted included work to develop transgenic wheat with increased bioavailability of iron and zinc; ISAAA launched 53rd annual brief on "Global Status of Commercialized Biotech/GM Crops in 2017"**

**Review: In review article in Current Science, P. C. Kesavan and M. S. Swaminathan argue that genetic engineering from the Green Revolution is not truly sustainable, claiming that GM crops have not reduced pesticide use, and that they have genotoxic effects**

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**Commentary: Labiotech's Helen Albert examines European growth in the synbio sector, highlighting growing number of startups, as well as shift from focus on health applications to developments designed to solve industrial and consumer issues**

**Commentary: GMWatch promotes letter sent from 75 non-GMO food and feed companies to EU officials welcoming ECJ ruling on new GE methods, calling on European Commission to implement measures required as result of ruling to safeguard GMO-free production in Europe**

**Commentary: Nele Marien of Friends of the Earth International writes for New Internationalist, criticizes corporate pressure at U.N. Biodiversity Conference, calls for abandonment of industrial ag in favor of agroecology**

**Interview: Austrian ag news source talks to president of Austria Agricultural Chamber, who says there will be no domestic or European sugar production in future without suitable pesticides, calls seed treatments most environmentally friendly method of pest control, defends derogations to EU neonic ban**

**News: Austrian news agency reports on letter from 75 GMO-free food and feed companies calling for swift implementation of EU Court ruling on new breeding techniques, Austrian signatories included Rewe International, Spar and numerous dairies**

[More Europe items](#)

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## Latin America

**News: Brazil's AgroLink reports use of transgenic maize doubled cereal production in Paraguay during two decades of planting variety, with new report from Institute of Agricultural Biotechnology indicating Paraguay now world's sixth-largest producer of transgenic crops**

[More Latin America items](#)

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## Oceania

**Commentary: New Zealand news outlet runs op-ed by University of Canterbury genetics researcher Jack Heinemann, who says scientists not immune to bias, notes conservation biologist's argument that biological sciences have released technologies such as pesticides and genetic engineering that could do good or harm**

**News release: Soil & Health Association of New Zealand welcomes passage into law of the Country of Origin of Food Bill, voices concern at exclusion of flours and grains from labeling requirements, noting most soy and maize products from the U.S. are genetically modified**

**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 open letter from GMO-free feed and food companies, urging full compliance with a court decision on new plant breeding techniques (NBTs). In Argentina, protesters successfully delayed a vote on a seed law.

- In an open letter to European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and Health Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis, European companies involved in the certification of "GMO Free" food and feed urged officials to resist plant researchers' calls for a revision of the existing GMO Directive. Claiming that the recent European Court of Justice decision offered legal certainty, the groups said that the existing regulations would ensure the safety of these new agricultural technologies. [See more](#)
- Argentine activists and protesters appear to have successfully prevented a vote on the controversial revision of the country's seed law. In an agenda for the anticipated Dec. 6 special session of the parliament, lawmakers excluded any discussion of the draft law; in protests held Tuesday night, activists said they had mobilized to highlight opposition to the pro-business amendment. The development means the seed law will likely not be reviewed until March. [See more](#)

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## North America

**News: Nigerian journalist writes for Cornell Alliance for Science, notes Convention on Biological Diversity's Cristiana Pasca Palmer says biodiversity critical to safeguarding life on the planet, but it continues to lose ground**

**Commentary: Mark Lynas writes for Cornell Alliance For Science, notes anti-GMO activism successful in sowing doubt about science, notes Pew survey finds growing number of adults distrust GMOs despite expert opinions they are safe**

**Commentary: Kevin Folta writing for Medium laments "brilliantly devious" efforts of anti-pesticide fearmongers like Moms Across America using phony numbers to scare consumers, highlights flaws in study claiming glyphosate in orange juice, noting lab run by member of anti-biotech Maharishi cult**

**Commentary: MIT assistant professor says gene drives could save lives, prevent animal suffering, but must be used wisely and thus should be a nonprofit technology so it can focus on public good rather than profits**

[More North America items](#)

## Africa

**News: Gambian news source Foroyaa reports 150 participants from 30 African countries completed four-day forum at Africa Organic Conference in Senegal**

**Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Marc Brazeau questions Tanzania's motivation behind banning GMO trials, ordering crops destroyed; notes GM maize trials were showing yield gains of 8 percent to 53 percent**

**Commentary: German NGO claims Tanzania's order to destroy GM crop field trials proves western nations, companies such as Monsanto out to "blackmail" African countries into planting GM corn; says South Africa rejected Monsanto's GM corn due to poor yields, claims Gates Foundation and corporations are exposed for lobbying to use GM crops**

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

**News: Pakistani news site reports biotechnology workshop sponsored by CropLife and ISAAA focuses on food security**

**News: Japanese news site reports gene editing can produce crops adapted to increased heat, dry conditions that accompany climate change, helps to continue feeding the world**

**Commentary: Vandana Shiva writes opinion piece for Times of Malta during her visit for a food rights conference organized by President's Foundation for the Well-being of Society, she outlines need to work for a "poison-free" planet, notes importance of saving seeds**

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**Commentary: Emeritus pathology professor Colin Berry says EU's restrictions on gene editing, GMOs, pesticides risks undermining ag, scientific progress, innovation; says policies will negatively impact developing nations, including those in Africa**

**News release: Austrian NGO Global 2000 welcomes open letter signed by 75 GMO-free companies from 10 EU countries calling for swift implementation of EU Court ruling on new breeding techniques, to offer protections to GMO-free production**

**Campaign: German Association of Non-GM Foods (VLOG) sends open letter to EU Commission President Juncker and Health Commissioner Andriukaitis, welcomes EU Court ruling on new breeding techniques, calls for proper implementation to protect non-GMO food and feed production**

**News release: German Association of Non-GM Foods (VLOG) announces open letter signed by 75 European GMO-free food and feed companies calling on EU Commission to implement measures to safeguard GMO-free production following EU Court ruling on new breeding techniques**

**News: Agence Europe reports European Parliament's Environment Committee votes to increase scientific risk assessment transparency on items such as pesticides and GMOs**

[More Europe items](#)

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## Latin America

**News: Argentine news site reports on street demonstrations opposing proposed changes to the seed law, activist says the changes benefit only large, international corporations**

**News: Argentine news site reports Argentine Parliament will not address the seed law during its special session Dec. 6**

**News: Argentine news site reports Argentina's lower house special session will not deal with seed law, which is likely to be postponed until session in March**

**News: Argentine news site reports opposition prevents seed law from passing this legislative session, but says it likely will pass next year**

Announcement: Small Planet Institute email blast announces Feb. 2019 release of new book by Senior Researcher Tim Wise, "Eating Tomorrow: Agrribusiness, Family Farmers, and the Battle for the Future of Food," highlights his investigations in Africa and Mexico

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: New Zealand-based Dairy News reports Stonyfield Farm founder Gary Hirschberg says non-organic dairy farmers will fail due to high costs, low price for milk; Hirschberg touts organic dairies, says those farmers are making money

News: Dairy Reporter notes marketing of allergen-free milk could change New Zealand residents' perceptions on gene editing benefits; AgResearch scientist notes public perception skewed towards worst-case scenario

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 continued U.S. response to a Pew survey showing consumer concerns about GMO foods had increased. International news outlets continued to amplify a *Le Monde* article showing GMO-produced riboflavin still in European animal feeds.

- A survey by the Pew Research Center, released Nov. 19, continued to generate commentary in U.S. science advocacy and general interest media sites. Science communicators writing for *Neurologica* and the *Genetic Literacy Project* highlighted the disappointing finding that more consumers reported being concerned about GMOs in foods; the writers urged farmers, researchers and other trusted figures to be active in countering self-interested NGO fear-mongering on food safety issues. [See more](#)
- Portuguese internet portal *Sapo* reported on the recent *Le Monde* investigation into banned GMO-produced riboflavin in animal feeds distributed throughout Europe. The news outlet noted that officials in Germany, Norway, Russia, Finland, Iceland and France had confirmed the presence of the illegal feed additive. A report in Vietnam's *VTV* noted that the riboflavin had been manufactured in China and was pulled from the market on Nov. 10. [See more](#)

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## North America

**Commentary: Blogging on New England Skeptical Society's NeuroLogica site, Steven Novella amplifies new Pew Research Center survey of Americans' attitudes toward food, with 49 percent feeling GMOs bad for health, up from 39 percent in 2016 survey; Novella cites misunderstanding, fear regarding GMOs**

**News: The Business Journals' Bizwomen site reports data from Pew Research Center shows roughly half of U.S. respondents surveyed see serious risks to consuming foods containing artificial ingredients, produce grown with pesticides; women most concerned about GMOs, food additives**

**Announcement: Cornell Alliance for Science announces release of position statements for U.N. Biodiversity Conference 2018, on issues of pollinators, synbio, public awareness, education and participation, risk assessment and risk management, and effectiveness of the Cartagena Biosafety Protocol**

**Commentary: Susan Bird of Care2 promotes Perfect Day Foods' development of new vegan dairy products using a biotech yeast strain in a lab environment, notes development of "real" animal products like meat and dairy in a lab is a victory for farmed animals**

**News: Bloomberg reports on lab-grown meat startups' partnerships with big traditional meat companies, highlights potential benefits for both, Good Food Institute's Bruce Friedrich noted benefit of larger companies' knowledge of mass-production**

**News: Boston NPR affiliate continues its "Lab to Table: The Future of Our Food" series with a look at lab-grown meat, features statements from Alison Rabschnuk of the Good Food Institute about**

**environmental benefits of lab-grown meat, as well as reduced safety issues**

**News release: Market research firm Kadence International announces new study which found that U.S. consumers are less willing to try non-traditional meat products such as lab-grown meat than European consumers, 20 percent believe it will help the environment**

**News: Manitoba Co-Operator reports on Keystone Agriculture Producers' (KAP) passage of resolution to lobby the federal gov't to ban testing, funding, importation and introduction of glyphosate-tolerant wheat in Canada, amid concerns about trade impact**

[More North America items](#)

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## Africa

**News: allAfrica summarizes and amplifies news coverage of Tanzanian gov't decision to halt GM maize field trials following unauthorized release of results, includes links to articles from Citizen, Daily News and NGO African Centre for Biodiversity**

**News: Egypt's Ahram Online reports on Swedish biodesigners Linnea Våglund and Leo Fidjeland, who brought a symbolic pink chicken to the U.N. Biodiversity Conference to promote debate on gene drives, they believe just one pink chicken could alter the entire population**

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

**News: Vietnam news source Nong Nghiep reports on CropLife Vietnam press conference on food safety, science communication; highlights comments by speaker David Zaruk who says food safety concerns are being exaggerated because of public's constant fear of diseases such as cancer, cites glyphosate**

**News: Pakistan Today reports on two-day international conference on "Innovation in Cotton Breeding and Biotechnology," Punjab Management and Professional Training Minister Hussain Jahania Gardezi noted technological changes cannot be avoided**

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**Commentary: Christophe Noisette of France's Inf'OGM examines Tanzanian gov't decision to halt field trials of Monsanto's GM corn, following publication of results without authorization, highlights South Africa's rejection of commercial release due to efficacy concerns**

**Event: Babylon Berlin announces upcoming public debate on Vision for Agriculture 2050, featuring activist Vandana Shiva and Bayer's Norbert Lemken, moderated by agronomist Sonoko Dorothea Bellingrath-Kimura (Nov. 29, 2018)**

**Commentary: Nora Kusche of Greenpeace Magazine writes guest post for Germany's Utopia, examines ties between some environmental groups and neo-Nazism, amplifies right-wing extremism expert Lukas Nicolaisen's work to advise progressive environmental groups on how to differentiate themselves**

**News: Portuguese news outlet reports on spread of banned GE vitamin B2 (riboflavin) throughout Europe, amplifying Le Monde's coverage, highlights an EU Commission spokeswoman's confirmation that Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed has been activated**

[More Europe items](#)

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## Latin America

**News release: Argentina's National Indigenous Campesino Movement (MNCI) and other organizations announce planned meeting on Nov. 29 in opposition to G20's meeting on "A Sustainable Food Future," claims the plan will benefit agribusiness**

**News release: Union of Scientists Committed to the Society and Nature of Latin America (UCCSNAL) issues statement rejecting proposed changes to Argentina's Seed Law, opposing appropriation and monopolization of the seeds**

**Report: BASE Social Investigations publishes report on GM soy cultivation and agribusiness in Paraguay, highlights increased consumption of agrochemicals as GM soybean area increases, finds that Paraguay is now importing more food for domestic consumption**

**News: Bolivia's Los Tiempos reports on presence of unlabeled GM products on the market as labeling requirements begin to go into effect, a Los Tiempos survey found that 73 percent of 352 respondents said they would not buy a product if they knew it was transgenic**

**[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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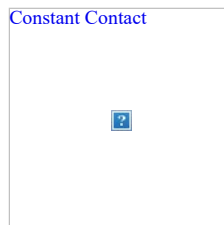
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 Date: Monday, November 26, 2018 9:04:31 PM

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## Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

### BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Recent global biotechnology developments included a European Commission report outlining a plant protein strategy. In Africa, media outlets reported that Tanzania's government ordered the destruction of all GM crop field trials and data. Large quantities of livestock feed containing banned riboflavin produced by GM bacteria have been distributed throughout the European Union.

- On Thursday, the European Commission released its report outlining a strategy for increasing production of plant proteins in the region. The proposed strategy involved policies such as linking plant protein cultivation to Common Agricultural Policy incentives, as well as marketing the benefits of plant protein consumption to local consumers. In the report, the commission noted that consumers were increasingly demanding more environmentally friendly feed sources and added that the EU's non-GMO status could present an opportunity to market to that need. In a follow-up report on the announcement, *Politico* noted that small farmers particularly in eastern Europe were concerned that the new policy could accelerate industrial land consolidation. [See more](#)
- News outlets in Tanzania reported that researchers were "shocked" by government demands that all GM crop field trials be halted and the data and crops be destroyed. In a statement reported on *The Citizen*, officials said that researchers conducting the trials had inappropriately shared results with legislators and media representatives without first informing the government; the statement added that the direction to stop the trials came as a result of "propaganda" efforts. The news was amplified by African and European activist groups. [See more](#)
- French news sites reported large quantities of banned GM feed have been distributed to at least eight EU countries. The GM feed contains an animal feed additive, riboflavin or vitamin B2, produced by a bacteria that is antibiotic-resistant and has been banned in the EU. *Radio France Internationale* reported that active bacteria have been discovered in some of the feed. Dutch health services indicated between 800,000 and 1.6 million tons of feed are affected. *Le Monde* reported authorities are on alert due to the report. [See more](#)

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## North America

**Commentary: Mysterious Universe writer says UN Convention on Biodiversity considering test-ban on gene drives, which Gates Foundation says could diminish malaria rates; writer calls gene drive "frighteningly powerful," Foundation feels panic over gene drives could prevent lifesaving efforts**

**News: Reason magazine reports FDA, USDA agree to joint oversight of lab-grown meat with USDA overseeing cell growth with transition to USDA regulatory control during cell harvesting; USDA to handle production, labeling of products**

**Commentary: Certified Holistic Health Counselor Annie Price writes for Dr. Axe, warns readers about health risks of GMO foods, citing claims by Center for Food Safety and Institute for Responsible Technology, provides tips on how to avoid them**

**Commentary: Jonathan Latham of Bioscience Resource Project amplifies FOIA campaign by U.S. Right to Know allegedly revealing efforts by Gates Foundation and Cornell Alliance for Science to influence**

**scientific literature to promote GMOs and Ceres2030 plan**

**Commentary: Nkechi Isaac of Cornell Alliance for Science amplifies statements by ISAAA AfriCenter Kenya director Margaret Karembu, Stellenbosch University biotechnologist Manuela Campa and Ahmadu Bello University plant breeder Mahammad Ishiyaku on how biotech can protect biodiversity**

**Commentary: Doctor of natural medicine writing on Care2 highlights study by Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds that found GMO corn less nutritious than heirloom corn, containing less protein, fewer healing compounds**

**News: News service for U.N. issues reports participants at Biosafety Clearing House training workshop in Egypt explored decisions importers or exporters would make in shipping GMOs and living modified organisms; boundary and Cartagena Protocol decisions for LMOs also discussed**

**[More North America items](#)**

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## Africa

**Commentary: Uganda's Michael J. Ssali writes for Daily Monitor, says farmers should be able to use pesticide-, drought-tolerant crops to help increase yields, income**

**Commentary: Uganda's Daily Monitor runs op-ed by attorney warning about dangers of introducing GMO technology to country prior to reforming markets, arguing poor farmers will face overproduction in short term and de-capitalization in long run, claiming Uganda doesn't have vast lands to support environmentally risky GMO farming**

**Commentary: Sustainable Pulse examines decision by Tanzania's Ag Secretary, Mathew Mtigumwe, to end all ongoing GMO field trials, welcomed by several civil society organizations, highlights ties of Water Efficient Maize for Africa project to Monsanto and Gates Foundation**

**News: Tanzanian news site reports scientists surprised by government order banning confined GMO field trials and directive to destroy research materials; statement indicated gov't officials unhappy Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute appeared to release field trial results before receiving ag ministry approval**

**Commentary: French blogger says documentary "Food Evolution" examines the demonization of GMOs, must be seen to understand the global food challenges involving GMOs, pesticides; adds it shows how easily misinformation and fear can stifle the truth**

**[More Africa items](#)**

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## Asia

**News: The New Indian Express reports Pennsylvania State University's Nina Fedoroff asserts review of hundreds of research studies showed no proof that GM crops were health risks; Fedoroff notes disinformation campaign kept Bt eggplant out of India, led to Bt cotton debate**

**News: India's Tribune Trust reports on Kheti Virasat Mission's (KVM) efforts to create awareness about negative effects of GM mustard, KVM member Pankaj Jain noted goal of circulating messages about GM crops to the maximum number of people**

**News: Indian news site reports farm, environmental, NGO groups oppose GM mustard field trials in Punjab, claim it will worsen environmental, health problems in the area**

**[More Asia items](#)**

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## Europe

**News: Dutch news source reports existing vitamin B2 sources produced with GMOs are not allowed in production of organic feed according to EU regulation**

**News: Belga reports on Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain's (FASFC) discovery of an illegal GMO in vitamin B2 in animal feed, FASFC spokeswoman Liesbeth Van de Voorde noted the modified form of bacillus subtilis is not allowed due to antibiotic resistance**

**News: Agence France-Presse reports banned GMOs discovered in animal feed in EU, says riboflavin is considered dangerous because it is produced by GM bacteria that is antibiotic-resistant**

**News release: Association of Biology, Life Sciences and Biomedicine in Germany (VBIO) announces open letter signed by 130 researchers calling for changes in GE legislation following EU Court ruling on gene editing, noting the law does not reflect the current science**

**News: Germany's Der Tagesspiegel reports on open letter from 130 researchers calling for changes to Genetic Engineering Act following EU Court ruling on gene editing, to avoid a permanent disadvantage in research and loss of experts**

**News: Swiss independent news service reports fears of gene editing, plan to eradicate mosquitoes, leads to call for a moratorium at Conference on Biological Diversity meeting in Egypt; adds some feel the technology will have unforeseen environmental, health, social consequences**

**News: Euractiv reports EU court decision on NBTs isolates EU as other countries embrace mutagenesis, gene editing; says other countries prefer not to hinder innovation**

**Commentary: GMWatch's Claire Robinson says European Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism "in lockstep" with U.S. and GMO lobby, says SAM's report is "self-contradicting and unscientific," points to off-target effects in gene editing**

**[More Europe items](#)**

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## Latin America

**News: Brazil's AgroLink reports scientists concerned public opposition to GM foods may stall technology that can feed billions as world population rises; University of Minnesota professor believes opposition will evaporate if people see benefits**

**Commentary: Brazilian environmental NGO highlights France's decision to encourage boycott of agricultural products from illegally deforested areas; notes decision could impact Brazilian transgenic soybeans**

**Commentary: Mapuche community article in Biodiversidad says indigenous group's court appeal claims Argentina's Chamber of Deputies violating law by skipping consultation on seed law changes that favors large agribusinesses**

**News: Cayman News Service reports on Environment Minister Dwayne Seymour's statement that release of GE mosquitoes has not been effective, based on information learned following arrival of new Mosquito Research and Control Unit director, Jim McNelly**

**[More Latin America items](#)**

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## Oceania

**Commentary: New Zealand science blogger Grant Jacobs criticizes TIME magazine for publishing piece written by U.S. Right to Know's Carey Gillam concerning DeWayne Johnson's cancer case against Monsanto, says science claims lack balance, Gillam is not a science writer nor independent of the topic**

**News: The New Zealand Herald reports Kiwi chicken-free "chicken" maker Sunfed working on lab-grown "beef," wants Air New Zealand to use its product instead of U.S.-made Impossible Burger on carrier's current menu; national ag spokesman touts New Zealand's GMO- and hormone-free steaks, lamb**

**News: New Zealand news site reports physics professor disappointed in lack of scientist participation in "anti-science" GMO hearings to determine if Northland Regional Council should have local control over GMOs, says it's critical to have expert input**

## More Bonus Eventus Resources

<p><b>Bonus Eventus community</b></p> <p>Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.</p>	<p><b>Events calendar</b></p> <p>See where news could be happening next. Or let allies know about an upcoming event.</p>	<p><b>Stakeholder database</b></p> <p>More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.</p>
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From: Jay Byrne  
 To: Diane.Wray-Cohen@fas.usda.gov  
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Nov. 26, 2018  
 Date: Monday, November 26, 2018 5:14:18 PM

## Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

This week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter highlights a new commentary by CropLife International CEO Howard Minigh responding to a report critical of pesticides by United Nations special rapporteur Hilal Elver. Minigh argues Elver has "no scientific experience in agriculture or pesticides" and that her assertions about biotechnology, glyphosate and neonicotinoids are unfounded -- as are her expectations for agroecology as a replacement.

Other articles provide updates on Bt eggplant field trials in Bangladesh and appearances by molecular biologist Nina Fedoroff in India and Nobel laureate Sir Richard Roberts in the Philippines in which both discussed 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: Jeffrey Smith



Jeffrey M. Smith, the executive director of the Institute for Responsible Technology, has been increasingly active in recent weeks promoting his "[Secret Ingredients](#)" documentary claiming people were cured of autism, infertility and cancer by removing GMOs and pesticides

### Stories Worth Sharing

[Howard Minigh: Report by "compromised" rapporteur undermines United Nations' goals for safe, affordable food](#)

[Toban Dyck: Public needs help to judge agriculture based on more than " cursory understanding of chemicals"](#)

[Mark Lynas: Bangladesh field trials confirm Bt gene protects against critical eggplant pest](#)

[David Zaruk: Predatory lawsuits like those spurred by IARC bring "less innovative technologies, higher costs and poor quality products"](#)

[A Fresh Look: Farmers, moms dispel myth that GM crops are "doused" with pesticides](#)

[Mikael Angelo Francisco: Nobel laureate Richard Roberts says biotech opponents using "science that has already been proven wrong"](#)

[The Hindu: Molecular biologist Nina Fedoroff says "political elites" making India lag in embracing GM crops](#)

[Grant Jacobs: TIME ignores journalism tenets of balance and fairness by running glyphosate piece from biased activist Carey Gillam](#)

[Cameron English: Despite activist claims, your Thanksgiving dinner is not "tainted" by pesticides and antibiotic-resistant bacteria](#)

from their diets.

Smith attended school at the Maharishi Institute of Management in Fairfield, Iowa, where he resides, and has no other reported science education background or other credentials.

He formerly worked as the vice president for marketing, communications and business development for the Fairfield-based GMO testing laboratory Genetic-ID, founded by John Fagan of the Maharishi Institute.

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

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Farm to Table Talk: Genetic Literacy Project's Jon Entine discusses phobias about chemicals in food supply [📺](#)

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BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING

### ■ What's Trending?

Le Monde report highlights presence of riboflavin produced by GM bacterium in animal feed

French government to take public comments through Dec. 10 on Ecophyto plan to reduce pesticide usage, phase out glyphosate

Tanzania government bans confined GM crop field trials, orders destruction of research materials

Bayer appeals California jury verdict ruling glyphosate caused man's cancer

### ■ Calendar highlights

November 26-27	November 28-29	November 28
EU Commission PAFF committee meeting on pesticide residues	European Food Safety Authority plenary meeting of the Panel on Plant Protection Products and their Residues	"Does our environment seriously affect health?" seminar hosted by Inserm
November 28-30	November 30 - December 1	December 1
IFPRI-FAO global conference - Accelerating the End of Hunger and Malnutrition	2018 G20 Leaders' Summit	Children's Health Defense fundraiser with Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

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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Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.

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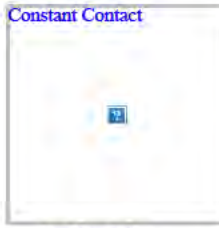
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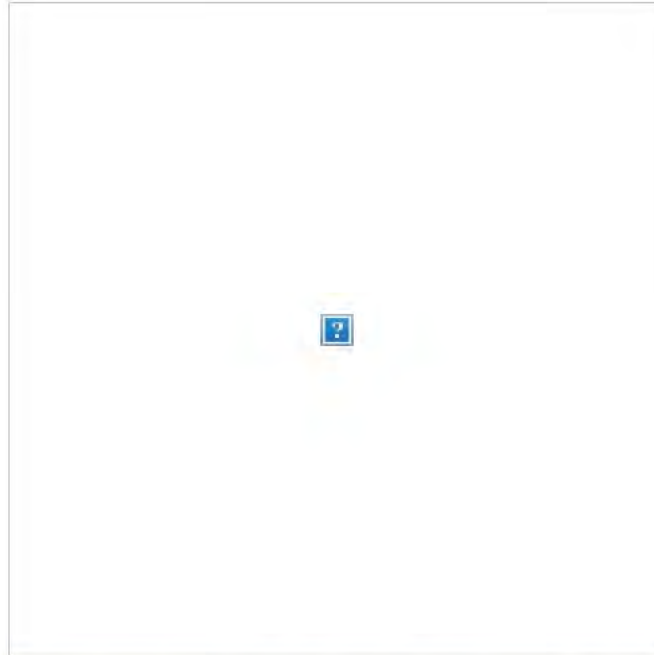
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## Latest updates online

### Thanksgiving

Due to the U.S. Thanksgiving 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 Monday, Nov. 26.

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 Date: Wednesday, November 21, 2018 9 02:20 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 Austrian campaign to relaunch labels for GMO-free animal feed. In the U.S., stakeholders continued to analyze the implications of new regulatory plans for lab-grown meat.

- Greenpeace Austria announced the results of a new testing campaign that found the country's AMA food quality label was being used on food containing products from animals fed GMO feed. The activist group linked the issue to GM soy imports from South America, highlighting the negative impacts on rainforests and farmers. Responding to the report, Austria's Green Party announced it would push for the AMA label to exclude GM feed, while Liste Pilz MP Wolfgang Zinggl noted that a similar bill was already before the agriculture committee. **See more**
- Food and business news sites in the U.S. and beyond continued to respond to a joint U.S. Department of Agriculture-Food and Drug Administration announcement that the agencies would jointly regulate cell-based or lab-grown meat. Agriculture site *Capital Press* highlighted how the two agencies would divide their efforts, and *Newsweek* quoted executives who praised the agencies for providing certainty to the industry. Consumer-focused food site *The Spoon* noted that the public comment period on the regulation had been extended, with a new deadline of Dec. 26. **See more**
- European activist group GRAIN issued a new report claiming that the campaign to develop Golden Rice was backed by lies about intellectual property rights and efficacy. The group said that efforts to promote the crop were a "crime against humanity" and warned that feeding trials were scheduled for next year. **See more**

Due to the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday, your next Global Biotech Snapshot will be delivered on Monday, Nov. 26. 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: Food Ingredients First reports FDA, USDA agree on jointly regulating cell-cultured meat, notes founding innovator of the technology, Mark Post, says could take 10 years before industry takes shape**

**News: Food news site reports USDA and FDA to share cell-based meat regulation; commentary on regulation closes Dec. 26**

**News: Capital Press reports USDA and FDA agree on joint oversight for lab-grown meat; statement says plan leverage's FDA expertise with cell cultures and biosystems with USDA experience in regulating livestock, poultry products**

**Commentary: International Institute for Sustainable Development's Earth Negotiations Bulletin continues with its U.N. Biodiversity Conference Highlights, points to tensions over digital sequence information (DSI), as most developed countries argued that DSI is outside the scope of the Convention**

**More North America items**

## Africa

**News:** Nigerian news site reports activists claim growing GM cotton varieties will lead to disaster, including other commercialized GM food crops; activist notes South Africa rejected Monsanto GM maize variety, says it's regrettable Nigerian gov't would "front for Monsanto"

**News:** Nigerian news site reports gov't launched Bt cotton to aid textile industry, says variety will increase yields and pest resistance

**News:** Nigeria's The Guardian reports anti-biotech NGOs condemn government for accepting biotech crops, claims GMOs represent "disaster for farmers, the entire public and our agricultural system"

**Commentary:** Esther Kimani, Managing Director of Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service, writes for European Seed, explains benefits of Plant Variety Protection and UPOV membership in Kenya, highlights increased number of breeding entities and activities

**Announcement:** African Biosafety Network of Expertise reports UN Convention on Biological Diversity meeting hosted by Egypt Nov. 17-29 is first ever in Africa, nearly 200 nations attending

**Announcement:** International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications (ISAAA) publishes statements it made at the U.N. Biodiversity Conference, including statements on cooperation with international organizations, capacity building and on the Biosafety Clearing House

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

**Campaign:** GRAIN details history of Golden Rice, disputes its effectiveness in addressing vitamin A deficiency, says other sources address the issue more cost-effectively, claims nations targeted for distribution reject it and that industry lies about need for the crop

**Commentary:** Philippine's Business Mirror editorial notes that despite safety, Filipino groups protested against GMOs, negative public opinion likely will delay gene-edited food from being introduced despite benefits

**News:** Pakistani news site reports Department of Plant Protection demands "unnecessary paperwork" stating pulse imports are not GMO, claims pulses scientifically cannot be modified

**News:** India's The Economic Times reports farmers group, activists join legal battle against Monsanto cotton seed patent; farming group claims issue impacts local seed companies and country's food security; advocates claim patent was for DNA construct, but the seed is only a carrier

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**News:** German news site reports Greenpeace tests show pork sold with Austria's AMA quality label is from pigs fed GM soy; notes Greenpeace calls for withdrawal from GM feed and food

**Commentary:** Greenpeace announces its tests show products with Austria's quality label AMA include products from animals fed GMOs imported from South America; claims rain forest is cleared to cultivate GM soy, large amounts of dangerous pesticides used on the crop

**News release:** Austrian Green Party demands that Austrian ag minister ensure AMA quality label must exclude use of GM feed for livestock, poultry products; claims GM soy leads to rainforest destruction, smallholder displacement; calls on EU to develop protein policy to encourage feed cultivation in EU

**News release:** Austrian Parliament announces legislators are preparing quality label for meat produced without using GM feed, palm oil

**Commentary:** Researchers from Wageningen University & Research and U.K.'s National Institute of Agricultural Botany write perspective article for Frontiers in Plant Science, they note countries outside

**of Europe will benefit from use of gene editing to develop hypoimmunogenic wheat varieties**

**Commentary: Michael Antoniou writes for GMWatch's "Bound to Fail" series on genetic engineering, believes a new understanding of "omnigenics" demonstrates conceptual flaws in GM technology, makes claims about unintended effects of gene editing**

**[More Europe items](#)**

**Latin America**

**News release: Argentine government website promotes international declaration it presented at World Trade Organization meeting in Geneva on agricultural applications of precision biotechnology; presentation expresses importance of gene editing for agribusiness, seeks international acceptance**

**News: Bolivia's El Deber reports on International Service of Acquisition of Applications of Agrobiotechnology (ISAAA) report demonstrating a new world record for biotech crop adoption in 2017, highlights Nobel laureate endorsement of biotech**

**[More Latin America items](#)**

**Oceania**

**Commentary: New Zealand news site notes FDA, USDA agree on joint regulation, says double-standard exists as regulators ignore labeling claims for products replacing meat and milk; points out consumers ignore scientists' statements on GMO safety as public perception lags behind scientific reality**

**[More Oceania items](#)**

**More Bonus Eventus Resources**

**Stakeholder database**

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

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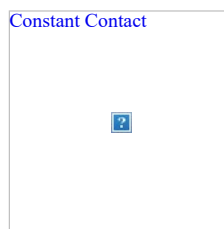
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## Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

### BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included a U.N. Third Committee vote approving a declaration on peasant rights. In Nigeria, a coalition of activists criticized the government for its efforts to promote biotechnology.

- At the U.N. General Assembly meeting, the Third Committee on Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs approved a draft resolution on the Declaration on the Right of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas. The vote (119 in favor and seven against, with 49 abstentions) moved the resolution toward formal adoption in mid-December. [See more](#)
- Officials with Nigeria's science and agriculture ministries held a news conference repudiating activist claims that recently approved GM crops are harmful to consumers or the environment. The statements follow an open letter signed by the Health of Mother Earth Foundation, GMO-Free Nigeria Alliance and other groups who claim that the government is undertaking biotechnology "propaganda" in favor of multinational corporations. [See more](#)

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## North America

**Campaign: Canadian NGO Union Paysanne sends open letter calling on Canadian delegation to vote in support of the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other Persons Working in Rural Areas, recognizing rights to seeds, land, water and food sovereignty**

**News: Newsweek reports on USDA and FDA's agreement on joint regulation of lab-grown meat, Brian Spears of cultured meat start-up New Age Meats noted the announcement removes uncertainty, allowing them to move forward with innovative developments**

**News: Forbes reports on agreement between USDA and FDA for joint regulatory oversight of lab-grown meat, the announcement was welcomed by several stakeholders in the sector, including JUST, Inc and Good Food Institute**

**News: Politico Pro reports on potential for Congress to influence future of cell-based meat regulations, as USDA and FDA reach agreement on joint oversight, House Appropriations subcommittee leader Rep. Robert Aderholt wants USDA to take the lead**

**News: Courthouse News Service reports on Pew Research poll which found that 49 percent of American adults believe GM foods are harmful to human health, up from 39 percent in 2016, primarily among respondents with low levels of scientific knowledge**

**News: Pacific Standard reports on Pew Research poll which found that lower levels of science literacy are associated with higher levels of perceived risk about genetic engineering, pesticides and additives in food**

**News: Washington Examiner reports on new Pew Research poll which found that 49 percent of Americans believe GMO foods are worse for health than non-GMO foods, while Non-GMO Project raises**

**doubts about safety, National Academy of Sciences deems them safe**

**[More North America items](#)**

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## Africa

**News release: La Via Campesina welcomes U.N. Third Committee's (Social Humanitarian and Cultural) vote in favor of Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas, noting it is a significant leap forward in its campaign**

**News: Nigeria's Atlantic Post reports on letter from 38 groups, including GMO-Free Nigeria Alliance and Health of Mother Earth Foundation, condemning gov't efforts to release GM cotton, raising claims about safety and efficacy**

**News: Nigerian Tribune reports on gov't response to claims by Health of Mother Earth Foundation that recently released GM cotton is harmful to humans, highlighting statements by Science and Technology Minister Ogbonnaya Onu and Ag Minister Audu Ogbeh**

**News: Nigeria's The Eagle reports on Minister of Science and Technology, Ogbonnaya Onu's statement that Federal Gov't is committed to deploying scientific research to improve ag production, highlighting potential for GM cotton to revive the textile industry**

**Commentary: Joseph Opoku Gakpo of Cornell Alliance for Science examines Africa's opposition to proposed gene drive moratorium at the U.N. Biodiversity Conference, highlights work underway in Burkina Faso using gene drive technology to combat spread of malaria**

**News release: Friends of the Earth International and African Centre for Biodiversity held joint press conference at U.N. Convention on Biodiversity meeting in Egypt, calling for global moratorium on environmental release of gene drive technology**

**[More Africa items](#)**

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## Asia

**News: The Hindu reports visiting lecturer Nina Fedoroff urged policymakers to accept GM crops, highlighting scientific consensus on current crops' safety and efficacy**

**News: Telangana Today reports Indian, U.S. researcher urge policymakers to embrace possibilities of biotechnology in agriculture, including benefits for food security and productivity**

**News: Vietnamese news outlets report on Congress' passage of adoption of the Law on Cultivation, includes measures to ensure food safety, biosafety, disease safety and environmental protection**

**Commentary: Filipino science news source runs article by university students updating status of Golden Rice project, noting challenge of getting permits from government for field trials; project entering fourth stage, when researchers will plant and grow Golden Rice in normal field environments**

**News: Pakistan Today reports on success of hybrid maize adoption, Bayer Pakistan's Azeem Khan Niazi noted increasing importance of adopting more innovative technologies, highlighting Bayer's efforts to introduce biotech corn to Pakistani farmers**

**[More Asia items](#)**

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## Europe

**News: Italian news agency Agenparl reports on U.N. Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) approval of nine draft resolutions, including a declaration on peasants' rights, the U.S. took issue with references to right to seeds, due to lack of international agreement**

**News release: German NGO Naturland, as part of broad coalition of 15 civil society organizations, calls on German gov't to vote in favor of U.N. Declaration on peasants' rights, Paula Gioia of Working Group**

## on Rural Agriculture warned about threats to seed diversity

**Announcement: EU Parliament announces upcoming Agriculture and Rural Development committee meetings; on Nov. 21, members will exchange views on "UN Declaration on rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas"**

**News: France's Agra Presse reports on French Seeders Union's (UFS) concerns that Agriculture and Food Act will lead to €450m loss of turnover in the sector after 2022, President Franck Berger pointed out problems with EU Court ruling on gene editing**

**News: Austria's Kronen Zeitung reports on GLOBAL 2000 activist Reinhard Uhrig's reaction to leaked paper on a U.S.-EU trade agreement, warning that the EU Commission is promising negotiations on pesticide residues, hormones in meat and genetic engineering**

[More Europe items](#)

## Latin America

**Commentary: Brazil's Movimento dos Pequenos Agricultores amplifies UN Third Committee decision approving peasant rights declaration, notes formal adoption will take place in mid-December**

**News release: Brazilian agency Embrapa announces National Technical Biosafety Commission authorizes planting of GM cotton in state of Rondonia; state will leave exclusion zone for planting of GM cotton, release gives farmers new possibility of growing beyond conventional cotton**

**News: Mexico's El Financiero reports on Corteva leader Ricardo García de Alba's opinion that gov't plan to increase amount of corn harvested to achieve food self-sufficiency is possible, he promoted use of hybrid seeds, noting they do not involve use of transgenic products**

[More Latin America items](#)

## Oceania

**Campaign: Australian Food Sovereignty Alliance launches crowdfunding campaign to publish a new book, "Farming Democracy: The True Cost of Farming," which will promote family farms working towards agroecology and regenerative agriculture**

[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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## Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

### BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included new activist statements following weekend events at the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity conference. European researchers and politicians continued to discuss the region's stance on gene editing.

- Over the weekend, the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP14) held discussions on synthetic biology. Responding to the meeting, Brazil's Movimento dos Pequenos Agricultores (MPA) amplified statements from La Via Campesina and the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty, who were critical of the technologies' potential for replacing products currently produced through peasant agriculture. [See more](#)
- Following the COP14 discussion on so-called gene drives, ETC Group amplified a statement from African NGOs who called for a moratorium on the technology. The activists, which included Alliance for Food Sovereignty Africa and Friends of the Earth, highlighted concerns over Target Malaria's planned field trial of GM mosquitoes in Burkina Faso and said the COP14 delegates from South Africa and Nigeria did not represent their interests. [See more](#)
- In Europe, politicians and researchers continued to respond to a European Court of Justice decision that limits the region's ability to utilize new plant breeding techniques (NBTs). Green MEP Martin Häusling criticized the European Commission Science Advisory Mechanism's recommendation that current EU regulations be revised, contending that gene-editing technology should not be exempt from the GMO Directive. L'Union Française des Semenciers issued a statement in support of the advisory group's proposal. [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

**Audio: CBC radio program features debate on gene drive technology in context of U.N. Biodiversity Conference, Yale biologist Natalie Kofler calls for global oversight, also featured are Andrea Crisanti of the Target Malaria consortium, and Jim Thomas of ETC group, which hopes to ban the technology**

**News: Wall Street Journal reports on China's efforts to advance modern farming amid trade war with the U.S., many experts believe the Chinese gov't is soon likely to lift the ban on GM seeds following ChemChina's acquisition of Syngenta**

**Commentary: Brian Kennedy, Meg Hefferon and Cary Funk of Pew Research Center examine new report which found that Americans are closely divided on health effects of GM foods, 49 percent of U.S. adults believe foods with GM ingredients are worse for one's health**

**Video: Voice of America reports on advances in gene editing, featuring University of California's Alison Van Eenennaam, who explains research to breed hornless dairy cattle using gene editing**

**News release: Good Food Institute welcomes USDA and FDA's announcement of conclusion that the agencies should jointly oversee production of cell-based meat products, and that new legislation is not**

necessary, praising a transparent and predictable regulatory path forward

**Commentary: Paul Wallis writes op-ed for Digital Journal examining USDA and FDA's statement announcing plans for joint oversight of lab-grown meat, believes the news will likely be a catalyst for all-out development, highlights many benefits of the technology**

[More North America items](#)

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## Africa

**News: Ghana News Agency reports local organic NGO urging gov't to promote organic farming citing study funded by USAID and other development agencies; NGO claims organic healthier for soil, farmers and people by avoiding chemicals**

**News: France's Liberation reports on Burkina Faso's plans to release 10,000 GE mosquitoes as part of Target Malaria project, highlights opposition from anti-GMO groups like Citizen Collective for Agroecology, which plans to file a complaint over lack of public consultation**

**News: Egypt's Ahram Online reports on U.N. Biodiversity Conference, regarding digital sequence information, the EU emphasized importance of benefit-sharing in the form of public and open-access databases, other topics discussed included synbio and gene drives**

**News: Xinhua reports on concerns raised about GM Bt cotton in Kenya as farmers are soon expected to begin growing it, Anne Maina of Kenya Biodiversity Coalition called on gov't to evaluate possible negative health impacts on humans and animals**

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

**Report: USDA Foreign Agricultural Service GAIN report provides annual biotech update for Japan, 183 events have been approved for environmental safety, but there is still no commercial cultivation of GM food crops**

**News: South Korea's Consumer News reports some Koreans concerned about safety of GMO food, protesting to demand better labeling and right to choose non-GMO options; 66 percent of married women responding to survey said they believed GMOs would be harmful to human health**

**News: India Science Wire reports on CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute scientists' development of GM rice designed for reduced arsenic accumulation, the researchers' current focus is on food safety tests and field trials**

**News: Philippine News Agency reports on Nobel laureate Sir Richard Roberts' call on the Philippines to form a biobank to collect biological resources for future use in DNA sequencing, he emphasized importance of investing in basic research**

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**Commentary: The French Union of Seed Companies reacts to opinion of EC's Scientific Advice Mechanism regarding consequences of ECJ's ruling on mutagenesis, which highlights significant loss to agriculture of opportunities such as disease and pest resistance, recommends revising regulation on GMOs**

**News release: Green MEP Martin Häusling responds to Scientific Advisory Committee statement recommending revision of current GE law, claims there is no need to revise the law, and that the suggestion is an attempt to exempt developments in gene editing from regulation**

**News release: Germany's University of Freiburg promotes remarks by plant biotechnology professor demanding European legislators provide clear guidelines for regulating organisms produced with new breeding techniques such as CRISPR/Cas, arguing best approach would be to regulate safety of products, no matter how produced**

**Report: European Food Safety Authority publishes assessment of study by Santos-Vigil et al. on potential allergenicity of Bt protein, finds the study does not bring any new elements that would lead EFSA's GMO panel to reconsider outcomes of its previous findings**

**Commentary: Hunter College anthropologist Marc Edelman, U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food Hilal Elver, and Pace University law professor Smita Narula write guest post for German news source, highlights efforts by European smallholder farmers to protect their rights**

**[More Europe items](#)**

## Latin America

**Commentary: Naiara Bittencourt of La Via Campesina and Small Farmers Movement (MPA) Brasil examines debate on synbio and other new GE technologies at U.N. biodiversity conference in Egypt, highlights La Via Campesina's warnings about threats to indigenous peoples and peasants**

**News: Mexican news outlet reports on agronomist Carlos Solano Solano's opinion that Mexico's gov't does not support native corn due to price and lack of sufficient production, highlights Organic Consumers Association's discovery of GM corn and glyphosate in Maseca flour**

**News: Argentina's Ambito reports ag tech company Bioceres holds field day to introduce world's first GMO wheat, modified for tolerance to drought and salinity, final approval from regulators needed before GM wheat can be marketed**

**News: Brazil's Diario do Nordeste reports farmers using seed houses to guarantee traditional seed stocks are preserved, fear growing use of GM seeds could lead to loss of creole seeds; farmers say they often faced delays when waiting for state and federal governments to provide 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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From: Jay Byrne  
 To: Diane.Wray-Cohen@fas.usda.gov  
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Nov. 19, 2018  
 Date: Monday, November 19, 2018 4:02:00 PM

## Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

As Americans prepare to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday, this week's Favorable Outcomes offers some suggestions for that extra time in front of the television.

In separate articles, Tim Durham and Mary Kekatos explain the flaws and falsehoods in "[Secret Ingredients](#)," the new documentary from former swing dance instructor [Jeffrey Smith](#) of the Institute for Responsible Technology. As an alternative, Amanda Zaluckyj recommends the episode of the Netflix documentary series "A User's Guide to Cheating Death" that debunks myths about organic foods.

And in *Forbes*, John Tamny explains how misleading labels from the organic food industry and the Non-GMO Project have made Thanksgiving dinner more expensive for everyone.

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

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

### In This Issue

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

### Stakeholder Spotlight: The Organic Center



The Organic Center is a nonprofit organization under the administrative control of the Organic Trade Association.

The group has claimed to be an independent research organization to support its

### ■ Stories Worth Sharing

[John Tamny: Higher prices for Thanksgiving dinner brought on by \\$124B organic food industry, Non-GMO Project](#)

[Tim Durham: "Secret Ingredients" documentary absurdly blames all health ills on GMOs and Roundup](#)

[Mary Kekatos: Scientists deem Jeffrey Smith's new documentary 'false, unsubstantiated propaganda'](#)

[Amanda Zaluckyj: Netflix documentary slays falsehoods that organic food is more nutritious and grown without chemicals](#)

[Jenny Splitter: Non-GMO Project refusing to change despite scientists, WHO agreeing biotech foods don't pose added risk](#)

[Michelle Miller: Organic Valley and Hunt's use "blatantly wrong imagery and messaging" on herbicides, non-GMO tomatoes](#)

[Dirk Inzé: European court ruling threatens "unacceptable consequences" on sustainable agriculture, plant breeding](#)

[Jon Entine: Facing evidence that honeybee population is stable, NGOs seek out new "scare opportunity" with birds](#)

[Michele Payn: Combat confusion and misinformation about food by](#)

501(c)3 tax-exempt charitable organization status, yet Organic Trade Association CEOs Katherine DeMatteo and Laura Batcha have signed the center's tax returns as its principal officer and legal representative.

The center's stated mission is research and education, but the vast majority of its research is into the alleged dangers and risks of competing conventional production practices such as use of pesticides, antibiotics and GMOs. Organic watchdog group The Comucopia Institute has called the center a "big agribusiness lobby group."

The mission and promoted goals of the center would make it a primary beneficiary of OTA's proposed voluntary organic check-off program.

Click here to [LEARN MORE](#) about The Organic Center.

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[knowing the farmer and knowing the science](#)

[Richard Halleron: European approach to GM crops makes U.K. farmers operate with "one arm tied behind their backs"](#)

[Brian Barth: Misleading advertising touts non-GMO vodka. Why not sugar-free beef?](#)

[CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING](#)

**What's Trending?**

[European Commission science advisers recommend aligning GMO Directive with "current scientific knowledge"](#)

[NGOs claim new academic analysis shows "scientific malfeasance" by Dow on chlorpyrifos safety study](#)

[Scientists ask U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity to reject NGOs' call for moratorium on gene drives](#)

[California judge agrees to expedite trial on couple's claim glyphosate caused their cancer, setting March trial start](#)

**Calendar highlights**

November 19-20	November 20	November 20-21
<a href="#">European Parliament environment committee meeting including discussion of EU Pollinators Initiative</a>	<a href="#">Global Positive Forum featuring Vandana Shiva</a>	<a href="#">Akademie Fresenius International Conference - "Endocrine Disruptors"</a>
November 20-21	November 22	November 22-23
<a href="#">AgChem &amp; Technology Europe Congress</a>	<a href="#">French Agriculture Academy symposium on new biotechnologies</a>	<a href="#">Conference on the Development of Plant Proteins in the European Union</a>

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

<p><b>Stakeholder database</b></p> <p>More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate</p>	<p><b>Monitoring portal</b></p> <p>Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.</p>	<p><b>Bonus Eventus community</b></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: Global Biotech Snapshot - Nov. 16-18, 2018  
 Date: Sunday, November 18, 2018 9:01:17 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

Weekend global biotechnology developments included NGOs accusing the Kenyan government of planning to violate the country's GMO moratorium by approving Bt cotton cultivation. The U.N.'s Convention on Biological Diversity opened in Egypt amid reports that NGOs would attempt to block gene drive use.

- During a news conference, four anti-biotech groups said the Kenyan government's plans to approve Bt cotton would conflict with the country's temporary ban on GMOs, which was passed in 2012. Representatives from four NGOs, including Greenpeace and Africa Biodiversity Network, said the plans would benefit large agribusinesses. *Kenya Broadcasting Corp.* also reported the groups said Burkina Faso banned Bt cotton after the crop affected the health of livestock that ate the stalks. [See more](#)
- The scientific journal *Nature* reported government representatives would consider a proposal for a global moratorium on gene drive use. The journal reported "chances are slim" for a moratorium since the decision must be reached as a consensus, but scientists worry the discussion could limit the technology's future. Civil society groups also sent an open letter to the Convention on Biological Diversity condemning the Brazilian government's actions that they harm diversity, including large-scale GMO and pesticide use. [See more](#)

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

## North America

**Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Andrew Porterfield publishes updated version of a Sep. 2017 article on copper sulfate, notes that while propaganda from anti-GMO groups can sway opinion on glyphosate and GMOs, organic pesticides are not safer**

**Commentary: ETC Group notes effort at CBD meeting in Egypt to block gene drive use, claim "exterminator drive" is "more dangerous to peoples' rights, food security and the environment" than the non-germinating suicide seed; calls Target Malaria a Trojan horse to introduce the gene drive into West Africa while ignoring methods used to eradicate malaria elsewhere**

**News: Forbes contributor Jenny Splitter questions Non-GMO Project's Megan Westgate, Center for Science in the Public Interest's Greg Jaffe on challenges gene editing presents for Non-GMO Project, labeling, notes many promote GMO organic**

**Report: Science journal editor examines EU Court of Justice ruling extending GMO directive to gene-edited organisms; notes irony that court exempted mutagenesis-derived plants while regulating gene-edited organisms that are identical but have fewer side effects; scientist notes product-based assessments are only logical choice**

**News: Politico reports USDA and FDA announce agreement on regulating cell-based meats, with FDA to oversee cell collection, banks, and growth while USDA oversees food production and labeling**

[More North America items](#)

## Africa

**Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science notes scientists, farmers, politicians urging Ghana lawmakers to make improved seed available to farmers to increase yields, deal with pests, diseases, and climate change**

**News: Kenyan news site The Star reports anti-biotech NGOs say large agribusinesses behind push to allow GMOs in Kenya, say the corporations want to control seed sales, food system in the country; claim Kenya can feed itself without GMOs**

**News: Ugandan Parliament forwards harmonized amendments to national biosafety bill to address president Museveni letter; strict criminal liability and other major restrictions on development of genetically engineered organisms lobbied for by anti-GMO NGOs enhanced and defined in proposed bill**

**News: Nigerian news site reports Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology says commercializing Bt cotton will create 25,000 jobs in Nigeria in the textile industry and along the cotton value chain; OFAB coordinator Rose Gidado says the Bt cotton will revamp the textile industry by overcoming the cotton bollworm**

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

**Study: Chinese researchers examine effect of glyphosate-resistant GM soy on soil rhizospheric bacteria, find no effect with or without glyphosate treatment**

**News: French news site Challenges reports China, once a GM crop pioneer, lagging in GMO production due to hostile public opinion restricting GM use to non-food crops and many believe biotech is terrorism targeting China; notes even officials ambivalent about biotech, biotech firm notes gov't keeps procrastinating**

**News: Pakistani news site reports National Bio-safety Committee met Nov. 15, discussed GM canola and soy imports for processing in Pakistan on trial basis; Technical Advisory Committee recommended they also should have information on importing non-GMO canola and soy**

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**Commentary: German news site columnist says gene editing advocates point out CRISPR does what plant breeders have done for centuries, just more effectively; notes U.S. already producing gene-edited foods**

**Commentary: Europabio publishes position paper stating mandatory feeding studies for GM crops should be abolished, say they contradict EU science, ethical principles**

**News: French Bleu reports prosecutor demanding fines for 38 anti-GMO activists accused of destroying test plots of rapeseed; defense attorney claims rapeseed planted illegally**

[More Europe items](#)

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## Latin America

**News: Agencia EFE reports Peru agency finds GM corn growing in 25 fields on north coast; notes moratorium on entry and cultivation on GM crops**

**Commentary: Brazilian civil societies open letter to Convention on Biological Diversity condemns Brazilian government, claiming many of its actions harm biodiversity, including high volumes of GM crops and pesticide usage**

Commentary: Economics professor writes for Argentine news site, says proposed revisions to Argentina seed law done in secret and do not consider smallholder or indigenous groups' interests, notes it limits farmers "own use," increase royalties for agrribusinesses

More Latin America items

## Oceania

News: Radio New Zealand reports plant biology professor says gene-edited plants just as safe as conventionally bred plants, and benefits can be significant in dealing with environmental degradation and climate change

Video: Australian Broadcasting Corp. reports GM cotton resistant to pests helps revive cotton industry in Australia

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 reporting in France regarding the trial of 40 Volunteer Reapers for destroying rapeseed crops in field trials. Argentine news sites reported and commented on proposed changes to Argentina's seed law being discussed in Parliament.

- French news sites reported on a rally preceding a trial today for 40 Volunteer Reapers who destroyed rapeseed test plots they say were genetically modified. *French TV 3* reported protesters depicted the Volunteer Reapers as "whistleblowers" who acted out of conviction. Anti-biotech NGO Confederation Paysanne invoked the EU Court of Justice decision on NBTs, saying the crop was not obtained by mutagenesis alone. The NGO said it also was bred using an "unnatural technique that is not exempt from the application of European GMO regulations." **See more**
- *Clarín* reported Argentina's ruling party approved proposed changes to the country's seed law, and the proposal will be debated in the Chamber of Deputies on Wednesday (Nov. 21). The *Technical and Scientific News Agency* reported the law was developed secretly and prioritizes the "interests of large companies, puts at risk production and access to varied and quality food." The agency reported the bill would eliminate farmers' "right of own use" of seeds by allowing companies to collect royalties each time a producer reuses seeds. **See more**

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## North America

**Commentary: 16 scientists write proposal for locally based, globally informed governance of new gene editing techniques in Science magazine, they call for inclusion of local inputs and perspectives, as local communities will be the first to experience context-dependent impacts**

**Commentary: Molecular biologist writes for Scientific American, says Africa doesn't need GM mosquitoes, says there are less drastic ways to combat malaria, GM mosquito safety needs to be studied for safety, wonders if ecosystem balance will be upset causing new diseases to emerge or existing ones to spread**

**Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Andrew Porterfield asks if we should use gene drives to force disease-carrying mosquitoes into extinction, notes activists argue "sanctity of life" and human hubris; Porterfield says both arguments fail but raise point we need more data regarding mosquito eradication**

**Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science's Joan Conrow notes European Commission's scientific advisory panel says EU court decision on NBTs could negatively impact trade, food security in developing nations, EU competitiveness and innovation in food sector; urges EU to revise regulations governing biotechnology to align with current scientific knowledge and to focus on product rather than breeding technique**

**News: Associated Press continues its series on gene editing with article focused on GE animals, Recombinetics CEO Tammy Lee believes farmers will be more interested in traits to boost productivity once gene-editing is accepted by the public**

**News: Washington Post reports startup Finless Foods learned to culture cells from the endangered bluefin tuna, allowing researchers to grow the delicacy without endangering the fish and allowing humans to eat the fish without risking mercury poisoning; notes such approaches can help save endangered fish if they can mass produce it**

**More North America items**

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## Africa

**Commentary: Washington-based news site notes Ghana ready to approve GMOs for cultivation, says GM crops will allow poor farmers to save money by increasing yields, reducing pesticide use; notes despite positives, GMOs remain controversial**

**Commentary: Frontier Counties Development Council director says that despite Kenya's struggle with food security, says GMOs may help increase yields, but EU court decision and Seralini study makes people believe GMOs are unsafe, increase pesticide use, and smallholders will not be able to afford royalties for seed**

**More Africa items**

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## Asia

**Video: Vandana Shiva sends video message urging Conference on Biological Diversity to decide on regulating gene editing and gene drives during meeting in Egypt**

**News: Brazil's Globo Rural reports U.S. and China's trade conflict delaying Chinese approval of DowDuPont's GM soy resistant to 2,3-D pesticide; notes as largest soy importer approval China's approval is key for new varieties**

**News: Report from Challenges says although China has been pioneer in developing GM crops, Chinese people hostile to GMOs cause country to limit its development; Chinese President Xi Jinping says in midst of trade war with U.S. it can achieve technological supremacy**

**News release: Canola Council of Canada announces dialogue with China to double agricultural trade could encourage Canadian farmers to cultivate GM canola varieties**

**More Asia items**

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## Europe

**Commentary: Plant molecular biologist Dirk Inze writes for Europabio, notes scientists and academics urging EU to change regulations affecting precision plant breeding, says techniques are crucial to meet food production challenges in changing environments, drought, to make agriculture sustainable**

**News: Radio France International reports French gov't adopts plan to prevent deforestation with 17-step plan that could impact GM soy and palm oil imports; World Wide Fund for Nature praises the plan, Greenpeace calls it timid without enforcement or prohibitions**

**News: Daily Mail (U.K.) reports on University of Illinois scientists' criticism of "Secret Ingredients" documentary by Jeffrey Smith and Amy Hart which claims that eliminating Roundup and GM foods can cure allergies, asthma and autism**

**News: French news site Ouest France reports 40 Volunteer Reapers to appear in court for destroying herbicide-tolerant rapeseed field trials; defendants say the crops were created via mutagenesis and are GMOs as defined by EU court, group demands an end to "mutated GM crops"**

**More Europe items**

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## Latin America

**News: Argentina's Clarin reports on ruling party's approval of opinion on the Seed Law to be discussed in the Chamber of Deputies, Atilio Benedetti noted that next week steps will be taken to reach the greatest possible agreement**

**News: Reuters reports on potential increase in Brazil's record soy exports to China, amid ongoing U.S. trade dispute, Brazil's vice minister of international affairs, Odilson Ribeiro e Silva noted there is no sign that China's approval of GM crops will accelerate**

**News release: Brazilian gov't announces it signed international statement of support for gene editing to World Trade Organization, says it's committed to encouraging agricultural innovation, minimize unnecessary trade barriers**

**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 - Nov. 14, 2018  
 Date: Wednesday, November 14, 2018 9 01:17 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 Argentina's Chamber of Deputies advanced a consensus draft of a revised seed law. European news outlets and science promoters responded to European Commission Science Advisory Mechanism recommendations on new plant breeding techniques. Researchers warned that advocacy groups are trying to use the U.N. Biodiversity Meeting to stymie potentially life-saving synthetic biology techniques.

- Argentina's Chamber of Deputies concluded negotiations on proposed revisions to the country's seed law, generating a wave of advocacy response. *La Nacion* reported that the new law would extend royalty periods up to five years and that the cost of the trait fees must be included in the initial seed purchase. Lawmakers recommended another review of the draft next Wednesday (Nov. 21). [See more](#)
- A statement from the Science Advisory Mechanism of the European Commission, in which researchers recommended revising Europe's GMO Directive to exclude new plant breeding techniques (NBTs), generated moderate media coverage and scientist amplification. *EurActiv* noted that the statement emphasized trade concerns as well as regional research and development. Italy's Associazione Luca Coscioni applauded the statement, saying it affirms the group's concerns over a recent European Court of Justice decision on the technology. [See more](#)
- A Massachusetts Institute of Technology publication amplified an open letter from researchers working on disease-eradicating applications of "gene drive" technology. The scientists warned that environmental NGOs were attempting to push a moratorium on the technology through the U.N. Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP14). The MIT article noted the Gates Foundation had been lobbying to prevent the declaration; an article from the anti-NGO group Inf'OGM highlighted previous reporting on that effort, urging the COP14 attendees to take stronger measures against conflicts of interest. [See more](#)

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

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

## North America

**[News: MIT Technology Review reports Gates Foundation funds scientists researching gene drives to end malaria, now scientists warn environmental groups using U.N. meeting in attempt to ban the technology, claiming it's too dangerous to use, could disrupt environment](#)**

**[Commentary: Outreach Network on Gene Drive Research submits open letter supporting gene drives before Convention on Biological Diversity, notes the technology's promise for advancing conservation and public health](#)**

**[News: Canadian political news site reports canola growers want Canadian government to urge Chinese government to approve GM canola varieties, Canadian Canola Council official notes Chinese system is notoriously slow on approving GM crops](#)**

**[News release: Canola Council of Canada announces dialogue with China to double agricultural trade could encourage Canadian farmers to cultivate GM canola varieties](#)**

**News: Mic highlights opening of Jeffrey Smith's documentary "Secret Ingredients" featuring families who claim switching to all-organic, GMO-free diets cured severe health issues, exploring history, impact of GMOs, glyphosate; notes "one-sided" film suggests EPA, FDA complicit in toxifying food system**

**News: Minnesota news outlet reports on Oaxacan indigenous farmer and CEDICAM activist Fermina Zarate Dominquez's recent guest speech at M State, she warned that GMO seeds can contaminate native soils**

**News: Associated Press Health and Science Department reports on potential challenges ahead for consumer acceptance of gene-edited food, Chief Science Officer of heart-healthy gene-edited soy producer Calyxt, Dan Voytas, noted importance of consumers seeing benefits**

[More North America items](#)

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## Africa

**News: EnviroNews Nigeria reports on workshop organized by Ghana Chapter of Open Forum for Agricultural Biotechnology (OFAB) in Africa, where experts explained that biotech should not be viewed as a magic wand for all farming problems, emphasizing importance of proper farm maintenance**

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

**Letter to the editor: Monsanto India's Arun Gopalakrishnan writes to Sunday Guardian in response to opinion piece claiming that Monsanto is responsible for air pollution, describing the claims as unsubstantiated, the author, Arvind Kumar, responds again, reiterating claims**

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**News: Euractiv reports European Commission's scientific body calls for review, update on GM legislation to adapt to current scientific knowledge, including gene editing; notes science advisers warn EU court ruling could impact trade, relations with developing countries, as well as EU research and innovation landscape**

**News: French agricultural news sites report European Commission favors revision of EU's GMO directive reflecting current scientific knowledge**

**Announcement: European Commission notes its science advisers want revision of EU legislation on gene editing, commissioners advocate for well informed debate, wants legislation to keep pace with innovation**

**News: French news site reports Volunteer Reapers to go on trial for destroying test site; group maintains the crops were illegally cultivated GMOs**

**Commentary: French environmental NGOs announce they will support Volunteer Reapers during Nov. 15-16 rallies during Volunteer Reapers' trial for destruction of field trial for "new GMOs," claims EU court decision on NBTs gives trial "new dimension"**

**News release: Germany-based Heinrich Boll Foundation says legitimate outcome of CBD meeting regarding gene drives depends on civil society input, but Egyptian gov't virtually disallows NGO engagement, demands commercial interests in gene drives be transparent**

**News release: Austrian Parliament notes Conference on Biological Diversity to consider labeling for products of new breeding techniques; says Austrian position being worked out, but position is supported by several parties and Parliament desires high standards for labeling the products**

**News: French news site reports French government adopts campaign against "imported deforestation," will search for GM soy, palm oil imports, will devote €60 million per year to projects supporting**



More Europe items

Latin America

News: Argentina anti-pesticide NGO urges Argentine Parliament to reject changes to seed law, claims agroecology and seeds they have planted for generations are best suited for the country's agriculture

News: Mexican news site reports UNAM professor disputes industry claims of GM crop yield increases; notes same study indicates Bt crop does increase when pests are present

Commentary: Brazil's Small Farmer's Movement notes Vandana Shiva to speak at Dec. 10-13 "Agrochemicals, Socioenvironmental Impacts and Human Rights" conference, participate in roundtable discussion on agrochemicals

News: Argentine business news site reports proposed seed law would limit "free use of seeds," would recognize company's intellectual property on GM seed

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australia's Farm Online reports on Dairy Australia's hopes that Australia's approach to gene editing will allow use of new types of grasses promising gains of \$800 per hectare, Friends of the Earth's Louise Sales pointed to studies on potential unintended mutations

More Oceania items

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Events calendar

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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Nov. 13, 2018  
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## Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

### BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included the start of events surrounding the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Brazilian activists issued an open letter to CBD participants criticizing the new Brazilian presidential administration's environmental policies. U.S. news outlets plan to launch article series on gene editing and new food technologies.

- Policy-focused news sites reported that events associated with the U.N. Biodiversity Conference in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, had begun. The International Institute for Sustainable Development noted that African ministers were meeting today, and the High-level Segment of the Conference begins on Wednesday (Nov. 14). [See more](#)
- Activists from Brazil issued an open letter to Convention on Biological Diversity delegates criticizing the Bolsonaro administration's policies on agriculture, pesticides and GM crops. The 92 groups who have signed the letter warn that the new administration's anti-democratic policies undermine efforts to preserve the country's unique biodiversity and that the country's use of GM seeds and pesticides puts human health at risk. [See more](#)
- *The Associated Press* and *The Boston Globe* have begun new series explaining how new food technologies could impact future food production. The AP series launches Wednesday, and the *Globe* planned to run articles today and Thursday. [See more](#)

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## North America

**Announcement: Associated Press announces its Science and Health team will present an all-formats exploration on gene editing; with a story on gene-edited food on Nov. 14, and one on gene-edited animals on Nov. 15**

**News: Boston Globe's The Next Bite series on the future of food reports on potential for new breeding technologies to address rising food allergies, highlights researcher Hortense Dodo's development of a hypoallergenic GE peanut**

**Commentary: Lexicographer Kory Stamper writes for Boston Globe's The Next Bite series on the future of food, examines marketing debate over new food products like Soylent and lab-grown meat, highlights opposition to use of the word meat by traditional meat producers**

**Commentary: International Institute for Sustainable Development's Earth Negotiations Bulletin provides coverage of U.N. Biodiversity Conference in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, highlights meetings included in the conference**

**Study: Study in Trends in Biotechnology compares American, Canadian and European consumer perceptions about GE technology, to provide insight for stakeholders interested in possible hurdles to adoption, especially for gene editing**

[More North America items](#)

## Africa

**Commentary: Edmore Parichi and Busi Mgangxela write for African Centre for Biodiversity, recounting recent Good Food and Seed Festival in Harare, Zimbabwe, they argue that promoting indigenous foods helps reduce farmers' dependence on GM seeds**

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

**News: Pakistan news outlet reports on increased maize production due to hybrid seeds, CropLife Pakistan Executive Director Muhammad Afzal noted expectation that regulators remain vigilant to protect against infringement of intellectual property rights**

**News: The Philippines' SunStar reports on launch of Moms Across Philippines, inspired by U.S. NGO Moms Across America, with goal of advocating for safe and healthy food, opposing GMOs**

**News: The Philippines' Flip Science reports on upcoming visit by Nobel laureate Sir Richard Roberts to cap off 14th National Biotechnology Week, highlights his call for education campaigns, and his emphasis on importance of drought-, flood- and pest-resistant crops**

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**News: EurActiv reports on opinion by EU Commission official, Barend Verachtert, head of unit at the DG Research and Innovation (DG RTD), that new breeding techniques can help improve biodiversity, he believes the EU needs more engagement with researchers**

**Report: EU Commission's Group of Chief Scientific Advisors publishes scientific perspective on EU Court's ruling on new breeding techniques, highlights consequences for consumers, farmers and on international trade, calls for revision of EU GMO legislation**

**News: Politico Pro EU reports on report by EU Commission's Group of Chief Scientific Advisors calling for improvements in EU GMO legislation, calling for revisions that reflect current knowledge and scientific evidence, especially regarding gene editing**

**Commentary: In first part of series on failure of GE in agriculture, GMWatch amplifies talk by ETH Zurich researcher and ENSSER board member and co-founder, Dr. Angelika Hilbeck, at the 9th GMO Free Europe conference in Berlin, she claims GMOs like golden rice have failed to live up to promises**

**Commentary: Marcin Rotkiewicz, scientific editor of Polityka weekly, writes for Aspen Institute Central Europe's magazine, examines negative consequences of EU approach to GMO regulations, voices concern about trend of anti-science populism**

**News: Norway's Bondelaget reports on Nov. 14 event hosted by Network for GMO-free Food and Feed, featuring Alexander Hissting, Director of Volunteer Branding Organization Ohne Gentechnik, he will discuss Germany's success in sourcing GMO-free milk**

**News: Spain's COPE reports on Health Minister's announcement of plan to implement new labeling requirements on processed foods within a year, as part of Strategy of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Prevention of Obesity (NAOS), reports labels will indicate presence of "transgenic fatty acids"**

**Interview: France's Agri71 interviews INRA CEO Philippe Mauguin and DG for Scientific Affairs, Christine Cherbut, Mauguin believes new breeding techniques are unavoidable in plant biology research, Cherbut notes INRA will not use gene editing for herbicide-resistance**

**Commentary: Lucie De La Héronnière of France's L'Express examines concerns about health and ecological effects of GM soy consumption, highlighting its widespread use in animal feed, questions continued use of GM soy in livestock while GM soy production is prohibited**

[More Europe items](#)

## Latin America

**News: Brazil's Forum reports on letter by several NGOs denouncing "explicit threats to Brazilian biodiversity" posed by policies of President-elect Jair Bolsonaro, which will be presented to delegations participating in U.N. Conference on Biodiversity (COP14)**

**News: Rede Brasil Atual reports on open letter signed by several NGOs ahead of U.N. Conference on Biodiversity (COP14), voicing concerns about President-elect Jair Bolsonaro's impact on environmental policies, including exploitation of natural resources**

**News: Agência Brasil reports on open letter signed by 92 NGOs with recommendations and criticisms for 14th Conference of the Parties (COP 14) on Biological Diversity, highlights concerns about Brazil's widespread use of GM crops and potentially harmful pesticides**

**News: Argentina's AIM Digital reports on planned protests ahead of Congress' possible approval of the new Seed Law, Union of Land Workers (UTT) announced plans to demonstrate against changes to the law that will favor multinational seed companies**

**News: Mexico's Animal Politico reports on National Institute of Access to Public Information's (INAI) order for Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food (Sagarpa) to present all documentation related to biopiracy allegations against Mars Inc., which allegedly extracted an indigenous-developed maize species for commercial exploitation without gov't authorization**

**Commentary: Silvia Ribeiro of ETC Group writes for Mexico's La Jornada, promotes report on gene drives which finds that most applications are for use in ag to benefit transnational companies, calls on CBD Conference of the Parties to stop release of the risky technology**

[More Latin America items](#)

## Oceania

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

[More Oceania items](#)

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

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## Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

### BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included an announcement that Argentina's Chamber of Deputies planned to review the draft seed law on Tuesday (Nov. 13). In Europe, organic agriculture group FederBIO responded to scientist criticism of an upcoming biodynamic agriculture conference.

- Activists in Argentina mobilized today, urging supporters to join a protest and news conference in Buenos Aires tomorrow outside the Congress of the Nation. The activists warned that a plenary meeting of the agriculture, budget and legislation committees could advance the bill for ultimate passage by the end of the year; the groups said that such a move would prioritize corporate intellectual property rights over peasant farmers. **See more**
- In Italy, organic promotion group FederBIO responded to a scientist open letter criticizing the University of Milan for hosting the "anti-science" Association for Biodynamic Agriculture Congress (Nov. 15-17). Agronomists and other faculty with the university issued letters pointing to the use of esoteric rites in biodynamic agriculture, adding that the university had an obligation to expose the "bizarre theories" of the movement rather than promote them. **See more**

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

## North America

**News: Canada's National Newswatch reports on agri-food groups' statements welcoming Canada's participation in international statement supporting ag biotech innovation, CropLife Canada's Pierre Petelle noted use of precision biotech can boost production and environmental sustainability**

**Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science Managing Editor Joan Conrow writes for Cornell Chronicle, promotes upcoming visit by Alliance's 2018 Global Leadership Fellows to Washington, D.C. to share their stories in hopes of garnering support for ag innovation in their countries**

**[More North America items](#)**

## Africa

**Commentary: Michael Ssali of Uganda's Daily Monitor amplifies two articles by female science writers in Genetic Literacy Project, highlights many potential benefits of biotech adoption for Uganda's textile industry, food security and nutrition**

**Video: Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa shares five-minute animated video promoting agroecology in Africa as a means to achieving Sustainable Development Goals, criticizes commercial agriculture reliant on agrochemicals and hybrid seeds**

**News: Xinhua reports on Kenyan farmers' anticipation of planting GM cotton, Mary Mtoka observed benefits of GM cotton in India and Burkina Faso, James Midega believes GM cotton is needed as current seeds are ineffective**

**Video: NTV Kenya reports on farmers' challenges to protect crops from pests like fall armyworm, highlights Tanzanian researchers' trials of pest-resistant GM maize, and Kenya's trials of pest-resistant GM cotton**

**Commentary: GMWatch amplifies study in Journal of Economic Entomology which found evidence of evolution of resistance of African maize stalkborer pest to GM Bt maize single-gene and stacked-gene types**

**[More Africa items](#)**

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## Asia

**News: The Hindu reports on event congratulating MS Swaminathan, the "architect of India's green revolution," for receiving the World Agriculture Prize, Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh praised Swaminathan for solving India's food crisis**

**Commentary: Third World Network amplifies briefing paper it co-produced with ETC Group and African Centre for Biodiversity on synbio, genome editing and gene drives ahead of Convention on Biological Diversity conference in Egypt, calling for precautionary governance**

**[More Asia items](#)**

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## Europe

**News release: Italian organic movement organization FederBio announces open letter supporting Association for Biodynamic Agriculture conference, argues against descriptions of biodynamic agriculture as anti-science**

**Commentary: Tommaso Maggiore and Luigi Mariani of Italian Federation of Doctors in Agriculture and Forestry praise two letters written by agronomy experts ahead of international biodynamic conference in Milan, noting biodynamic agriculture has no scientific basis**

**Commentary: GMWatch amplifies claims by Doug Gurian-Sherman and "Pandora's Potatoes" author Caius Rommens that dangerous, unintended effects of GM plants, including those produced via gene editing, cannot be bred out**

**Audio: European Seed interviews European Seed Association Secretary-General Garlich von Essen at ESA's annual meeting in Madrid, he describes EU Court's ruling on new breeding techniques to be a "not very clever" interpretation of the law, describes consequences**

**Video: European Seed interviews BASF's Head of Vegetable Seeds, Joachim Schneider, he worries EU Court's ruling on new breeding techniques will lead to a brain drain of researchers, emphasizes importance of engaging with people on an emotional level**

**Interview: Germany's University of Freiburg interviews Plant Biotechnology Professor Ralf Reski on EU Court's ruling on gene editing, he explains several benefits of CRISPR/Cas, believes individual products should be evaluated for safety, regardless of production method**

**[More Europe items](#)**

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## Latin America

**News release: Broad set of organizations representing interests of peasants, family farmers, indigenous peoples, and political, social, socio-environmental and human rights organizations announces press conference in opposition to a new Seed Law, claiming it favors interests of large seed companies**

**Commentary: Brazilian political blogger Esmael Morais examines concerns about President-elect Jair Bolsonaro's actions within 10 days, highlights appointment of Tereza Cristina to head Ag Ministry, she voted in favor of ending GMO labeling**

**News: Argentina's Pagina 12 reports on Union of Scientists Committed to the Society and Nature of Latin America conference, ahead of its new congress in June 2019, highlights the group's previous call for a**



glyphosate ban, claiming its use on GM soybeans leads to rise in diseases

**Commentary: Miguel Jimenez Alvarez of Mexico's 24 Horas warns readers about ignored dangers of transgenic foods, criticizes Mexico's lack of regulation, and Health Commission's postponement of labeling laws**

**More Latin America items**

## Oceania

**Announcement: Australian anti-GMO NGO MADGE announces its closure after 11 years, refers supporters to other groups working against GMOs and pesticides and in support of the Food Movement**

**More Oceania items**

## More Bonus Eventus Resources

<p><b>Stakeholder database</b></p> <p>More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.</p>	<p><b>Events calendar</b></p> <p>See where news could be happening next. Or let allies know about an upcoming event.</p>	<p><b>Bonus Eventus community</b></p> <p>Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.</p>
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 To: Caitrin.Martin@fas.usda.gov  
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Nov. 12, 2018  
 Date: Monday, November 12, 2018 4:03 05 PM

## Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

This week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter highlights a series of articles that explore how consumers struggle to identify risk - and perhaps some of the reasons why.

Alex Berezow makes the argument that statistics showing an increase in organic food purchases and a decrease in the percentage of adults getting flu vaccines - despite 80,000 Americans dying from the flu last season - proves that humans are bad at understanding risks. As Hank Campbell explains, though, organic food labels confuse consumers by making them believe their food is safer. And David Zaruk suggests that the public's trust is eroded even further by predatory law firms.

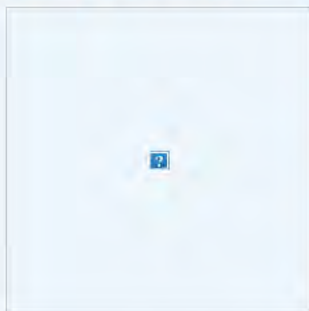
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Please [contact us](#) if you have any questions.

### In This Issue

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

### Stakeholder Spotlight: Henry Rowlands



Henry Rowlands is an anti-GMO/pesticide activist and organic entrepreneur. He is publisher of the Sustainable Pulse and other anti-GMO campaign websites.

In addition to being founder and CEO of the [for-profit glyphosate testing](#) company The Detox

### Stories Worth Sharing

[Hank Campbell: Organic label "does not mean your food is any safer"](#)

[Colin Berry: Troubling when "risks, feelings, opinions, and conjecture are of equal value with reason and knowledge" in Europe](#)

[Matt Ridley: Britain "at risk of missing out on a revolution" if it follows EU court decision on genome editing after Brexit](#)

[Andrew Porterfield: Scoreboard shows several victories for genetic modifications, with possibility for more](#)

[Alex Berezow: Drop in flu shots, rise in organic food purchases shows humans are terrible at judging risk](#)

[David Zaruk: Public is the true victim of predatory law firms as trust is eroded in regulatory science](#)

[Adriel Dave "AD" Alvarez: Even the most isolated and deprived farmers can benefit from technology](#)

[Michelle Miller: Kansas liquor store stands up to "fake fearmongering" of non-GMO vodka](#)

[Tim Burrack: Dicamba renewal gives U.S. farmers key lifeline with "as many options as possible for growing the food we need"](#)

Project, Rowlands is linked to various business interests in Bulgaria and the U.K. with ties to both the Maharishi movement and the Sustainable Food Trust (an organic-linked NGO run by former U.K. Soil Association chairman Patrick Holden).

Rowlands provides public relations services and promotional support to the Russian-led **Factor GMO** campaign and affiliated Russian GMO and pesticide testing and "research" efforts led by the Kremlin-linked **National Association for Genetic Safety** (NAGS).

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

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**Know Ideas: Science ensures herbicides are safe, just as it does with cars, airplanes and bridges**

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**What's Trending?**

European Commission expresses commitment to reducing human and environmental exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals

German environment minister commits to government ending glyphosate usage by 2023

Uganda Parliament debates biosafety bill updated to address president's concerns

Harvard-led research draws attention for unique system detecting impact of neonic exposure on in-hive behavior

**Calendar highlights**

November 12-13	November 12-16	November 13
20th International Conference on Plant Breeding and Biotechnology	Asian Seed Congress hosted by Asia & Pacific Seed Association	European Commission Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed meeting on genetically modified food and feed
November 14-29	November 15-16	November 19-20
Conference of the Parties to the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity	International Conference on Agriculture and Biotechnology	Meeting of the EU Parliament Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

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<p><b>Stakeholder database</b></p> <p>More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate</p>	<p><b>Monitoring portal</b></p> <p>Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.</p>	<p><b>Bonus Eventus community</b></p> <p>Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.</p>
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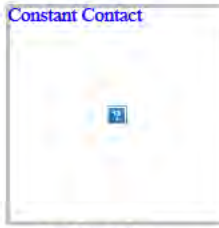
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## Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

### BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Weekend global biotechnology developments included an editorial in a Netherlands publication calling for review of the European Union's regulations governing biotechnology to help facilitate gene editing use. In the Philippines, a group of farmers stormed the Philippine Rice Research Institute demanding planned field tests for Golden Rice be canceled.

- Netherlands news site *NRC* reported the Netherlands coalition government committed to applying new breeding techniques, but the EU court decision on NBTs impedes gene editing usage. Although the Dutch government argued that CRISPR is a more precise form of mutagenesis, which the court decision exempted from regulation due to a long history of use, the court ruled that it went against the precautionary principle. The *NRC* editorial maintained that a 17-year-old law is insufficient to regulate new technology and that regulations should be based on the end product rather than the process used to create it. **See more**
- The *Philippine Daily Inquirer* reported a group of farmers led by anti-biotech NGO Masipag stormed the PhilRice headquarters on Wednesday and demanded planned Golden Rice field tests be halted. *The Inquirer* quoted a International Rice Research Institute official saying Golden Rice may help address vitamin A deficiency among Filipinos. **See more**

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

## North America

**News: Arizona State University news site reports university researcher says education about gene editing, engagement of public key to success of technology; story notes gene editing now part of cancer research**

**Commentary: U.S. Right to Know's Stacy Malkan connects Val Giddings to agribusinesses, calls him "top operative" for agricultural industry; calls ITIF a think-tank funded by biotech, pharmaceutical and other industries**

**Audio: Talking Biotech Podcast host Kevin Folta of the University of Florida talks with Kansas liquor store owner, farm wife about her family's protest against Smirnoff Vodka for rejecting GMO seeds**

**Commentary: Pacific Northwest think tank cites concerns over health impacts of glyphosate spurred by Monsanto verdict, IARC review, criticizes EPA oversight of glyphosate as "sadly lacking," notes previous issues with Monsanto over contamination from GM crops leading to lawsuit**

**News release: Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue speaking to Clemson students, faculty cited EU's Court of Justice ruling on non-transgenic gene editing as example of attempts to halt bio-technology, setback efforts to solve world hunger**

**News: U.S. agricultural news site reports WTO members embracing genome editing despite EU's stance; Alison Van Eenennaam says EU regs triggered by process rather than by risk**

**News: Collective Evolution reports former Monsanto scientist Caius Rommens, in interview with Ken**

**Roseboro, says he's concerned about bees using GM potato pollen to feed their larvae, claims silencing gene responsible for browning in potatoes increases toxins that accumulate in GM Simplot potatoes that he helped develop**

**More North America items**

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## Africa

**News: Tanzania news site reports researchers say GM crops will help country respond to challenges of feeding a rapidly growing population, farming difficulties brought by climate change**

**Commentary: African Centre for Biodiversity highlights synthetic biology, genome editing, gene drives as key issues at upcoming Convention on Biological Diversity in Egypt; urges readers to lobby governments on issues**

**News release: African Centre for Biodiversity criticizes release of GM mosquitoes during field test in Burkina Faso, says Target Malaria acknowledges there is no benefit for citizens, but NGO contends it places people at risk**

**Commentary: Crop Life International communications manager notes CLI, SNV Netherlands Development Organisation, and Ethiopian gov't partner to aid Ethiopian farmers to grow healthy crops, protect crops from pests, connect farmers with urban markets**

**More Africa items**

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## Asia

**News: Philippines news site reports farmers stormed Philippine Rice Research Institute HQ to demand a stop to Golden Rice field trials until there is "full assurance of its safety"**

**News: Associated Press of Pakistan reports Pakistan and China commit to agricultural cooperation for join research on conventional and GM seed, precision ag, disease and pest control**

**Commentary: Vietnamese news site notes comments on draft law on cultivation say it should include GMOs, claims GM crops affect humans, livestock, environment**

**More Asia items**

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## Europe

**News: Netherlands news site reports gov't commits to allow new breeding techniques such as CRISPR due to impressive list of possible benefits, but the EU blocks it; notes Dutch gov't argues CRISPR is form of mutagenesis, which could mean the technique is exempted from GMO regulations**

**News release: EuropaBio calls attention to nations' statement to World Trade Organization supporting agricultural genome editing, calling attention to importance the techniques will play in addressing pest, disease, climate issues affecting food production**

**News: German video news site notes CRISPR can help create more productive and disease-free crops as well as growing replacement organs for humans, creating "designer babies"**

**More Europe items**

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## Latin America

**News: Argentine agricultural news site reports gene editing opens up spectrum of possibilities, can improve on downsides of transgenic crops**

**News: Mexican news site reports kidnapped activist Juan Knelssen released, found alive; says activist groups such as Greenpeace believe the kidnapping was due to his activism against transgenic crops, but**

**will not make official statement; note Knelssen was beaten during his captivity**

**News: Argentinian alternative news agency reports G20 leaders ignoring "climate smart agriculture" in favor of farming models that promote interests of agrobusinesses, pesticides, GM crops**

**News: La Jornada Maya reports GM soy producers will be forced to sell their property to pay fines for growing the GM crops illegally**

**News: Brazil's Folha de S. Paulo reports Oxitec succeeds with release of transgenic mosquitoes to fight dengue and zika in Piracicaba, now will expand effort to other parts of country; Anvisa hasn't approved GM mosquito for commercial purposes, so their release remains research project**

**More Latin America items**

## Oceania

**News: Australian news site amplifies Queensland University of Technology news release reporting agricultural biotechnologist honored for developing East African bananas enriched with vitamin A; notes researcher now working on GM Cavendish bananas to halt global threat from two diseases**

**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 Cornell Alliance for Science noting decisions made at the next Convention on Biological Diversity the conference could impact adoption of gene-editing techniques.

- Cornell Alliance for Science announced it is sending a delegation to the CBD in Egypt, scheduled for Nov. 17-29. An article on the Alliance for Science website noted "the future of precise, innovative crop breeding technologies is at stake" and depends upon decisions made at the event. *The Economist* reported an attempt by activist groups to ban gene drives failed at the CBD in 2016, but they plan a less ambitious call for restraint on gene drive field tests at the upcoming CBD. The article noted gene drives potentially could wipe out malaria and other diseases, but says the ETC Group worries its use will lead to "more troubling, slipshod and exploitative applications." **See more**
- Ugandan news sites reported the country's Parliamentary Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation made changes to the country's biosafety bill in accordance with President Yoweri Museveni's proposals. Museveni vetoed the bill in December 2017. Changes include provisions to preserve Uganda's native plants and animals, changing the name of the bill to include "genetic engineering." The bill was scheduled for debate before the full Parliament today. **See more**

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

## North America

**Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Andrew Porterfield lists how genetic modification have helped and might save crop varieties, increase health; questions if anti-biotech forces would accept GE products that cure or prevent disease**

**News: The Economist reports gene drives could help eliminate disease such as malaria; anti-biotech NGO ETC member says it could lead to more exploitative, troubling, and dangerous applications that spreads uncontrollably into nature**

**News: Bloomberg reports traditional meat companies investing in startup companies developing lab-grown meat substitutes, debate continues over terminology, with CSPI spokesman warning it would be mistake not to label origins of new products, citing widespread consumer mistrust of GMOs in food**

**News: NPR's "The Salt" reports University of Florida researchers genetically modifying viruses that can be transmitted by whiteflies to plants in order to transmit desirable traits, also working on project for DARPA, raising concerns about possibility Pentagon could use technology to wage biological warfare**

**Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science announces it will send delegation to UN biodiversity conference, says future of innovative crop breeding is at stake; says decisions at conference could impede adoption of gene editing techniques that can benefit environment**

**Commentary: American Council on Science and Health's Alex Berezow notes people are bad at evaluating risk, pointing out just 37 percent got flu shots this year while increasingly more people buy**



**organic food despite fact 80,000 people died from flu while none died from eating GM food**

**News release: Center for Food Integrity announces Coalition for Responsible Gene Editing collaborated with universities, other stakeholders to create communication resources for gene editing to help educate the public**

**More North America items**

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## Africa

**News: Ugandan news site reports MPs change biosafety bill to adapt to President Museveni's recommendations, change bill's name, preservation of indigenous plants and animals; updated bill due for debate in Parliament Nov. 8**

**Interview: Global Farmer Network excerpts radio interview with Nigerian farmer and Roundtable participant Onyaele Patience Koku, who says European anti-GMO groups frame public discussion on biotech in Nigeria, while factual information is difficult to get out, but says Nigeria will approve GM crops**

**News: Kenyan news site The Star columnist notes great potential for Bt cotton to increase yields, farmer income, but notes agricultural and food production do not necessarily increase food security**

**More Africa items**

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## Asia

**Commentary: Filipino farmer writes for Global Farmer Network, describes small islands where he's only farmer who owns tractor, argues even such isolated farmers benefit from technology, including Bt corn he introduced to them that has dramatically improved yields, notes he had to battle anti-GMO propaganda**

**Commentary: Anti-biotech Filipino group MASIPAG announces farmers protest against Philrice, demand the group stops Golden Rice field trials, says product is being pushed to extend control for GMO producers**

**More Asia items**

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## Europe

**Announcement: British think-tank Institute of Economic Affairs promotes report by Matt Ridley, David Hill that concludes U.K. must embrace gene editing, other biotech options to make farming economically viable, productive, and environmentally friendly**

**Campaign: Greenpeace publishes survey results on grocery markets offering and labeling pork from pigs raised without GM feed; says most pigs raised using GM soy, which it claims is grown on deforested land in South America**

**Commentary: Dutch EU Parliament member Jan Huitema, a People's Party for Freedom and Democracy member and a dairy farmer, supports Dutch agricultural minister's statement favoring gene editing experimentation, says EU's current stance puts Europe at competitive disadvantage notes gene editing offers many potential benefits**

**News: German news site reports Germany still is center for modern plant breeding despite EU court ruling, notes fourth largest seed company to invest 20 million euros to build lab in Lower Saxony; notes Bayer, BASF relocated GE research to U.S**

**More Europe items**

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## Latin America

**News: Mexican news site reports anti-biotech activist Johan Knelsen released by kidnappers, is safe and in good health**

**News: Mexican news site reports Health Center warns families during nutrition course that consuming transgenic food can be fatal**

**Commentary: Brazilian NGO offers background on agribusiness backers of Tereza Cristina, chosen minister of agriculture; named "Muse of Poison" for shepherding bill through congress that lifted restrictions on pesticide use**

**News: Uruguayan news site reports scientists using gene editing to fight Panama disease afflicting Cavendish bananas; say disease could cause Cavendish extinction**

[More Latin America items](#)

## Oceania

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

[More Oceania items](#)

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## Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

### BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included news that Uganda's Parliament would re-examine a proposed biosafety law tomorrow. International commentary continued to amplify a World Trade Organization member statement on gene editing.

- *NTV Uganda* reported today that the country's Parliament was set to re-examine the proposed National Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill. The bill had been passed by Parliament in October 2017 but was rejected by President Yoweri Museveni over his concerns that, among other issues, GMOs could contaminate local crop varieties. A post from the Parliament's Twitter feed noted that the debate, originally scheduled for Wednesday, would now take place on Thursday. [See more](#)
- Science news sites and agricultural advocacy outlets continued to report on last week's joint statement from World Trade Organization countries, which had urged fellow WTO members to adopt a harmonized approach to "innovative biotechnologies" such as gene editing. [See more](#)

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## North America

**Commentary: The Farmer's Daughter USA blogger Amanda Zaluckyj discusses USDA approval of GM cotton plant for commercial use, modified to make the cottonseed edible for humans or animals; she points out GM cottonseed could allow for more sustainable protein production**

**Commentary: Veterinarian, pork producer urges giving USDA jurisdiction over gene editing, notes FDA would place process, the animal and its progeny under regulatory review; says only USDA regulatory review will allow gene editing to reach its potential**

**Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project notes 13-nation coalition urges end to "political posturing" and urges other countries to embrace gene editing as an essential tool for agricultural innovation**

**Commentary: Heirloom seed company publishes study claiming conventionally bred corn has more protein and nutrients than GM corn, claims university and laboratories controlled by corporations are afraid to do similar analysis**

**Commentary: Food blogger writes for Canadian news site, notes talking to a farmer changed her mind about GMOs; urges biotech supporters to focus on benefits of GM crops, food**

[More North America items](#)

## Africa

**Video: NTV Uganda reports Parliament to decide on Uganda biosafety bill on Nov. 8, MP says Committee on Science and Technology addressed president's concerns such as establishing a gene bank to preserve country's indigenous plants, animals; opponents worry about giving over seed rights to corporations**

**News release: ISAAA Crop Biotech Update promotes call by university students, educators for expedited legislation on biotech crops under research and development in Uganda; students say parliament should pass biosafety bill to enable Ugandan farmers to access improved biotech crops**

**News: Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana calls for gov't to fund native seed production, increase access to farm machinery, decrease post-harvest losses**

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

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

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**Commentary: Matt Ridley writes for U.K. news site, says gene editing offers tremendous potential for ag innovation for yield, environmental improvement, but notes Britain will miss out if it abides by current EU regulations**

**News: Netherlands news site notes court decision blocks innovative crop breeding in EU, notes researchers in U.S. and other countries free to use gene editing and labs such as HZPC plan to move research facilities out of EU**

**News: Deutsche Presse-Agentur reports European Patent Office revoked patent on long-necked broccoli previously granted to Monsanto**

**News: Feed Navigator reports Polish poultry, livestock farmers pressure government to delay a ban on GM feeds past February deadline; notes biotech awareness limited as 70% of Poles oppose ag biotechnology**

**News release: Austrian Parliament announces Nov. 9 dialogue between parliament members and scientists in genetic engineering, other scientific topics**

**Event: French Association for Scientific Information proposes Nov. 24 conference in Marseille on gene editing**

**Event: Italian communist news site announces Nov. 9 demonstration against agribusiness, GMO and pesticide use, support for food safety and the precautionary principle**

[More Europe items](#)

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## Latin America

**Interview: Mexican news site interviews Vandana Shiva, who says genetic engineering, climate manipulation are violations of "Mother Earth's rights," claims gene drives are high risk and U.S. DARPA using them as weapons**

**News: AgroLink reports Nobel laureate says GMOs must be approached scientifically; says most arguments against GMOs are myths, notes 200 agencies and institutions worldwide support transgenic use**

**News: Produce news site Fresh Plaza reports Banana Forum and Biotechnology, Biodiversity Congress presents improvements to banana crops via biotech, conventional breeding**

[More Latin America items](#)

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## Oceania

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

**[More Oceania items](#)**

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## Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

### BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included amplification of recent statements supporting the use of gene editing in European agriculture. U.S. science and ag writers applauded a liquor store for rejecting GMO scaremongering.

- Wageningen University released an analysis and commentary on Dutch Agriculture Minister Carola Schouten's statement supporting gene editing in agriculture. University lawyer Kai Purnhagen highlighted the need for revisions to the region's GMO Directive. [See more](#)
- U.K.-based business news site *Feed Navigator* reported that the European Parliament's Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (PAFF) committee highlighted a recent scientist letter calling on the region to reassess its regulations on new breeding techniques following a verdict from the European Court of Justice. [See more](#)
- U.S. science and agriculture advocates amplified reports that a Kansas liquor store had discontinued sales of Smirnoff vodka following the brand's recent anti-GMO marketing campaign. [See more](#)

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## North America

**News: Western Producer reports on Canadian gov't support for gene editing, joining 12 other nations supporting the technology at WTO, Monsanto's Camille Scott highlights potential improvements of several products in its portfolio**

**Commentary: Pat Thomas of Beyond GM writes for Hospitality and Catering News, voices concern about potential inclusion of products of new gene editing techniques in organic agriculture, notes organic is more about values**

**News: New York Times reports on experts' concerns that abuse of public records requests may lead to a reduction of transparency rights, with focus on Free File Alliance's targeting of UC Davis professor Dennis Ventry; article downplays FOIA harassment by activist groups like U.S. Right to Know**

**Commentary: Farmer's Daughter USA blogger Amanda Zaluckyj applauds decision by Kansas liquor store to discontinue sale of Smirnoff products due to "offensive non-GMO label" that demonizes a safe technology that has revolutionized farming**

**Commentary: AGDAILY column by "Farm Babe" Michelle Miller notes Kansas liquor store in ag community pulls Smirnoff off shelves after brand uses non-GMO marketing, says it is taking a stand against fake fearmongering of non-GMO**

**Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project piece by Kevin Folta cheers rural Kansas farm family whose liquor store will not sell Smirnoff vodka due to its non-GMO marketing, notes business takes a risk by discontinuing a well-known brand to stand up for ag, fellow farmers**

**Campaign: Canadian NGO Vigilance OGM calls for donations to fund its 2018 GMO and pesticides guide, to provide Quebec residents with a reference tool reflecting new data on impact of GMOs on health, the environment and agriculture**

**Commentary: DSM Strategic Communications founder Sean McBride writes for Food Dive, examines ways in which the midterm elections could impact food policy, wonders how a Democratic House of Representatives could impact GM food labeling rules**

**[More North America items](#)**

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## Africa

**News: Nigerian Tribune reports on AGRA Innovate West Africa expo, (Nov. 27-28, 2018), organized by Informa and Contact Consulting Nigeria and with the theme "Food Security: The role of finance in the creation of commercial opportunities for agricultural value chain stakeholder operations"**

**[More Africa items](#)**

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## Asia

**Commentary: Daily Pakistan's Haider Ali amplifies reports that Indian legislation ordering farmers to delay field clearing until late October is leading to smog in Pakistan, claims the policy benefits U.S. firm Monsanto, as farmers are encouraged to plant its GM maize**

**News: Japan's Citizens' Biotechnology Information Center (CBIC) newsletter reports on approval of genome editing of human fertilized ova, as well as Consumer Affairs Agency's proposed changes to GMO labeling rules to lower detection limit value for foods labeled Non-GMO**

**[More Asia items](#)**

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## Europe

**News: Wageningen University and Research's Resource magazine reports on Dutch Ag Minister Carola Schouten's openness to CRISPR-Cas to improve agricultural sustainability, Wageningen lawyer Kai Purnhagen believes EU legislation must change first**

**Commentary: Robin Wyers and Kristiana Lalou of Dutch site Food Ingredients First examine calls for amendments to EU GMO legislation to accommodate advances like gene editing, they note recent drought will likely renew discussions on drought-tolerant crops**

**News: Feed Navigator reports on recent Plant Animal Food and Feed (PAFF) Standing Committee meeting with focus on EU Court's ruling on new plant breeding techniques, highlights position paper by European science stakeholders calling for support of innovation**

**News: U.K.'s Eastern Daily Press reports on recent workshop on ways in which gene editing and synbio can help East Anglian farmers as part of Agri-Tech Week events, Group leader Anthony Hall noted potential for the U.K. to develop its own legislation post-Brexit**

**Commentary: Visiting professor at U.K.'s Cranfield University's Soil & Agrifood Institute, Agustin Zsögön, writes for The Grocer, examines potential for gene editing to improve quality of U.K. food post-Brexit, such as making more flavorful tomatoes**

**Commentary: French NGO Coordination Rurale responds to WWF report blaming agriculture for disappearance of wild species, believes the only way towards sustainable solutions is for agriculture to exit from the WTO, reiterating its previous demands**

**News: German anti-GMO news site Informationsdienst Gentechnik reports on statement by the U.S. and 12 other countries, within WTO framework, calling for policies to prevent trade barriers to implementing gene editing in agriculture, and for harmonized regulations**

**Announcement: Positive Planet announces 2nd Edition of its Global Positive Forum (Nov. 20); Vandana Shiva is a featured participant**

**[More Europe items](#)**

## Latin America

**News: Ecuador's El Mercurio reports on national march in support of indigenous peoples, led by Mama Carmen Lozano, to protest against corruption, calling for protection of their territories from mining, demanding prohibition of transgenic seeds**

**News: Brazil's Jornal Da USP reports on talk by University of São Paulo Toxicology and Clinical Chemistry professor, Daniel Junqueira Dorta, he believes lack of sufficient information about GMOs leads the public to believe they are harmful in spite of evidence**

**Commentary: In editorial for Brazil's Directo Da Ciencia, Mauricio Tuffani criticizes President-elect Jair Bolsonaro's decision to merge Environment and Agriculture Ministries, argues it serves agribusiness interests, favors groups like Brazilian Association of Soybean Producers**

**News release: Collective of Seeds of Latin America announces release of animated film, "Seeds in Resistance," as part of the 2017 documentary, "Seeds, Common Good or Corporate Property," highlights struggle against imposition of transgenic seeds**

**Event: Argentinian gov't to host workshop on gene editing (Dec. 4), featuring discussions on applications in plants, animals and medicine, as well as safety of products of gene editing**

**[More Latin America items](#)**

## Oceania

**News: New Zealand Herald reports on Soil & Health Association's campaign to establish an organic Aotearoa New Zealand, highlighting concerns it raised about potential contamination of the Coastal Marine Area resulting from GM field trials**

**[More Oceania items](#)**

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## Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

### BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included a new anti-gene drive position paper and campaign from the African Centre for Biodiversity, as well as the conclusion of the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa conference on sustainable development goals.

- The African Centre for Biodiversity issued a position paper claiming that the Target Malaria project's trial of genetically modified mosquitoes was "premature" given outstanding questions about gene drive technology and its impacts on the environment. The activist group specifically addressed a July report from the African Union that highlighted the potential benefits of gene drive technology for reducing populations of disease-carrying mosquitoes. ACB closed by urging participants at the Convention on Biological Diversity meeting to support an activist-led call for a moratorium on gene drive use. [See more](#)
- *Agence de Presse Senegalaise* reported on the AFSA conference "African Food Systems and the SDGs," which concluded today. The report highlighted statements from Pan-African Institute for Citizenship Consumers and Development (CICODEV/Africa) director Amadou Kanouté, who claimed that no country could protect its food sovereignty if it relied on foreign firms who "force" farmers to buy GMO seeds. [See more](#)

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## North America

**Commentary: Joan Conrow of Cornell Alliance for Science welcomes position paper by 13 nations to WTO's Committee on Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures in Geneva, calling for "science- and risk-based approaches" to regulating genome editing**

**Commentary: In opinion piece for Trends in Plant Science, Corteva Agriscience researchers from the U.S. and Belgium call for consideration of benefits in risk assessments of GM crops in the context of modern agriculture**

**News release: Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) announces side events with Convention on Biological Diversity meeting in Egypt, one on IPBES Global Assessment of Biodiversity, and one on regional and global reports on land degradation and restoration**

**Commentary: Plant biologist Elizabeth Hood writes GMO Answers post for Medium, highlights various benefits of GM crops, including their use to save the Hawaiian papaya, explains how incorporation of Bt toxin reduces pesticide use**

**News: Montana NBC-affiliate reports on Cargill's research on omega-3-rich canola varieties, Cargill Agronomist Keith Horton highlighted potential to reduce pressure on bait fish in the oceans**

[More North America items](#)

## Africa

**News release: African Centre for Biodiversity announces release of report critiquing the African Union's endorsement of using gene drive technology in mosquitoes to eradicate malaria, argues not enough is known about impacts and efficacy of gene drives**

**News: Senegal news agency reports on conference on agroecology and African food systems in Saly-Portudal, where Amadou Kanouté of Pan-African Institute for Citizenship, Consumers and Development (CICODEV/Africa), a member of Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa, voiced opposition to GM seeds**

**Commentary: Editorial in The Economist calls for a green revolution in Africa, highlights different gov't approaches to ag policies, notes Ethiopia's farming output is steadily growing, as gov't has put money into research, infrastructure and training**

**News: AgriBusiness Global reports Bayer promises to help African farmers by reducing pesticide costs, boosting yields through introduction of Bt cotton, Bt corn; research coordinator at NGO warns Bayer will push for adoption of biotech seeds, displacing farmer seed systems, reducing biodiversity**

**News release: New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) agency African Biosafety Network of Expertise (ABNE) organized a Confined Field Trial management training session on environmental safety and biosafety communication with Tanzania's Environment Ministry**

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

**Report: USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) publishes GAIN report on FAS Jakarta and Post Econ Section's recent outreach events to promote biotech in Indonesia, a screening of Dutch documentary "Well Fed," and a seminar on biotech communication strategies**

**News release: Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) announces upcoming conference, "International Conference on Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture and Food Systems," co-organized with FAO Philippines and Cavite State University**

**News: Manila Standard reports on upcoming conference on Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture, hosted by Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) and U.N.'s FAO, speakers include Mallikarjuna Swamy of International Rice Research Institute**

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**News: French agriculture newspaper reports French biotechnology association asking European Commission to update GM regulations to take into account new technology after Court of Justice rules CRISPR technology subject to same regulations as first-generation GMOs**

**Commentary: German newspaper notes Christian Social Union wants to promote itself as eco-friendly party; rolls out proposals to keep Bavaria free of GM crops, double proportion of organically farmed land**

**Audio: Spanish Radio and Television Corporation's Agro5 podcast features discussion on CRISPR/Cas technology in light of EU Court ruling on gene editing, features arguments of European biotech and seed sectors as well as environmental groups**

**News: Spain's Mercados reports on event organized by Biovegen technology platform, "The Future of Agriculture," in which University of Córdoba geneticist José Ignacio Cubero voiced concerns that the EU Court ruling on gene editing would be a "serious step back"**

**Commentary: Director of Italy's Corriere Ortofrutticolo, Lorenzo Frassoldati, stands by recent editorial on importance of biotech in agriculture to feed the planet with fewer resources, highlights scientific community mobilization following EU Court ruling on gene editing**

[More Europe items](#)

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## Latin America

**News: Mexico's Escaparate Politico reports on municipal councils and commissariats of the Sierra Juárez's opposition to mega projects without consultation, and concerns about Ag Secretary Víctor Manuel Villalobos, who they accuse of promoting transgenic companies**

**[More Latin America items](#)**

## Oceania

**Commentary: In opinion paper for Genome Biology, Armin Scheben and David Edwards of University of Western Australia argue that gene discovery and gov't regulation are bottlenecks for widespread genome editing adoption, proposing solutions**

**News release: GE-Free New Zealand welcomes large number of submissions to Northland Regional Council's GMO hearing, highlights speech by Dr. Jonathan Latham about new evidence of risk from advanced GE technologies like gene editing**

**[More Oceania items](#)**

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Try it free today

From: Jay Byrne  
 To: Diane.Wray-Cohen@fas.usda.gov  
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Nov. 5, 2018  
 Date: Monday, November 5, 2018 4 01:36 PM

## Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

Last week, a group calling itself the Citizens for Science in Pesticide Regulation launched a campaign calling on European regulators to take industry interests out of the risk assessment process? But just which "citizens" are these?

As David Zaruk explains in a piece featured on this week's Favorable Outcomes, the group is not a representative slice of Europe's citizenry; there are no farmers and no agronomists, and there are plenty of activists who are funded by the organic industry lobby that would gain from the changes demanded in their manifesto.

Other articles focus on the benefits of genetic engineering, a U.S. decision to extend usage of dicamba technology and steps forward for GM crops in Africa.

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: Health and Environment Alliance



Health and Environment Alliance is a Belgium-based environmental advocacy group that opposes pesticides and has promoted anti-GMO messaging. It is also one of the leading

### Stories Worth Sharing

David Zaruk: Citizens for Science group features no farmers, but plenty of activists "bought and paid for by the organic food industry"

Bianca Torres-Garcia: GM crops help the environment flourish and have the potential to save lives

Hank Campbell: Dicamba extension "a win for 34 soybean and cotton producing states"

Stephan Neidenbach: "Deceitful corporate marketing" and "not trusting in the scientific method" give wealthy good reasons to buy organic

Amanda Maxham: "Genetic engineering is enhancing our lives in ways big and small"

Hembree Brandon: Stampede of non-GMO water, salt and even vodka shows that "scare sells"

Lominda Afedraru: Ugandan scientists could release vitamin-fortified GM banana in 2021 if biosafety law passes

Joseph Opoku Gakpo: Scientists in Ghana preparing to apply for commercialization of GM cowpea

NGOs demanding stricter policy on endocrine-disrupting chemicals.

Last week, it was among more than 100 European activist groups to launch a new "Citizens for Science in Pesticide Regulation" campaign seeking to limit industry participation in the pesticide risk assessment process.

Other prominent NGOs involved in the effort include Pesticide Action Network, Generations Futures, ClientEarth and Corporate Europe Observatory.

Click here to **LEARN MORE** about HEAL.

**CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES**

Simon Smith: Neonic ban leaves "no viable solution" to protect sugar crops from virus yellows disease [🔗](#)

Avery Plote: Non-GMO buzzwords cause people to pay extra for food that's the same or lesser quality [🔗](#)

Know Ideas: Non-GMO Project "isn't here to sell you safer food, they're just here to make money" [🔗](#)

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**What's Trending?**

European NGOs launch new Citizens for Science in Pesticide Regulation campaign

U.S. EPA extends registration for dicamba with new stipulations aimed at reducing drift

Australia, Brazil, Canada, U.S. among World Trade Organization members to sign non-binding statement promoting ag biotechnology

Study of Puerto Rican rainforest brings about new claims that insects are declining globally

**Calendar highlights**

November 6	November 7	November 7
Brazil National Seminar on the Presentation of the National Policy for the Reduction of Agrochemicals	Food Institute U.S. Food Labeling Seminar	USDA APHIS Biotech Regulatory Services annual stakeholder meeting
November 7-9	November 8	November 8
International Conference on Organic Agriculture Sciences	Meeting of European Parliament Special Committee on Authorization Procedures for Pesticides	Meeting of the European Parliament Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety
November 8-9	November 12	November 12-13
9th meeting of the EFSA scientific network for risk assessment of GMOs	University of Sao Paulo talk on endocrine disruptors	20th International Conference on Plant Breeding and Biotechnology

**CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR**

<p><b>Stakeholder database</b></p> <p>More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate</p>	<p><b>Monitoring portal</b></p> <p>Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.</p>	<p><b>Bonus Eventus community</b></p> <p>Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.</p>
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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Nov. 2-4, 2018  
 Date: Sunday, November 4, 2018 9:00:49 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 Argentina presenting the World Trade Organization with the International Declaration on Agricultural Applications of Precision Biotechnology. In Germany, media reported Green Party politician Renate Künast debated Max Planck Institute for Developmental Biology Detlef Weigel.

- Twelve WTO member nations supported Argentina's non-binding statement supporting agricultural innovation, including genome editing. The statement seeks to synchronize regulatory approaches among signatories. Members supporting the document included Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Jordan, Paraguay, the United States, Uruguay, Vietnam and the Secretariat of the Economic Community of West African States. **See more**
- German news site *der Spiegel* reported that during the debate between biologist Weigel and Künast, Weigel got the biggest applause when he said genetic engineering could help increase biological diversity. The newspaper also reported that during the debate, an audience member noted, "If the new genetic engineering methods do not differ from breeding, I do not understand the debate." **See more**

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

## North America

**Announcement: World Trade Organization announces communication by delegations from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Guatemala, Honduras, Paraguay and the U.S. to coordinate efforts to support science-based and internationally harmonized regulations for new technologies like gene editing**

**Commentary: Care2 amplifies JAMA-published French study claiming organic food consumption lowers risk of cancer, cites CDC research highlighting negative health effects of cadmium, an ingredient in many pesticides, to stress importance of choosing organic despite higher costs**

**Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science blogger reports Ugandan scientists hope for 2021 release date for GM bananas fortified with vitamin A, but nation must pass biosafety law first; article notes large numbers of children in Uganda suffer from vitamin A deficiency**

**News: California news source interviews Mark Schapiro, author of "Seeds of Resistance: the Fight to Save Our Food Supply," documenting how three companies control more than half of all commercially available seeds globally; he says Trump administration has reversed Obama-era restrictions on GMO use, labeling**

**News: Pacific Standard reports scientists divided over FDA regulation of gene editing with some seeing oversight as choking innovation while others believe agency will save ecosystems from lab-created "invasive species"**

**Video: Nick Saik of Know Ideas Media criticizes Non-GMO Project as misleading, noting their own standard allows for certain threshold amounts of GMO content, he believes it's unfair to consumers to charge a premium for products that may contain GMOs anyway**



**More North America items**

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**Africa**

**Commentary: Ghanaian journalist writes for Cornell Alliance for Science, notes Ghana to commercialize Bt cowpea as public property, notes field trials show resistance to pod borer**

**News release: Food Sovereignty Ghana announces it appeared before Human Rights Court for continuation of its case against commercialization of GM crops in the country, but that the hearing was adjourned until Nov. 16 pending plaintiff submission on jurisdiction issues**

**News: Radio France International's African edition reports caravan leaves Benin to travel through 5 more African nations to protest against GM seed distribution and land grabbing in West Africa, participants say Bt cowpea being imposed on West African countries**

**News: Uganda's New Vision reports on public lecture in Kampala where Penn State University molecular biologist, Dr. Nina Fedoroff, spoke in support of GMO safety, she noted that the spread of "fake science" inhibits beneficial applications of biotech**

**News: Tanzanian news outlet reports on Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute's (TARI) push for legislative changes to allow for use of GM drought- and pest-resistant seed varieties, TARI board chairman Dr. Yohana Budeba voiced satisfaction with field trials**

**More Africa items**

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**Asia**

**News: Xinhua reports study published in journal Science calls for global governance of genetic editing to ensure neutral, informed assessment of potential benefits, risks to environment; paper states complex nature of GE technologies requires decision-making process on case-by-case basis, sensible review**

**News: Filipino business news outlet cites negative media attention on pesticides to highlight briefing paper indicating use of Bt crops allows for reduction in pesticide use**

**News: Pakistan Today reports on International Society for Southeast Asian Agricultural Sciences (ISSAAS) report showing that Pakistan has achieved a 96 percent adoption rate for Bt cotton, generating economic gain of \$4.8 billion from 2010 to 2016**

**Audio: Entrepreneur Matt Ward discusses with Kevin Folta of the University of Florida on Talking Biotech Podcast China's rise as a technological powerhouse because of it's lack of regulatory authorities, will to succeed**

**News: The Economist reports China drops behind in ag-biotech due to misguided public fears that GMOs are unsafe, a way for U.S. to control China food supply, U.S.-China trade war likely to amplify issue**

**More Asia items**

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**Europe**

**News: Germany's Spiegel reports on recent debate on gene editing between Green politician Renate Kunast and biologist Detlef Weigel, the audience loudly applauded Weigel's statement about gene editing's potential to increase biodiversity by reducing chemical use**

**Commentary: French anti-GMO group inf'OGM discusses ECJ ruling on regulating new breeding techniques the same as GMOs, calls it victory of precautionary principle, predicts court soon will have to rule on legality of methods for assessing risks of pesticides, such as glyphosate, in relation to principle**

**News: Nederlandse Omroep Stichting reports on Jasper Roubos from the North-Holland Abbenes' opinion that genetic modification is not scary, and that universities should be allowed to conduct experiments, he welcomed Ag Minister Carola Schouten's recent statement**

Interview: Spain's El Pais talks to EFSA Director Bernhard Url, who warns of differences between real risks posed by food, those perceived by consumers, asserts organic food neither safer nor more nutritious than conventional, says he doesn't expect use of GMOs in Europe at present

More Europe items

Latin America  
News: Argentina's UNO Entre Rios reports on U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Hilal Elver's recent visit, after visiting fields of Union of Rural Workers (URT), she noted that agroecological methods have proved successful

More Latin America items

Oceania  
News release: GE Free Northland announces filing of over 100 submissions with Northland Regional Council on its proposed Regional Plan, calling for protection of Northland's GE-free status, cites potential environmental contamination

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 reactions to Dutch Agricultural Minister Carola Shouten's announcement that she would encourage gene editing experimentation.

- Dutch news site *Nederlands Dagblad* reported Greenpeace criticized The Netherlands Agricultural Minister Carola Shouten. Herman van Bakkem of Greenpeace Netherlands said CRISPR technique can lead to unpredictable side effects. However, Wageningen University plant researcher Bert Lotz welcomed Shouten's support, saying, "if handled carefully this type of intervention can lead to great strides in sustainability." [See more](#)

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## North America

**News: Bloomberg Environment reports on Chinese gov't efforts towards GM corn commercialization, highlights ongoing challenges posed by consumer perception**

**Commentary: Non-GMO Project provides information for consumers about Simplot's Innate potato, which it has just added to its High-Risk list, amplifies Caius Rommens' book, "Pandora's Potatoes," features a Q&A section**

**Commentary: "Supermarket Guru" Phil Lempert amplifies new report from National Academies of Sciences identifying most promising scientific breakthroughs that could advance agriculture over next decade; report says ability to carry out routine gene editing of organisms important to agriculture crucial**

**Audio: The Lars Larson Show features Marian Tupy of HumanProgress.org and Center for Global Liberty and Prosperity in discussion on how EU policy on GMOs impacts food supplies in Africa, he explains that the precautionary principle is motivated by protectionism**

**Commentary: Natural News amplifies King's College London study demonstrating differences between GM corn variety NK603 and non-GM corn, claims non-GM corn has higher nutrient content, and that non-glyphosate-treated soil is healthier**

**Commentary: U.S. Right to Know's Stacy Malkan publishes findings of investigation into journalist Keith Kloor, highlights his interactions with Kevin Folta, points to emails indicating that he prompted Folta to write criticism of anti-GMO writers for his Discover blog**

**News: The Progressive Farmer's Washington Insider reports on FDA's release of its new Plant and Animal Biotechnology Innovation Plan, highlights planned release of new industry guidance for developers of animal biotechnology next year**

[More North America items](#)

## Africa

**Video: Uganda's NTV features panel discussion on biotechnology and biosafety with Dr. Nina Fedoroff of Penn State University and Dr. Theresa Sengooba of Uganda Council for Science and Technology (UNCST), they examine Uganda's biosafety bill**

**Commentary: Ugandan journalist Lominda Afedraru writes for Genetic Literacy Project, examines efforts by Science Foundation for Livelihoods and Development (SCIFODE) crop researchers and development partners to educate farmers about GMOs, countering propaganda**

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

**News: Vietnam Net discusses pros and cons of organic farming, traditional farming, using GM crop varieties or allowing all models at once; University of Illinois professor Bruce Chassy touts co-existence**

**News: Manila Standard reports farmers, municipal officials from Leyte take part in Biotech 101 and Joint Department Circular Public Briefing, organized by ISAAA, others, notes forum addressed concerns about rigid biotech regulatory process in the Philippines, calls for signature campaign to promote adoption of GM crops**

**News: South Korea's Naver reports GMOs detected in tofu soy products in circulation on market, mixed in imported soybeans used as raw material, so authorities presume GMO gene came from tofu**

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**News: Dutch News reports on Ag Minister Carola Schouten's openness to allowing experiments in a "light form" of genetic modification in crops, Wageningen University plant researcher Bert Lotz was encouraged by her statement, noting potential to increase sustainability**

**News: Euronews reports on San Francisco-based company JUST's lab-made chicken nugget products made from chicken stem cells and plant-based proteins, avoiding the need to slaughter birds, highlights challenge of reducing the price**

**News: U.K.'s Fresh Produce Journal reports on assurance by Defra Secretary Michael Gove and Farming Minister George Eustice that food supply will be a key focus of the Agriculture Bill, Gove noted he is open-minded about the gene editing debate**

[More Europe items](#)

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## Latin America

**News: Mexico news source reports corn experts participating in University of Chapingo week dedicated to agroforestry engineering say farmer-research coordination vital to defend native corn varieties, prevent expansion of transgenic cultivation**

**News: Argentina news source reports U.N. Right to Food Rapporteur challenges Argentina ag model's use of pesticides, oppression of indigenous farmers after recent visit, argues agroecology is only sustainable solution**

[More Latin America items](#)

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## Oceania

**Announcement: Food Standards Australia New Zealand announces it found no public health or safety issues with application to permit food from canola line genetically modified to produce long-chain fatty acids, would require foods using GM canola to be labeled, notes application filed with Australia's OGTR**

**to allow growing of GM canola**

**News: Australia's Mirage News reports funding announced by Innovation Minister Kate Jones will help Queensland University of Technology researchers develop a Panama disease-resistant banana variety using gene editing techniques, to provide a non-GM variety**

**More Oceania items**

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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Oct. 31, 2018  
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## Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

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Today's global biotechnology developments included a statement from the Dutch agriculture minister expressing openness to the use of new plant breeding techniques (NBTs).

- In an interview with Dutch news outlet *De Volksrant*, The Netherlands Agriculture Minister Carola Schouten addressed her previous advocacy for organic agriculture. Schouten stated that her view had been limited and that she wished to see more openness to the use of gene-editing techniques such as CRISPR in agriculture. The news was widely amplified across regional news outlets, spurring additional commentary from the country's public broadcasting service as well as other prominent outlets. Schouten also noted that she was planning to send a letter addressing the issue to Parliament in the "coming weeks." [See more](#)
- The U.S. third-party verification service Non-GMO Project issued two announcements today highlighting the non-GMO supply chain risk from gene-edited potatoes and gene-edited soybean oil. The commercial group claimed that potatoes, in particular, were "high risk" ingredients and that products seeking the Non-GMO Project label would be carefully assessed to determine the source of any potato ingredients. [See more](#)

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## North America

**News: Canadian news outlets report on academic survey finding most Canadians enjoy meat but looking to reduce consumption; CTV News quotes food policy expert Sylvain Charlebois on potential for younger generations to embrace lab-grown alternatives**

**News: Associated Press reports U.S. FDA reworking definition of word 'healthy' on labels to reflect changing nutrition science, prompting makers of products such as pizza bagels, chewing gum, bottled water to seek healthy designation; Sierra Club wants label to exclude foods made with GE ingredients**

**News: Politico Pro's Morning Agriculture news roundup reports on FDA's announcement of rollout of guidance documents on biotech, including gene editing in animals, to create "an efficient, science-based pathway to market for safe animal biotechnology-derived products"**

**Commentary: Keller and Heckman law firm amplifies FDA's announcement of its new Plant and Animal Biotechnology Innovation Action Plan, highlights FDA's priorities outlined in the plan, and upcoming programs on genome editing in animals**

**News: Successful Farming reports on new challenges in managing corn rootworm, as Corteva Agriscience scientists confirm its resistance to the fourth type of Bt protein, Cry34Ab1/Cry35Ab1, experts recommend rotation to other crops like soybeans**

**News: Politico Pro reports Non-GMO Project classifies non-browning potato as "high-risk" to supply chain after industry makes product "widely" available**

**News: Food Business News reports ingredients derived using advanced plant breeding techniques**

**nearing commercial use for food and beverages; biotech company Calyxt of Minneapolis gets refining deal for its high-oleic soybean oil, developed using genome editing, with ingredient likely on market in early 2019**

**Commentary: Non-GMO Project explains new high-oleic acid soybean variety developed with gene editing technique TALEN is a GMO, products made with this soy are not eligible for verification amid news that Calyxt is entering into contracts to sell this new variety**

**News release: Purdue University announces Agricultural Economics Department head Jayson Lusk's appointment to USDA's National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education and Economics Advisory Board, Lusk noted importance of reviewing how producers and consumers respond to new ag innovations**

**[More North America items](#)**

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## Africa

**Commentary: African Centre for Biodiversity blog reflects on Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries' (DAFF) consultations on international seed agreements ITPGRFA and UPOV 1991, highlights concerns raised about farmers' rights**

**News: EnviroNews Nigeria reports on Director of Science Technology Policy Research Institute of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR-STEPRI) in Ghana, Wilhelmina Quaye's belief that biotech has specific potential benefits for women farmers**

**Commentary: Lominda Afedraru of Cornell Alliance for Science examines Ugandan scientists' goal of releasing vitamin A-fortified GM bananas by 2021, Jerome Kubiruba of National Agricultural Research Laboratories noted they have obtained permits for field trials**

**[More Africa items](#)**

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## Asia

**News: Manila Standard reports on Biotech 101 and Joint Department Circular Public Briefing held in Leyte, attended by over 150 farmers and officials from selected municipalities, experts spoke about the science of biotech, developments, and GMO safety**

**Commentary: ISAAA provides update on event co-organized with SEARCA BIC, where Governor Leopoldo Dominico Petilla of Leyte provided a briefing on Philippine biosafety regulations, and experts provided updates on ongoing biotech research**

**[More Asia items](#)**

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## Europe

**News: Dutch news source De Volkskrant reports on Agriculture Minister Carola Schouten's investigation of possibilities for experimenting with CRISPR-Cas, she plans to send a letter to the Lower House detailing her progress**

**News: Dutch media outlets amplify De Volkskrant's coverage of Agriculture Minister Carola Schouten's openness to CRISPR-Cas applications in agriculture, pledging the ministry's cooperation to a survey by farmers, companies and Wageningen University**

**News: Germany's Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung reports on recent debate on CRISPR at DAI Heidelberg between former Green Party leader Renate Künast and Detlef Weigel of Max Planck Institute for Developmental Biology Tübingen, highlights different views on EU Court ruling**

**Interview: In two-part series, Germany's f3 interviews agricultural economist Martin Qaim on boosting yields to meet growing food needs, he calls for a combination of organic and conventional methods, including new breeding techniques (subscription required)**

**News: Germany's Transparenz Gentechnik reports on results of official food inspection for presence of GM content, 18 percent of soy products tested positive for GM content, up from 14.6 percent in 2016,**

**unauthorized GM papaya was found in Baden-Württemberg**

**News: Italian news outlet reports tests carried out by the Carabinieri Forestali found no presence of GM corn in the Marche Region in 2018, testing samples from 79 sites**

**[More Europe items](#)**

## Latin America

**News: Mexican news outlet reports on presentation by Dr. Francisco Bolívar Zapata on the benefits of GMOs, following publication of his book on the subject, he highlighted beneficial applications in medicine, and ways in which GM crops can help protect the environment**

**Interview: Brazil's Information Council on Biotechnology (CIB) interviewed Swedish plant physiologist Stefan Jansson ahead of his speech at The Future of Food seminar in São Paulo, he voices frustration at EU's approach to regulating new breeding techniques**

**Announcement: Brazil's Ministry of Science, Technology, Innovation and Communications announces National Technical Biosafety Commission analyzing plan to release GM eucalyptus into environment in order to conduct comparative evaluation of establishment of GM and conventional eucalyptus plants**

**Announcement: Brazil's Ministry of Science, Technology, Innovation and Communications announces National Technical Biosafety Commission analyzing plans by Dow, Dupont-Pioneer to release into environment GM insect and herbicide resistant soybean seeds; public has 30 days to submit comments**

**[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

### 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: Diane.Wray-Cahen@fas.usda.gov  
 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Oct. 30, 2018  
 Date: Tuesday, October 30, 2018 9:00:59 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 an announcement from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration outlining plans to revise biotechnology guidance. In India, the Supreme Court gave biotechnology regulators two weeks to respond to activist claims on GM mustard.

- The FDA announced a new Plant and Animal Biotechnology Innovation Plan, outlining its process for releasing new regulatory guidance on the technology. The agency highlighted its commitment to "support innovation" while maintaining its public health mission, noting that it would be releasing several documents addressing animal biotechnology and that it would also release draft guidance to explain FDA's current policies on plant biotechnology. A Dec. 3 conference on gene editing in animals was also announced. **See more**
- India's Supreme Court gave the central government a two-week deadline to respond to activist Aruna Rodrigues' lawsuits claiming the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee had ignored safety concerns in its approval of GM mustard field trials and commercialization. The Supreme Court noted that it had repeatedly asked the regulator to take a "well-informed and well-intentioned" approach to reviewing the safety of the crop. **See more**

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

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

## North America

**News release: FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb and Deputy Commissioner Anna Abram issue statement on the agency's new Plant and Animal Biotechnology Innovation Action Plan, highlighting new programs, including focus on communication**

**News release: FDA announces Plant and Animal Biotechnology Innovation Action Plan to outline key priorities to support innovation while advancing FDA's public health mission, FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine will host a public webinar on genome editing in animals on Dec. 3**

**Announcement: FDA announces its Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) and Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER) will host a public webinar on genome editing in animals on Dec. 3**

**Embargoed release (Nov. 1): Yale researchers call for "careful oversight" on environmental uses of gene editing; say that despite human health needs, technologies such as GM mosquitoes should be reviewed for unintended consequences**

**News: High Plains Journal reports on release of Fall 2018 Unified Agenda, highlights potential updates to USDA and FDA regulations on genetically engineered organisms and food labeling**

**Report: L.E.K. Consulting survey finds 60-70 percent of consumers willing to pay premium for clean labels, notably non-GMO, antibiotic-free, hormone-free; says most customers expect foods to deliver on rapidly proliferating nuances of health, wellness, ethics, sustainability**

**Commentary: Medium posts blog by NGO Farming First discussing six ways agroecology can help shape future of farming, including potential for improving and optimizing 'orphan' crops, use of integrated pest**

**management, biotechnology approaches to producing rice efficient in use of nitrogen and water**

**Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project contributor cites need for awareness of products of genetic engineering in everyday life, such as insulin for people with diabetes, GE cotton for clothing, warns GMO opponents threaten to take away biotechnology's benefits**

**News: The Organic & Non-GMO Report's Ken Roseboro reports GMO testing expert claims technology available to develop tests to detect new gene edited crops, expects to see PCR tests for 'GMO 2.0s' to be out within next year; tests available now for produce developed using RNAi technology**

**Campaign: World Wildlife Fund issues annual "Living Planet Report" with plans for formal release at upcoming CBD conference in Egypt; report cites concerns about bees and other pollinators, water and soil quality, climate and other issues linked to agricultural production practices**

**[More North America items](#)**

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## Africa

**News release: La Via Campesina promotes Oct. 25 presentation of Peasants' Rights Declaration at UN headquarters, asserts millions of peasants worldwide lack access to seeds and control over genetic resources**

**Commentary: CBD's Biosafety Clearing-House recaps preparatory workshop held as part of Senegal's upcoming participation in 14th Conference of Parties of Convention on Biological Diversity and MOPs of its protocols**

**News: La Majalla reports on Target Malaria project's planned release of GE mosquitoes in Burkina Faso, highlights opposition by Citizen Collective for Agroecology, which argues that "zero risk does not exist, especially with genetic manipulation"**

**Interview: Nigeria's Leadership interviews Cornell Alliance for Science Fellow Yewande Kazeem, she explains how biotech can help Nigeria meet its food needs, notes GM foods have been studied thoroughly and are completely safe**

**[More Africa items](#)**

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## Asia

**News: Press Trust of India reports on Supreme Court's call on Central Gov't to clarify its stance on GM mustard field trials within two weeks, highlights complaint filed with the court that GM mustard would lead to "irremediable and irreversible" contamination**

**News: India's Mint reports on Supreme Court's request for Central Gov't response to plea against GM mustard field trials brought by activist Aruna Rodrigues, who cited health risks, regulator GEAC has already approved its commercial production**

**News: Vietnamese news source reports deputy ag minister signs decision to make GM maize and soybean eligible for use as food and feed**

**[More Asia items](#)**

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## Europe

**Commentary: François Paybou, Soybean Technical and Market Manager for Euralis, writes for European Seed, explains ways in which non-GMO soybean can be a strategic crop for Europe, highlights goal of making the EU self-sufficient in non-GMO soy production**

**Commentary: Gil River-Wekstein writes editorial for France's Agriculture et Environnement, points out flaws in EU Court decision on mutagenesis, argues transgenesis should be included as a technique with a proven history of safe use, notes EU law is outdated**

**News: English-language Polish news site reports on Ag Minister Jan Ardanowski's announcement of plans for a law for labeling non-GMO foods, emphasizing that he will take actions to enforce Poland's ban on GM crops and foods**

**[More Europe items](#)**

## Latin America

**Campaign: Organic Consumers Association urges supporters to sign petition demanding that Maseca stop using GM corn and begin a transition to 100 percent organic, voicing concerns about glyphosate's carcinogenicity**

**Commentary: Mexico's La Jornada runs op-ed by two members of NGO ETC Group warning GMOs pose threat to peoples of Latin America, with benefits going to transnational corporations, large landowners, asserting Latin nations need to consider potential economic, cultural impacts of synthetic biology**

**Commentary: Valeria Enríquez of Mexican food site Animal Gourmet examines the "Dark Side of Soy in the Food Industry," warns about high percentage of transgenic soy in the food supply, pointing to negative environmental and health impacts**

**[More Latin America items](#)**

## Oceania

**Audio: Australian Broadcasting Corporation reports on debate over South Australia's GMO moratorium, Flinders MP Peter Treloar notes he has not seen any evidence of a price premium for non-GM crops, believes growers should have access to the latest technologies**

**News release: Soil & Health Association of New Zealand calls on Northland Regional Council to adopt precautionary provisions for GMOs in Proposed Regional Plan for Northland, to protect organic growers in the region from GM contamination**

**[More Oceania items](#)**

## More Bonus Eventus Resources

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From: Jay Byrne  
 To: Diane Wray-Cohen@fas.usda.gov  
 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Oct. 29, 2018  
 Date: Monday, October 29, 2018 9:05:01 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 European activist promotion of a study claiming current assessments did not adequately address the safety of new Bt crops.

- GMWatch amplified a subscription-only interview with former European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) GMO panel member Jean-Michel Wal, who accused the agency of approving new stacked-trait crops based on "assumptions" rather than scientific results. Wal highlighted an August study in *International Immunopharmacology* in which Mexican researchers claimed that Cry1Ac delivered to mice intragastrically caused immune and allergenic responses. Citing an earlier article in *European Food Policy*, the group added that EFSA has been asked to re-examine the protein's toxicity. [See more](#)
- Alliance for Food Sovereignty Africa issued a joint report with GRAIN highlighting the role of smallholder farmers in preserving native seed diversity and calling for policies to support the food sovereignty movement and agroecology. The group also previewed its Nov. 3-5 food systems conference, which will feature statements from NGO leaders with ETC Group and the Health of Mother Earth Foundation. [See more](#)

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

## North America

**Commentary: Luis Ventura of Cornell Alliance for Science recounts recent meeting in Costa Rica where delegates from 15 countries discussed positions on biotech and biosafety ahead of U.N. Biodiversity Conference in Egypt, urges participants to be vocal and active**

**News: Nebraska radio outlet reports on paper by University of Nebraska - Lincoln agricultural economists Konstantinos Giannakas and Amalia Yiannaka which found that biotech companies can profit by lowering prices of GM technologies in areas stricken by hunger**

**News: High Plains Journal reports on Wageningen University researcher John van der Oost's continued optimism about gene editing in spite of recent EU Court ruling, noting they will continue to conduct research to find cures for human genetic diseases**

**Commentary: Santa Fe New Mexican editorial describes edible GM cottonseed from Texas A&M as a "scientific development worth watching," highlights potential global applications, such as combating hunger in developing countries**

**Event: St. Louis Post-Dispatch promotes free conference to be held Nov. 13 at Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, open to public, with three panels discussing latest gene-editing technology, how it will improve human health, grow food, manage environmental changes**

**News: American Agriculturist reports on debate over labeling lab-grown meat products, cattle industry calls for limiting use of the word "meat" for products derived from animal flesh, Consumers Union's Michael Hanson notes importance of using terms consumers can understand**

**More North America items****Africa**

**Announcement: Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa announces upcoming African Food Systems and the SDGs Conference (Nov. 3-5, 2018) in Senegal, keynote speakers will include ETC Group Founder Pat Mooney and Health of Mother Earth Foundation Director Nnimmo Bassey**

**News release: Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) announces publication of joint report with GRAIN analyzing role of small-scale farmers in saving Africa's seed diversity, notes small farmers are vulnerable to the corporate lobby for industrial seeds**

**Commentary: Verenardo Meeme of Cornell Alliance for Science amplifies Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta's announcement instructing gov't ministries to identify ways of reviving cotton production, including Bt cotton, notes it signals a shift in attitude towards biotech**

**News: EnviroNews Nigeria reports on communiqué issued by National Biosafety Management Agency following conclusion of its Fourth National Biosafety Conference, NBMA assured Nigerians that it is protecting their health and environment concerning GMOs**

**News release: Nigeria's National Biosafety Management Agency issues statement following conclusion of the Fourth National Biosafety Conference, participants expressed satisfaction with NBMA's efforts towards regulating safe practice of modern biotech**

**More Africa items****Asia**

**Report: Report in GM Crops and Food examines status of research, regulations and challenges for GM crops in India, highlighting concerns about food safety, environmental effects and socio-economic issues**

**News release: Indian biotech company KeyGene announces symposium, "The Impact of New Breeding Technologies in Agriculture," to mark opening of its new facility in Hyderabad, KeyGene CEO Arjen van Tunen voiced disappointment in EU Court ruling on new breeding techniques**

**News: Korean news outlet reports on tests by Jeong P & C Research Institute which found presence of GM soy in imported tofu products, International Slow Food Association warned about potential impacts on biodiversity and human health**

**Commentary: Abid Saeed of Pakistan Observer argues in favor of biotech adoption, noting need to boost agriculture in the face of worsening drought conditions, examines ways in which biotech can help Pakistan achieve sustainable development goals**

**More Asia items****Europe**

**Commentary: GMWatch amplifies statement by former member of EFSA's GMO panel, Jean-Michel Wal, validating study suggesting that Bt crops could be allergenic, he accused EFSA of ignoring potential allergenicity and relying on outdated tests**

**Report: Joint report by GRAIN and Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa finds that small-scale farmers and their seeds produce the bulk of seed crops in Africa, finds that policies promoting monocultures and corporate GM seeds undermine their efforts**

**Announcement: NRC Live announces upcoming Tech Talks on December 13 in Amsterdam, with focus on the most important technological trends of 2019, CRISPR researcher John van der Oost will be one of the featured speakers**

**Video: CropLife International posts YouTube video on its website showing panel, which NGO hosted with Devex, that discussed future of farming at recent World Food Prize Symposium in Des Moines, Iowa,**

**included senior scientist at Bayer, two members of Global Farmer Network**

**Commentary: European Seed Association amplifies position paper signed by leading scientists that calls on European policy makers to safeguard innovation in plant science, agriculture, cites concern over recent ECJ ruling that requires plants derived through modern genome editing techniques be regulated as GMOs**

**News: Swiss news agency reports on coalition of development, consumer, animal and peasant protection organizations' call for sustainability analysis of Mercosur trade agreement, they noted Switzerland must continue to only buy non-GMO soy**

**Announcement: Portuguese Communist Party announces objection to EU Commission approval of 15 GMOs, arguing that they should be regulated and assessed by member states, criticizes ties between EU Commission and the GMO industry**

**[More Europe items](#)**

## Latin America

**News: Brazil's Agrolink reports on Indonesian gov't approval of planting and marketing of GM drought-resistant sugar cane, capable of producing 20 to 30 percent more sugar than conventional plants in dry conditions**

**Commentary: Marcos Martinez writes post for Argentinian social-media platform Taringa!, claims that transgenic foods with built-in insecticidal properties like Bt can cause negative health effects like allergenicity, warns about spread of resistance genes**

**News release: California's Arcadia Biosciences and Argentina's Bioceres announce joint venture Verdeca approved in Argentina for HB4 drought-tolerant trait stacked with herbicide-tolerant traits in soybeans; approval allows Verdeca to incorporate tolerance to both glyphosate, glufosinate-ammonium into trait**

**[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: Caitrin.Martin@fas.usda.gov  
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Oct. 29, 2018  
 Date: Monday, October 29, 2018 4:40:46 PM

## Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

In the past week, two academic journals have published papers alleging that agricultural pesticide usage is unsafe for human health. A publication run by the Journal of the American Medical Association posted results of a French survey suggesting that consumption of organic foods can **reduce a person's cancer risk**, and a Public Library of Science journal printed a paper co-authored by Natural Resources Defense Council scientist Jennifer Sass that called for **organophosphates to be banned** due to health risks.

Today's Favorable Outcomes newsletter includes responses noting the safety of pesticides, as well as pieces on the impact of predatory law firms and updates on biotechnology issues in Nigeria, Kenya and the Philippines.

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: Haas Institute



The Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society was founded in 2010 at the University of California-Berkeley.

Earlier this month, the institute released a [report](#) suggesting major mergers within the agribusiness industry will mean

### Stories Worth Sharing

[Chase Purdy: Given closer look, study claiming organic food reduces cancer risk not "terribly compelling"](#)

[Steven Novella: Impossible to draw clear conclusions from study claiming organic food consumption reduces cancer risk](#)

[Matt Bogard: Use non-GMO and other labels adding only perceived value comes at expense of more affordable food](#)

[Alex Berezow: Claim that organic food reduces cancer risk is "complete nonsense" since that is biologically impossible](#)

[Patience Koku: Time to move on from Nigeria's decision to block GMOs, which "held back the entire country"](#)

[Andrew J. Wight: European court decision blocking gene editing slows research on bananas for Africa, soy for Brazil](#)

[David Zaruk: Predatory law firms turn "victim of a tragedy into an opportunity to manipulate"](#)

[Munene Kamau: Bt cotton could revive dormant Kenyan textile industry, bring new jobs](#)

[Henrylito D. Tacio: Golden Rice offers potential solution to increasing Vitamin A deficiency in Philippines](#)

the end of competition.

Last year, the institute collaborated on opposition to the new Green Revolution for Africa initiative supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Gates Foundation and others.

The Haas Institute is also linked to the Shahidi Project, which has produced several reports and initiatives critical of corporate agribusinesses and technology comparing them as industrial systems versus more equitable agroecology.

Click here to **LEARN MORE** about the Haas Institute.

**CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES**

**Jon Entine: Public has "unhealthy" obsession with alleged dangers of chemicals**

**Peter Griffin: New Zealand regulators "made the right call" in resisting political pressure to reassess glyphosate**

**Cam Dahl: Embrace modern agriculture because "good old days were not very good for those living in them"**

**CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING**

**What's Trending?**

French researchers claim survey shows consumption of organic foods reduces cancer risk

Natural Resources Defense Council scientist, North American researchers publish paper demanding ban on organophosphates

Dozens of research institutions ask European lawmakers to address gene-editing regulations that put EU at disadvantage

Meeting between U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration fails to resolve conflict over lab-grown meat

California judge reduces punitive damages, upholds jury verdict holding glyphosate responsible for causing man's cancer

**Calendar highlights**

October 29-30	November 1	November 1-3
Organic & Non-GMO Forum	U.S. EPA biotechnology seminar	1st International Congress of Green Biotechnology
November 1-2	November 3-5	November 5
Hawaii Department of Agriculture public hearings on proposed amendments to pesticide regulations	African Food Systems Conference	Gilles-Eric Seralini book tour appearance at Dalhousie University

**CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR**

<p><b>Stakeholder database</b></p> <p>More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate</p>	<p><b>Monitoring portal</b></p> <p>Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.</p>	<p><b>Bonus Eventus community</b></p> <p>Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.</p>
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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Oct. 26-28, 2018  
 Date: Sunday, October 28, 2018 9:05:04 PM

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## Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

### BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included India's Genetic Engineering Approval Committee approving a field trial for GM mustard. Commentary continued on European science research institutions' letter to the European Commission. Scientists and researchers worldwide continue to criticize the EU court ruling on gene editing and call on the EU to ease restrictions on new breeding techniques.

- Indian media reported the GEAC authorized a field test on GM mustard's effect on honeybees. Although the biotech crop received technical clearance for commercial release last year, it was put on hold due to activist opposition. *The Tribune* reported the Natural Farmers Association will introduce a system of mustard intensification, using non-GMO seed, in field trials. Supporters claim the technique nearly doubles mustard production, and it is seen as an answer to GM mustard yield claims. **See more**
- A *Nature* editorial noted the European Court of Justice decision on new breeding techniques has had a chilling effect on plant research in the EU. It reported a Belgian start-up that planned to use CRISPR technology to help Africa's banana industry lost financing as a result of the ruling. The report noted scientists worldwide are calling for changes to gene editing regulations, noting an appeal from 75 institutions to the European Commission. However, Marriott Harrison law firm partner Julian Hitchcock said the commission has been sluggish in responding to rapidly changing gene-editing technologies. **See more**

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## North America

**Commentary: Biotech NGO notes more than 85 European institutions argue EU Court of Justice ruling will bring gene editing innovations to halt unless policy makers create new regulatory framework based on science**

**Interview: Democratic Native American gubernatorial candidate tells Civil Eats she questions how GMOs, pesticides, antibiotics affect childrens' health**

**Commentary: Farming First publishes post on Medium listing six ways that agroecology can shape the future of farming, highlights biological controls for fall armyworm, and African Agricultural Technology Foundation's use of biotech to produce nitrogen- and water-efficient rice,**

**Commentary: Epidemiologist Gideon Meyerowitz-Katz writes for The Guardian, explains that eating organic food will not prevent cancer, pointing out flaws in recent study on French adults which found that those who ate organic were less likely to get cancer**

**Video: Nick Saik of Know Ideas Media posts video of his presentation at Corteva's Canadian launch, says many ag companies struggle with being objective in assessing their role in food misinformation, contends many unwilling to say GMOs beneficial because they make money on both GMO, non-GMO crops**

**Commentary: Southeast Farm Press blogger argues multiple studies prove safety of GMOs, genome**

**editing, other ag technology, says they must go forward despite fears of those who question technology**

**More North America items**

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## Africa

**Commentary: Tanzanian news site notes GM maize trials show significantly higher yields by withstanding stem borer, fall armyworm attacks**

**News: Local news source reports Health of Mother Earth Foundation raises alarm over GMO species in African countries; HOMEF director urges Nigerian and African governments to maintain moratorium on "extreme genetic engineering" as imposed by the Convention on Biological Diversity**

**News: Kenya's The Star reports Bayer executives promise Monsanto buyout will not raise seed prices, company will continue social, farming programs in Kenya**

**News: Kenya's The Standard reports government approval of Bt cotton for cultivation expected to create jobs in dormant textile industry; notes Bt cotton provides three times yield of conventional varieties**

**More Africa items**

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## Asia

**News: Philippine business newspaper reports vitamin A deficiency rising in Philippines, but genetically engineered golden rice offers solution to VAD, which causes blindness, death in children**

**News: The Economic Times reports DowDuPont withdrew GM corn trials in India because requisite states did not give permission; company official noted trials not withdrawn due to patent-related concerns, said trials will resume when regulatory system is ready**

**Commentary: India's Down to Earth notes Genetic Engineering Approval Committee greenlights field trials to test safety of GM mustard for bees, pollinators after anti-GMO activists, farmers last year killed plans for commercial release**

**More Asia items**

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## Europe

**News: Nature reports researchers worldwide criticizing recent European Court of Justice ruling that gave gene-edited crops same legal status as GMOs, with research projects put on hold or dealing with red tape, notes group of European scientists released position paper arguing ruling makes no sense from scientific point of view**

**More Europe items**

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## Latin America

**Commentary: The Guardian blames EU use of GM soy for livestock feed for rain forest destruction in Argentina, thus worsening climate change; says "destruction in Argentina leads straight to our dinner plates"**

**News: Brazilian newspaper reports farmers delayed planting GM crops, but have seen greater yields with less production costs since switching**

**News: Brazilian news source reports U.S. farmers poised to harvest for first time GM soybeans that produce healthier oil with 80 percent oleic acid, 20 percent less saturated fatty acids, zero trans fat; USDA requires no special labeling for product because no foreign DNA inserted into plant**

**News: Mexican newspaper reports beekeepers in Yucatan Peninsula complain Mennonite farmers apparently continuing to cultivate transgenic soybeans; beekeepers demand state government verify**

**whether farmers disregarding court order to suspend cultivation of GM soy while Mayan peoples consulted**

**Commentary: Mexican news source columnist suggests conflicts of interest within incoming administration, notably Alfonso Romo and his link to Seminis, will further promote policies that benefit Monsanto**

**More Latin America items**

**Oceania**

**Commentary: Writing for Australia's Weekly Times, James Wagstaff recommends agricultural stakeholders think about how to deliver accurate glyphosate information to consumers after conversation about glyphosate, as noted previously by British farm leader Guy Smith, has descended into nonsense**

**More Oceania items**

**More Bonus Eventus Resources**

**Stakeholder database**

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

**Events calendar**

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## 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 reporting on the USDA-FDA meetings on regulated cultured meat. Media continued coverage on a joint position paper by European science institutions calling for changes to the European Union's regulations on gene editing.

- *Politico* reported the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Food and Drug Administration have yet to come to a consensus on what to call cell-based meat after the two agencies' meetings on the topic. *Food Navigator* reported that producers do not want it to be called "lab-grown meat." Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said the agencies could have a regulatory framework as early as 2019. [See more](#)
- Continued media coverage reported 85 science institutions across Europe are calling for changes to regulations governing gene editing so the EU can take full advantage of biotech innovation, such as climate-resistant crops, and to avoid competitive disadvantages. *The Times* also criticized the EU Court of Justice decision to regulate gene-edited products as GMOs, saying it would cause an exodus of scientists and will cause setbacks in the EU biotech industry. [See more](#)

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## North America

**News: Iowa-based ag news source highlights remarks by speakers at 2018 World Food Prize symposium in Des Moines, including global corporate executives who said their companies will help find solutions to problems of agricultural sustainability, climate change**

**News: Discover magazine reports Kansas State University researchers use CRISPR/Cas-9 gene editing to create pigs with resistance to transmissible gastroenteritis virus (TGEV); study authors say they demonstrated feasibility of gene editing to protect livestock from diseases**

**Commentary: Hank Campbell of American Council on Science and Health and Henry Miller of Pacific Research Institute write for Investor's Business Daily, criticizing activist Paul Thacker's Washington Post article on health dangers of plastics, drawing similarities to Russian anti-GMO propaganda**

**Commentary: Given Canadians' negative perceptions about modern ag, Western Producer contributor Robert Arnason describes the under-funding of communication and public trust efforts as "absurd;" says "getting serious" means dedicating more dollars to credible groups like the Canadian Centre for Food Integrity**

[More North America items](#)

## Africa

**News: Nigerian news source reports experts agree biosafety regulators in Nigeria, Ghana delivering on their legal mandates, notes critics had accused agencies of reneging on duties to protect human health, environment, disregarding due process in application approval process**



**Commentary: Contributor to the Global Farmer Network, Nigerian farmer Patience Koku celebrates the opportunity to cultivate GMO plants, says the technology will "improve food access and health" for all Nigerians**

[More Africa items](#)

## Asia

**News: Press Trust of India reports Agriculture Ministry examining panel's report on doubling income of farmers, notes agri-scientist M.S. Swaminathan stresses use of new technologies, such as gene editing**

[More Asia items](#)

## Europe

**Commentary: U.K.'s The Times criticizes EU justice court for ascribing GMO policy to genet editing, arguing it stands in face of responsible science, will result in scientist exodus, EU biotech industry setbacks**

**News: Italian news agency reports more than 85 EU groups as European policy institutions to amend policy on new breeding techniques, not equate them to GMOs, to avoid suppressing ag-biotech innovation**

**News: EurActiv reports gene drives enter the GMO debate with Germany's environment ministry, BUND actively campaigning for bans, hope for resolution at Convention of Biological Diversity conference in November**

**News: Austrian news source reports Mistelbach district chairman campaigns for seal to promote GMO-, glyphosate-free soy produced in region, arguing imports of GM soy must be reduced**

**Study: Researcher at Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences writes in Theoretical and Applied Genetics about evolving EU regulatory framework for precision breeding; concludes EU products with precision breeding face strict regulatory hurdles, while products with conventional breeding do not**

[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.

[More Oceania items](#)

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## Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

### BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included a new position paper from European scientists and academic organizations criticizing the European Court of Justice ruling on new plant breeding techniques (NBTs).

- European science organizations issued a joint position paper emphasizing the need to protect innovative plant breeding techniques in the region. Research groups, including the U.K.'s John Innes Centre and Belgium's Vlaams Instituut voor Biotechnologie, urged European policymakers to prevent a "de facto ban" on gene editing as a result of a recent European Court of Justice decision. German news outlets *Frankfurter Allgemeine* and *Der Spiegel* were among the first to amplify the campaign. [See more](#)
- U.S. commercial and NGO groups issued statements in response to the joint U.S. Food and Drug Administration and Department of Agriculture meeting on cell-cultured meat. Consumers Union emphasized the need for safety oversight, including frequent testing of the culturing and scaffolding mediums; the group also called for "clear" labeling indicating that these were different from conventional meat products. The National Cattlemen's Beef Association announced that it would continue to push for USDA oversight and would also emphasize the need for clear label differentiation. [See more](#)

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## North America

**[News: Politico reports day 2 of USDA-FDA meeting on cell-based meat focuses on labeling, a topic crucial to consumer perception; notes meeting includes cooperation promises in dual-agency regulation framework](#)**

**[Commentary: University of California - Davis' Alison Van Eenannaam says cows get bad rap due to environmental footprint, notes most use rain-fed forage on non-arable land; adds that cultured meat has high input energy demands requiring higher amounts of greenhouse gases than livestock](#)**

**[News: Iowa-based ag news source recaps 2018 World Food Prize symposium in Des Moines, highlights remarks by former and current Monsanto, Bayer CropScience, and Corteva Agriscience execs who tout upcoming innovations, breakthroughs in agriculture](#)**

**[Commentary: Southeast Farm Press blogger reports customers want more protein in soybeans they buy, but challenge posed by fact protein levels go down as yields go up; blogger concludes U.S. soybean industry up to task, but customers must be willing to pay more to farmers to make up for yield drops](#)**

[More North America items](#)

## Africa

**[News: Ghana's Joy reports Alliance for Science Ghana refutes claims that dead tilapia found at Chinese-owned fish farm were GMOs, runs NGO's statement, which says Alliance finds it necessary to correct misinformation aimed at demonizing GMO technology, points out no commercialized GM tilapia exist](#)**

**Commentary: Ugandan journalist writes for Cornell Alliance for Science, notes Ugandan scientists begin educating politicians on available biotech crops that address agricultural problems in the country, such as brown streak resistant cassava**

**Announcement: International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications notes Ethiopian State Minister of Science and Innovation says gov't believes biotech research, innovation will spur economic growth**

**Commentary: International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications notes Kenyan president approves Bt cotton cultivation, believes the crop will revive nation's stagnant textile industry**

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

**News: Press Trust of India reports that the country's agriculture ministry is reviewing a report on how to improve farmer incomes, notes report emphasizes market linkages but other experts highlight need for sustainable ag and new technologies**

**News: Indian business news site reports Corteva Agriscience plans field trial for GM corn once regulatory system prepared to permit commercial cultivation of GM crops; notes country has deferred field trials on herbicide-resistant crops and put moratorium on Bt eggplant**

**Announcement: International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications announces updates versions of GM trait informational "Pocket Ks"**

**Announcement: International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications notes Indonesian gov't approved GM sugarcane resistant to drought**

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**News release: Belgium's Vlaams Instituut voor Biotechnologie announces more than 85 European research centers and institutes sign position paper calling on EU policy makers to change regulations on NBTs to avoid "de facto ban of innovative crop breeding"**

**Announcement: Groups of scientists representing scientific institutes and universities protest EU Court of Justice ruling on NBTs, say it has negative consequences for society and the economy; calls for regulation changes to allow safe gene-editing products**

**News release: John Innes Center scientists endorse position paper calling on EU to safeguard gene-editing technique use for plant science, says EU court decision deprives farmers of needed climate-resistant and nutritious crops**

**Commentary: European scientists support joint proposal to amend EU legislation governing gene editing, note ways the proposal would advance crop research and agriculture and medicine throughout the EU**

**News: Belgian news site reports on Environmental Working Group effort that claims raising livestock in EU and importing GM soy from Latin America causes deforestation, negative environmental impacts, urges EU farmers to grow more protein crops as part of "Give peas a chance" campaign**

**News: German TV news site reports "The Truth About Genetic Engineering" documentary focuses on CRISPR research application for agriculture, medicine; notes 79 percent of Germans reject it, but boundaries blurring between genetic modification and conventional breeding**

[More Europe items](#)

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## Latin America

**Campaign: UNAM professor starts Change.org petition to incoming director of Mexico's Conacyt pointing**

**out agency has reduced funding for basic science over last six years, calls on new director to finance by 2019 all projects approved with 'highly recommended' opinion in 2017-2018 Basic Science call**

**News: Mexican news site reports farmer group ask flour companies to stop using GM maize, prevent glyphosate in flour; notes claim the companies use same corn U.S. farmers use to feed pigs**

**Commentary: Cuba Informacion columnist amplifies controversy over glyphosate and GMOs in Maseca flour, links issue to corruption around suppliers for Venezuela's Local Committees for Supply and Production (CLAP) food boxes**

**News: Brazilian economic news site reports International Corn Alliance defends transgenic crop use, urges end to tariffs, other barriers to GM corn imports; notes WTO expected to release statement on statement on biotechnology benefits**

**Commentary: Brazilian agricultural news site reports GM soy helped avoid deforestation and reduced pesticide, fuel use; says additional 2.2 million hectares needed if conventional soy replaced Intacta**

**More Latin America items**

## Oceania

**News: South Australian news site reports most area farmers want to grow GM crops, notes one farmer says it would double yields; notes public comments on GMO moratorium close Oct. 26**

**News: Australia-based University of Queensland researchers write for The Conversation, note gene editing provides valuable crop innovation tool, say regulations should foster innovation in safe manner**

**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 start of a joint U.S. Department of Agriculture and Food and Drug Administration conference on the regulatory implications of lab-grown meats. In Germany, soy producers met to highlight potential non-GMO opportunities.

- A joint USDA and FDA conference on how to regulate lab-grown meat began today. The issue has been controversial, with political news outlets highlighting the jurisdiction conflicts between the two agencies when it comes to overseeing the product. *Politico* reported that, in a statement issued before the event, Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue promised that the two agencies would work together to develop regulatory guidelines for industry and that initial guidance was expected in early 2019. **See more**
- Producers and experts from across Germany met in Bavaria today for a conference on soy. Media reports noted that Bavaria's temperate climate is favorable for soy cultivation, with *Deutsche Presse-Agentur* detailing how some experts expect more German territory to become available for soy as climate change continues. Previews of the conference highlighted Germany's unique role in producing non-GMO soy, in contrast to soy imports from Latin America. **See more**
- Speaking at a business conference, former Langebio director Luis Herrera Estrella generated headlines when he criticized the appointment of future Conacyt director María Elena Álvarez Buylla. Estrella warned that Álvarez-Buylla's political agenda could undermine Mexico's breakthroughs in GM crop development. He also criticized anti-GMO activists for their roles in spreading misinformation on biotechnology. **See more**

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## North America

**News: Politico Pro reports Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue, FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb will work together to develop regulatory guidelines for cell-based meat industry; Perdue expects major regulatory decisions in 2019**

**Commentary: AgDaily managing editor highlights Information Technology and Innovation Foundation petition demanding FDA force The Non-GMO Project to drop its non-GMO label on basis label is inaccurate, misleading**

**News release: CropLife Canada to release six-part documentary series "Real Farm Lives" to educate Canadians on work routines of farm families; series to run weekly from Oct. 24 through November on realfarmlives.ca**

**Commentary: Joseph Mercola amplifies scientists' warnings that Department of Defense could weaponize mosquitoes intended to deliver GE viruses to protect plants from disease, drought**

**Study: Study in Contemporary Management Research examines how formal and informal institutional pressures affect how Greenpeace fights GMOs in Europe and U.S.; differences between France and Spain also analyzed**

## Africa

**News: Nigeria's The Guardian reports Dodoma, Tanzania small farmers visiting GM maize field trials call for drought-, disease-resistant GM seeds; Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology officials supportive of farmers' request**

**News: France's Le Figaro reports scientists at Imperial College London able to extinguish population of malaria-carrying mosquitoes in laboratory using genetic modification techniques, points out Target Malaria project in Burkina Faso aims to release 10,000 sterile GM mosquitoes in several parts of country**

**News: Agence France-Presse reports proposals for experimental release of GM mosquitoes to fight malaria stir controversy in Burkina Faso, where National Biosafety Agency gave approval in September to release sterile male GM mosquitoes at two study sites; civil groups warn result could be 'catastrophe'**

**More Africa items**

## Asia

**Commentary: South Korean news source reports government officials meet with citizens group promoting non-GMO school lunches, exchange opinions about non-GMO food substitute supply**

**News: India's The Telegraph reports Coalition for GM-Free India warns agriculture ministry panel's approval for import of maize, papaya and apple may pave way for illegal sales of GM versions of those foods; panel member says importers not allowed to bring in GM crops**

**More Asia items**

## Europe

**Commentary: Soy Network, Bavarian agricultural research center, State Association for Organic Agriculture hold soybean conference to discuss research, breeding results, future of soybean cultivation**

**News: Deutsche Presse-Agentur reports farmers, experts to meet for conference on soybeans, which is growing in popularity as field crop; notes EU regulations insure soybeans GMO-free unlike South American soy, which is GM**

**News: German newspaper reports Bavarian farmers taking advantage of EU subsidies to preserve insect life, demand for organic soybeans to boost cultivation by 46 percent this year; notes domestic crop production provides independence from imported South American GM soybeans**

**News release: Germany-based dairy cooperative Arla decides all members must switch to GMO-free milk by end of 2019, noting company loyalty to changing consumer preferences**

**Announcement: EFSA releases agenda for Nov. 8-9 meeting of EFSA scientific network for risk assessment of GMOs**

**News: Dutch newspaper reports agricultural researcher with Wageningen Plant Research will offer public lecture on whether genetically modified crops in various countries have led to more sustainable agriculture (Nov. 6)**

**News: French ag news source reports French Association of Plant Biotechnologies proposing plan to safeguard genomic publishing; group warns ECJ ruling on organisms obtained by mutagenesis may lead to bans on gene editing, sends letter to European Commission seeking complete revision of GMO regs**

**More Europe items**

## Latin America

**News: Mexican news source reports former Langebio director warns new director of Conacyt is 'anti-**



**technology' in remarks to business executives conference, claims Maria Elena Alvarez Buylla seeks to stop or restart all programs emanating from science and technology**

**News: Mexican newspaper reports former director of Langebio warns new director of Conacyt could mark setback for Mexican science and technology; Maria Elena Alvarez-Buylla Roces described as anti-technology, opponent of transgenics, has carried out political activism to stop use of GMOs in Mexico**

**News: El Dia reports Bolivian archaeological group asks government to classify native maize as genetic-cultural heritage; group says maize in danger of disappearing because of introduction of GM corn, sugar cane and cotton**

**[More Latin America items](#)**

## Oceania

**News: The Sydney Morning Herald reports proposals from Australia's Office of the Gene Technology Regulator stir controversy; regulator determined plants, animals, microbes modified using GE technique called SDN-1 shouldn't be regulated as GMOs, because possible changes can occur naturally**

**[More Oceania items](#)**

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## Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

### BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included a new Greens/European Free Alliance resolution targeting the Convention on Biological Diversity conference in November. In Africa, Ghanaian media continue to blame commercial tilapia die-off on "GMO" fish.

- Members of the Greens/EFA party introduced a resolution urging the European Parliament to ask members of the Convention on Biological Diversity to establish a moratorium on so-called "gene drives." The Greens cited a recent report by the ETC Group and Heinrich Boll Foundation, which claimed that commercial groups were attempting to utilize the technology to affect agricultural crops. The vote takes place on Thursday (Oct. 25). **See more**
- In Ghana, media outlets continued to report that a tilapia die-off at a commercial fish farm could be due to the presence of "GMO fish" too weak to adapt to the Ghanaian climate. *Ghana News Agency* reported today that a Fisheries Commission official said a virus was the likely culprit but reiterated the claim that the fish were genetically modified. **See more**
- Kenya's *The Star* and Tanzania's *The Exchange* reported on Kenyan officials' efforts to fast-track Bt cotton seeds, highlighting a presidential statement that urged several ministries to assess the crops' potential benefits and impact. **See more**

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## North America

**[Commentary: Science 2.0 piece by Hank Campbell recommends limits be placed on American anti-science groups funded by Russia to run campaigns to discredit GMOs, CRISPR technology; warns Finland jailing Russian sympathizers](#)**

**[News: Successful Farming reports meat industry, lab-grown meat developers agree FDA, USDA should regulate cell-based meat, avoiding battle between agencies over regulation](#)**

**[News: Chemical and Engineering News reports cell-based meat producers face hurdles that range from what to call product to creating safe, tasty, affordable meat that will win consumer confidence](#)**

**[More North America items](#)**

## Africa

**[News: Kenya's The Star reports so many cotton farmers quit growing crop over last four decades that country now net importer of cotton, cites low profits, cheaper imports; President Kenyatta says biotech cotton may help revive industry, government testing Bt cotton seeds in different parts of country](#)**

**[News: Ghana News Agency reports 20 tons of 'GMO' tilapia die at Chinese company's fish farm, incident under investigation; Fisheries Commission official says it appears deaths caused by environmental process or something wrong with the water, advises other fish farms to improve biosecurity to protect](#)**

their stock

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

**News: South China Morning Post reports Germany's BASF says U.S.-China trade war tariffs on seeds, crop protection products may raise food prices**

**Commentary: Chinese newspaper publishes excerpt from CRISPR pioneer Jennifer Doudna's book "A Crack in Creation," in which she highlights the health, environmental advantages of GM foods, but notes success of genetic modifications depend upon consumer acceptance**

**News: Philipine newspaper reports national agricultural research agency, Philipine, Japanese universities will embark on five-year project to reduce growing costs, increase yield, quality of eggplant by using GM technology to develop improved varieties**

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**News release: Germany's Test Biotech previews Oct. 25 vote in European Commission on whether Bayer's new GE maize super-resistant to glyphosate and glufosinate can be imported; NGO argues potential detrimental effects on human health from consumption of food and feed derived from new maize**

**Campaign: U.K.'s Beyond GM urges supporters to contact their MEPs, tell them to vote Oct. 25 in favor of international moratorium on gene drives; proposed amendment cites lack of knowledge, data and understanding about gene drive technology's potential impacts on biological diversity**

**Report: Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities' interdisciplinary working group on biotechnologies issues annual gene technology report, highlights need for funding public research on gene editing and cracking down on field trial vandalism**

**Interview: Vicente Puchal, founder of Spanish farming, real estate conglomerate, tells Spanish newspaper ABC EU must lift restrictions on GM crops to allow production of more profitable, more sustainable crops**

**News: French animal feed industry journal reports Fefac congress commits to implementation of European Protein Plan; Fefac president says European vegetable proteins must compete with existing or alternative protein sources, cites need for coherence in policies affecting plant breeding innovation**

[More Europe items](#)

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## Latin America

**News: The Huffington Post's Mexican edition reports investigation finds Maseca corn flour contains GMOs and glyphosate; GMOs found in 94 percent of Maseca flours tested; company responds glyphosate a regulated and monitored herbicide**

**Commentary: Chile Bio highlights Argentine agribusiness secretariat, ministry of food approving GM soybean tolerant of drought, herbicides; notes China in process of approving soybean that has won FDA approval**

[More Latin America items](#)

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## Oceania

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

[More Oceania items](#)

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## Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

### BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included new coverage of the Organic Consumer Association's claims that Maseca corn flour contains GMOs and glyphosate. The European Commission asked the European Food Safety Authority to evaluate allergenicity of the Bt toxin.

- After the OCA announced tests show Mexico's Maseca flour contains glyphosate and high GMO content, Venezuelan news sites reported Maseca flour is in food aid boxes distributed by the Venezuelan relief agency Local Committees for Supply and Production (CLAP). *Mision Verdad* columnist Jose Roberto Duque criticized the report by "gringo ecologists" for singling out the Mexico-based business, then criticized industrial food producers, saying that most food is sprayed with glyphosate and is poisonous. Maseca released statements that glyphosate is well-regulated and that its products comply with all regulations. **See more**
- Anti-biotech NGO GMWatch noted the European Commission asked EFSA to assess whether GMOs with the Cry1Ac toxin could cause food allergies or anaphylaxis. The agency is directed to examine a study by K.I. Santos-Vigil published in the *International Immunopharmacology Journal*. The study found that the GM Bt toxin Cry1Ac is immunogenic, allergenic and able to induce anaphylaxis. EFSA has been asked to complete the assessment by Nov. 9. **See more**

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

## North America

**News: The Progressive Farmer reports USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to revise regulations on transportation, environmental release of genetically engineered organisms; says goal is to reduce burden on entities whose plants pose no risk**

**Commentary: Food Dive analyst cites evidence consumer complaints about chemical additives, hard-to-pronounce ingredients on the rise, benefiting mostly organic industry reaping rewards from labels communicating free of pesticides, GMOs**

**Commentary: Independent Women's Forum's Julie Gunlock says NGO report critical of burger chain antibiotic policies aims to create consumer demand on faulty information, further undermines credibility of Consumer Reports established by group's anti-GMO stance**

**News: CBC reports on concerns following introduction of transgenic perennial alfalfa, organic milk producers are worried about its potential spread into the wild, contaminating organic dairy cow feed**

**Commentary: Vox food reporter amplifies news that Texas researchers have received approval for edible cottonseed, notes commercialization is far off but crop could reduce global hunger**

**Commentary: Oncologist and health columnist for The Southwest Times Record says link between cancer and GMOs hasn't been proven, but it "cannot hurt" to limit GM food intake**

**Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science writer notes University of Kentucky extension professor Paul**

**Vincelli enjoys education public about GMOs, genetic engineering; says most people's fear comes from distrusting large corporations**

**More North America items**

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## Africa

**News: Nigerian news site reports National Biosafety Management Agency, other Nigerian agencies review, validate strategy to "mainstream biosafety"**

**News: Nigerian news site reports Health of Mother Earth Foundation calls for GMO moratorium in Nigeria, Africa as proposed by Convention on Biological Diversity; Nnimmo Bassey makes appeal during School of Ecology on Eco-Colonialism**

**News: AgroPages reports on Cameroon's successful field trials of Sodecoton's GM cotton, it is likely that future field trials will be for GM cereals like rice, maize and sorghum**

**News: Brazil's Agrolink reports on Ethiopia's approval of commercialization of Bt cotton, and of experimental trials of GM pest- and drought-resistant maize, researchers are also working with International Institute of Tropical Agriculture on bacterial wilt**

**News: Ghanaian news site reports large amount of tilapia died en masse, notes some reports claim the fish were genetically modified and could not survive conditions in Accra; note fish experts suspect "organic loading" caused toxicity in pond**

**News: Portuguese news site reports Gates Foundation-backed initiative to fight malaria in Burkina Faso with GM mosquito release; notes malaria kills 4,000 people annually in the country, many of them children**

**More Africa items**

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## Asia

**News: Chinese news site reports conflict between 2 Chinese state-run newspapers started when Science and Technology Daily called interview in Heilongjiang Daily quoted official claiming China's top medical institutions declared GMOs as unsafe, but the statement was false; notes conflict is latest skirmish between GMO supporters and detractors**

**News: Indian news site reports U.S. companies Dow Agro Science and PHI Seeds seek delay in GM maize field trials due to uncertain approval time frame and India's intellectual property landscape**

**News: The Times of India reports increasing demand for chemical-free foods has prompted state government to launch plan to promote organic farming in Goa, plan includes help for progressive farmers whose farms will then be used as training centers, also provides assistance for organic inputs**

**More Asia items**

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## Europe

**News: Reuters reports Vilmorin Seed announced agreement with Broad Institute to use CRISPR technology to accelerate sturdier crop development; criticizes European Court of Justice ruling on gene editing**

**Commentary: GMWatch notes Commission asks European Food Safety Authority to assess Bt toxin allergenicity by Nov. 9, wants agency to examine Mexican study; GMWatch comments it would be surprising if EFSA will admit Cry1Ac toxin poses risk, but says it must if it is "true to the science"**

**Commentary: Researcher writes for Novo Arguments for Progress, says EU court NBT decision causes confusion; notes EU must ask biotech companies for procedure to ID gene-edited product, when the change could be made conventionally; meanwhile it asks companies to provide their own stumbling**

**blocks despite benefits of their crops**

**News: French news site reports new Ecology minister Emmanuelle Wargon, former Danone official who is seen as industry lobbyist, says she will recuse herself if she has conflict of interest**

**Video: GMOinfo interviews European farmers who would like more access to GM crops, notes EU depends heavily on imported GM crops**

**More Europe items**

## Latin America

**Report: Brazilian researchers examine potential of gene editing for country's agriculture, highlight possibilities for climate resilient crops and review regulatory challenges**

**News: Venezuelan news outlets report Organic Consumers Association says tests show glyphosate, GMOs in Mexico-based Maseca flour; Venezuela al Dia quotes physician claiming consuming products is dangerous, refers to Seralini study**

**News: Forbes Mexico edition reports company maintains its Maseca flour complies with regulations, is safe, defends glyphosate use; Organic Consumers Association claims tests show glyphosate, GMOs present in the product**

**More Latin America items**

## Oceania

**Commentary: Writing for New Zealand's The Press, science columnist Peter Griffin argues glyphosate foes are driven by hatred of Monsanto, applauds New Zealand EPA for leaving glyphosate off list of chemicals it plans to reassess, resisting political pressure**

**News: New Zealand Herald reports Northland does not include GMO-free policy in environmental plan after 10-year fight to regulate the issue locally; other district councils make joint submission against Northland's proposed regional plan**

**Announcement: Food Standards Australia New Zealand updates its review of how Food Standards Code applies to food derived using new breeding techniques, posts infographic on NBTs and new responses to consultation paper released in February 2018**

**More Oceania items**

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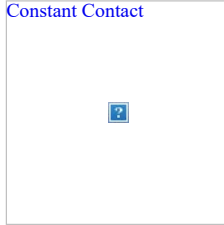
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## Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

### BONUS EVENTUS

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Today's global biotechnology developments included Nigeria's National Biosafety Management Agency and other governmental agencies committing to work together to prevent unapproved GM products from being imported or sold in the country. Ecuadoran farmers announced they are preparing to strike because the government has not listened to their demands.

- Nigerian news sites reported that during an awareness seminar, the NBMA and other Nigerian government departments committed during to work together to clamp down on illegal GM products in the country. NBMA Director Rugus Ebegba urged agencies to demand a biosafety permit for GM imports. Ebegba also noted an anti-biotech NGO is attempting to vilify his agency and create fear over GMOs. The Health of Mother Earth Foundation denied trying to create trouble for the agency and said it supports agroecology and simply wants to safeguard the environment. [See more](#)
- Ecuador smallholder farmers said they are preparing to strike because the government has ignored their demands. A spokesman said in response to requests for seeds, the government responded with transgenics, which he claimed are harmful. [See more](#)

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## North America

**Commentary: Ag Secretary Sonny Perdue writes op-ed for Washington state news outlet, praises USMCA trade deal, especially provisions addressing 12th Century biotech innovations including new gene editing techniques**

**Commentary: Institute for Agriculture & Trade Policy says new NAFTA is "retreat in science-based policy," says it legalizes trade in "unauthorized and unregulated products" because USDA will not regulate gene-edited products**

**Commentary: Organic Consumers Association recommends boycotting Maseca flour after claiming its tests reveal product contains glyphosate, GMOs, showing it imports corn from U.S.; also recommends using its list of organic corn flour products or making tortillas using time-consuming, hand-made process**

**Commentary: Farm Journal op-ed argues ag industry should defend gene editing to improve animal health and welfare, food safety, pre-empt backlash from activists, consumers, points out breakthroughs in GE livestock breeding that could give pigs resistance to deadly viruses**

**Commentary: NYU nutrition professor Marion Nestle's compiles list of food-industry lawsuits, organizing them by GMOs, chemicals, labeling compliance**

**News: Wire services report on USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's lifting of regulatory prohibition of a GM cotton plant capable of producing edible cottonseed developed by Texas A&M scientists, it still needs FDA approval**

**Commentary: Farmer explains she used to oppose GMOs until confronted with facts about them, realized her opposition was more about her "media diet" than farming choices; now realizes genetic modification is simply more efficient breeding method**

**More North America items**

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## Africa

**News: Nigerian news site reports National Biosafety Management Agency Director Rufus Ebegba says NBMA will clamp down on illegal GMO imports, urges other agencies to demand biosafety permit for GM food imports**

**News: Nigerian news site reports National Biosafety Management Agency director says anti-biotech NGO is attempting to vilify his agency, create fear over GMOs, but NBMA is well equipped to ensure approved GMOs are safe for people and the environment**

**News: Mali news site reports Target Malaria Project hosted training workshop for release of GM mosquitoes, director says it cannot be tested in the field, says there are health, environmental risks but the project includes measures to mitigate risk**

**More Africa items**

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## Asia

**News: Philippines lawmaker calls for bill passage to create Biotechnology Authority, says it will eliminate restrictions hampering GM crops commercial release, which will alleviate poverty, mitigate climate change; says notion biotech crops are dangerous should be discarded**

**More Asia items**

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## Europe

**Commentary: U.K. environmental news site op-ed argues environmental activists stifle progress with misconceptions, says genetic engineering provides significant benefits for environment, amplifies Cornell Alliance for Science position on safety of GMO plants, concludes GE could improve sustainability in ag production**

**Commentary: Friends of the Earth Europe says since EU Court of Justice's gene editing ruling, Commission, member gov'ts showing no sign of implementation; demands action to develop methods to detect, trace gene-edited products, immediate testing of U.S. and Canadian products**

**Commentary: German radio news site notes gene editing could provide solution for growing crops during global warming, but EU court decision means they are unlikely to be approved; meanwhile, it's still impossible to enforce law because it's difficult to tell gene-edited products from conventional products**

**News: Wageningen University & Research official says EU ruling on gene editing has major consequences, including companies moving research facilities, reducing EU food innovation, putting remaining research at disadvantage**

**Commentary: Friends of the Earth sponsoring event to promote EU growing its own protein for animal feed, claims GM soy and pesticides damage health and environment in Latin America, claims EU's dependence on soy is "unsustainable"**

**More Europe items**

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## Latin America

**News: Cuban news site reports Ecuadoran peasants ready to strike, say they ask gov't for seeds and it responds with GMOs, which they claim are harmful to human life**

Commentary: Brazilian anti-pesticide group campaigns for Fernando Haddad in country's presidential race, says one side defends "the poison package" while the other promotes organic production and agroecology

News: Mexican news site reports Organic Consumers Association testing says they discovered GMOs, glyphosate in Maseca brand corn flour, posts report of analysis by Health Research Institute in Iowa

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: Australian farm news site reports Canadian researcher Stuart Smyth says accusations following GM supporters frustrate, distract people from good science, but scientists finally pushing back against environmentalists' misinformation

News: New Zealand's Farmers' Weekly reports on recent seminar by Otago University legal and scientific researcher, Dr. Julie Everett-Hincks, she called for more clarity in the law before researchers and companies can take advantage of gene editing technologies

More Oceania items

More Bonus Eventus Resources

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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 campaign by Greenpeace Mexico urging the incoming presidential administration to protect "native maize" from contamination. In the U.S., regulators announced that they would be updating policies on biotechnology.

- In a press event timed to coincide with World Food Day, Greenpeace Mexico delivered a list of demands to President-elect Andrés Manuel López Obrador's administration describing how it could meet its campaign promises on agriculture. Among other recommendations, the group called for a ban on GM corn imports and revisions to the country's biosafety laws. **See more**
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced it would be reviewing and revising its biotechnology regulations, noting that without updates the agency would be unable to fulfill its role in managing new plant health risks. A *Politico* report noted that regulators intend for the rules to "ease" the burden on biotechnology producers. **See more**
- Science news sites amplified a USDA announcement that it would deregulate a low gossypol cotton variety developed at Texas A&M University. Researchers involved in the project emphasized that the variety could be used as a supplemental protein source for humans while also providing textile fibers. **See more**

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## North America

**[Announcement: U.S. Health and Human Services Unified Agenda posting announces FDA plan to propose updated "healthy" definition to reflect current nutrition science and federal dietary guidelines; due March 2019](#)**

**[Announcement: USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service posts intent to revise regulations governing genetically engineered plants in response to technological advances, notes without changes the agency will be unable oversee GE organisms that pose risks](#)**

**[News: San Antonio Express-News reports Texas A&M researchers gain USDA approval for deregulation of its GE cotton variety, which is intended to provide protein source for people](#)**

**[Announcement: USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service announces determination that genetically engineered cotton developed by Texas A&M researchers is not regulated](#)**

**[News: Politico reports USDA to update rules governing genetically engineered crops, notes biotech developers have clamored for streamlining approval process for plants that present no risk](#)**

**[Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science promotes Global Farmer Network's Roundtable in recognition of World Food Day, three alumni of Alliance farmer training courses will participate, Filipino farmer AD Alvarez describes need for dialogue about GMOs](#)**

**Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Cameron English examines anti-GMO activist groups' opposition to use of gene drive technology, even to curb spread of disease in mosquitoes, highlights University of Minnesota researchers' "synthetic incompatibility" solution**

**Commentary: University of Saskatchewan's Stuart Smyth writes for SAIFood, says regulating gene editing process rather than produce is sure way to kill innovation**

**Commentary: Whole Foods magazine notes non-GMO certification becoming more important, notes producer says non-GMO certification important because they're staying "true to nature;" claims organic certification ensures food isn't raised using pesticides, fertilizers, chemicals**

**[More North America items](#)**

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## Africa

**Announcement: African Centre for Biodiversity promotes its position paper outlining issues for farmer-managed seed systems in South Africa, urges stakeholders to submit comments, attend Oct. 23-24 meetings for UPOV 1991**

**Commentary: Writing for Project Syndicate, AFSA activist Mariann Bassey-Orovwuje amplifies ETC Group report on gene drives and claims genes to sterilize mosquitoes could spread to other species; previews November conference on biological diversity**

**[More Africa items](#)**

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## Asia

**News: Indian news site reports Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee approved environmental impact study on pollinators by GM mustard, notes complaints by scientists, farmers, NGOs over crop's commercial release**

**Announcement: International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications announces publication of Pocket Ks (Pockets of Knowledge), packaged information on crop biotech products and related issues produced by Global Knowledge Center on Crop Biotechnology**

**[More Asia items](#)**

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## Europe

**News: European fresh produce news site reports Georgofili Academy's conference focuses on relationships between science, society, politics regarding technological advances, including gene editing**

**Commentary: Italian Seed Association urges change in approach to plant innovation, new breeding techniques to achieve higher agricultural yields in recognition of World Food Day**

**News: Food Navigator reports experts say trade conflicts and EU's decision to classify NBTs as GMOs will impact food safety, quality**

**News: French media outlets report on country's new ecology minister, highlight her previous work at Danone; Ouest-France notes critics concerned about her weak position on GMOs, palm oil and links to industry**

**[More Europe items](#)**

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## Latin America

**News: Mexico's Proceso reports Greenpeace gives President-elect AMLO list of actions to uphold campaign promise to "protect native corn," including eliminating import quotas for GM corn, banning 183 pesticides, changes to biosecurity law**

**News: Mexican news site La Verdad reports Greenpeace presented series of proposals to President-elect**

Lopez Obrador protect native corn, including eliminating GM corn imports, banning 183 pesticides, not appointing officials who worked for "interests of transnational agricultural corporations"

News: La Jornada reports Greenpeace presented recommendations to Mexico's President-elect Lopez Obrador regarding series of actions to protect native corn, including modifications to Biosecurity Law regarding GMOs, cautious approach to synthetic biology and climate geoen지니어링

News: Mexico's Animal Politico reports on report by U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Victoria Tauli-Coruz, which criticized consultations with indigenous communities as manipulative, highlights concerns about transgenic soy

Interview: Argentine news site questions researcher Ana Maria Vara, who advocates using non-scientific knowledge, or "non-knowledge," to make decisions on technology use because she claims technological breakthroughs have unforeseen and negative environmental or societal impacts

News: Argentine news site reports using unapproved GM cotton seed hurts country's regulatory system, damages Argentina's reputation internationally

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 several new statements and campaigns focused on celebrating World Food Day.

- La Via Campesina [announced](#) it was relaunching its "Global Campaign for Seeds" to fight for the preservation of indigenous peasant agriculture. In its announcement, the group claimed that trade agreements and seed policies promoted by rich countries were giving multinational companies a monopoly on seeds.
- ETC Group [announced](#) that more than 200 activist groups had signed its call for a moratorium on gene drives. The group issued a new [report](#) claiming that gene drives are designed to spread "genetic pollution" and threatens farmers' and peasant rights; ETC Group added that the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity would review the issue of gene drives during its November meeting.
- The [World Food Prize committee](#) and the [International Food Policy Research Institute](#) both issued statements highlighting the importance of technology for meeting future food needs in a sustainable way.

For additional World Food Day announcements and events, [click here](#).

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## North America

**[Commentary: International Food Policy Research Institute Director-General Shenggen Fan writes issue post for World Food Day, emphasizes importance of technological innovations in ending hunger and malnutrition, highlights successful applications of crop technology](#)**

**[Commentary: Agri-Pulse contributor and lawyer Marshall Matz summarizes researcher and scientist response to EU court's decision on gene editing, says EU Parliament shouldn't allow court to be the last word](#)**

**[Commentary: Daily Beast investigation into growth of Transcendental Meditation cites movements pro-organic position, notes dean of Maharishi University's College of Sustainability is crusader against G.E. crops](#)**

**[Commentary: Writing in RealClear Policy, Farmer's Daughter blogger urges FDA Commissioner to adopt food labels that don't mislead consumers; notes many non-GMO labeled products have no GMO counterpart; organic, conventionally grown foods shown to be equally nutritious](#)**

**[News: The Progressive Farmer highlights new Mercaris report finding acreage planted to organic field crops increasing while land planted to non-GMO corn and soybeans decreasing; number of farms certified under USDA National Organic Program up 3 percent in 2018, biggest gains in Northeast, Corn Belt, West Coast](#)**

**[Commentary: Supply Chain Dive analyst Fairtrade Foundation joins growing list of companies offering food certification, many of which compete, citing USDA Organic, Non-GMO Project, Rainforest Alliance,](#)**

**argues companies must pick priorities**

**News: Western Producer reports on potential for biotech provisions in USMCA to encourage China and other countries to have consistent biotech policies, CropLife Canada's Ian Affleck noted the working group on cooperation will help with framework development**

**News: Smithsonian magazine reports on International Rice Research Institute's receipt of \$1.4 million funding grant to help develop varieties resistant to various stressful conditions, IRRI notes genes needed to survive climate change are already present in the bank**

**Commentary: Former FDA official Henry Miller and attorney John Cochrane write for The Daily Caller, criticizing FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb for doubling down on failed policy for regulating GE animals, arguing it will further hinder research**

**More North America items**

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## Africa

**News release: La Via Campesina announces re-launch of Global Campaign for Seeds, a heritage of Peoples in the Service of Humanity and "Adopt a Seed" campaign, on occasion of International Day of Action for the Food Sovereignty of Peoples and Against Multinationals**

**News: Nigeria's New Telegraph reports on ag stakeholders' march in Abuja to raise awareness about fake seeds, National Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA) Director-General Alex Akpa noted importance of technology and improved seeds for farmers**

**News: Voice of Nigeria reports Maize Growers, Processors and Marketers Association of Nigeria cautions Gombe farmers against using seeds not certified by National Agricultural Seeds Council, urges farmers to use quality seeds to boost food production, warns fake seeds being sold in black markets across state**

**News: Nigeria's Leadership reports on meeting organized by National Biosafety Management Agency for key stakeholders in biosafety, NBMA's Rufus Ebegba noted mainstreaming biosafety into national systems will strengthen the regulatory system**

**Commentary: United Nations Environment Programme advocates sustainable agricultural practices on World Food Day, notes monocultures often use "harmful pesticides" can drastically reduce biodiversity, including varieties of plants, insects, animals**

**Announcement: Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) reports on community dialogue event on Sept. 21, says farmers have little understanding of GMOs and appreciated learning the risks**

**Commentary: Busiso Moyo and Lucien Limache of Legal Resources Centre write for South Africa's Daily Maverick, welcoming U.N. Human Rights Council's decision to table declaration on peasant rights for adoption, emphasizing importance of access to seeds, genetic resources**

**Commentary: Kawira Mutisya of Tanzania's The Exchange examines Kenyan consumers and small-scale farmers' petition to Parliament and Ag Ministry demanding a food system overhaul, points to right to food violations and policies that inhibit sustainable production**

**News: Tanzanian news site reports International Institute of Tropical Agriculture estimates potential losses of maize yields in 12 African countries of up to \$6B within five years due to fall armyworm damage, notes regional African Development Bank official cites Syngenta seed treatment to control pest**

**News: Kenya's Standard Digital reports on Greenpeace's call on Kenyan gov't to reject industrial farming practices in favor of ecological agriculture, on occasion of World Food Day, Greenpeace also called for establishment of indigenous seed banks**

**More Africa items**

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## Asia



**Interview: India's Down To Earth talks to representative of UN FAO about whether India's current government policies can achieve Zero Hunger goal by 2030; Tomio Shichiri touts role of agroecology, says FAO aware of concerns about potential risks biotechnology poses to humans, animals, environment**

**Event: Alliance for Sustainable & Holistic Agriculture issues final call for registrations to attend Nov. 2-4 Kisan Swaraj Sammelan, says event will encourage alliance building to resist free trade and corporations in India**

**News: Indian and Italian news outlets report on Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Chamling's call for global cooperation to make agriculture completely organic worldwide by 2050, pointing to success in his state, addressing a news conference in the Italian Parliament**

**News release: Navdanya International's Vandana Shiva attended press conference in Rome with Pawan Kumar Chamling, Prime Minister of the Indian state of Sikkim, on occasion of Sikkim receiving Future Policy Award for being a 100 percent organic state**

**Interview: China Daily interviews Syngenta China president Andrew Guthrie, he sees Syngenta's acquisition by ChemChina as sign of gov't commitment to modernization and opening up, praises ChemChina's understanding of agriculture's strategic importance**

**News: Pakistan Observer reports on visit by delegation of Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) to discuss ag opportunities under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), topics included GM seeds**

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**Report: ETC Group and Heinrich Boell Foundation publish "Forcing the Farm" report, which details ways in which gene drives are being prepared for agricultural applications, claims they will threaten food sovereignty**

**News release: ETC Group announces over 200 global food movement leaders and organization voiced opposition to gene drive technology on World Food Day, coinciding with publication of "Forcing the Farm" report on dangers of gene drives**

**Interview: Swiss Academy of Sciences' Biodiversity Forum interviews University of Zurich ethicist and molecular biologist Anna Deplazes-Zemp, she explains opposition to including digital gene sequences in the Nagoya Protocol, arguing that it would inhibit research**

**News release: Swiss Academy of Sciences' Genetic Research Forum announces its video entitled "Gene Drives - Miracle drugs? Bioweapon? Hype?" won third place in the "substance" category in the Fast Forward Science 2018 web video competition**

**Campaign: Norway's Network for GMO-free food and feed calls on Climate and Environment Minister Ola Elvestuen to support a moratorium on deployment of gene drives, and international guidelines for risk assessments of GMOs under the Cartagena Protocol**

**News release: Navdanya International's Vandana Shiva attended press conference in Rome with Pawan Kumar Chamling, Prime Minister of the Indian state of Sikkim, on occasion of Sikkim receiving Future Policy Award for being a 100 percent organic state**

**Commentary: Navdanya's Ruchi Shroff writes editorial for Italian sustainable development site Lifegate, notes this year's World Food Day celebration coincides with concerning U.N. climate change report, blames industrial ag practices for unsustainable production**

**News release: Regional Council of Puglia, Italy announces meeting on Councilor Fabiano Amati's proposed law to repeal the current law on cultivation, breeding and marketing of GMOs, Amati argues the current provisions are impossible to implement**

[More Europe items](#)

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## Latin America

**Announcement: Brazil's Ministry of Science, Technology, Innovation and Communications announces National Technical Biosafety Commission approves plan to release into environment GM insect-resistant sugarcane for field trials**

**News: Mexico's Vanguardia reports on tests by Organic Consumers Association which found glyphosate residues in Maseca white and yellow corn flour, highlights increased use of glyphosate with transgenic crops, and concerns following IARC's review**

**News: Mexican news source reports on Independent Center for Agricultural and Peasant Workers "José Dolores López Domínguez" (CIOAC JDLD) biologist and secretary of Productive Development, Libertad López Barrios' call on Maseca to stop using transgenic maize and glyphosate in its flours**

**Audio: Spanish version of France's RFI's Life on the Planet program episode features topic, "Uruguay: the anti-transgenic revolution," with guest Laura Beatriz Rosano Santos, an agroecological producer and chef**

[More Latin America items](#)

## Oceania

**News release: Friends of the Earth Australia welcomes state governments' rejection of federal government proposal to deregulate new gene-editing techniques, warns about mutations leading to health and environmental risks, urges supporters to contact their state ministers**

**News: New Zealand's Farmers' Weekly reports on recent seminar by Otago University legal and scientific researcher, Dr. Julie Everett-Hincks, she called for more clarity in the law before researchers and companies can take advantage of gene editing technologies**

[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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## 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 coverage of last week's COPAGEN news conference criticizing the Target Malaria project. In Mexico, commentary on the recent Conacyt controversy continued.

- News outlets in Burkina Faso reported on a Friday (Oct. 12) news conference organized by the Coalition pour la Protection du Patrimoine Génétique Africain (COPAGEN) and the Citizen Collective for Agroecology (CCAIE) in which the groups re-emphasized their objections to the proposed release of GM mosquitoes designed to fight malaria. Among other risks, the groups claimed that the release of the insects could cause the proliferation of other more deadly diseases. [See more](#)
- Mexican news outlets continued to review the recent controversy over future science minister María Elena Álvarez-Buylla's attempts to block funding for projects that would extend into her term overseeing the science agency. Two editorials contrasted her activism against GM crops with the pro-industry stances of proposed agriculture minister Victor Villalobos and future chief of staff Alfonso Romo. A report from *La Jornada Maya* highlighted Álvarez-Buylla's inexperience with administration, noting that the recent controversy could be one of many as the scientist takes charge. [See more](#)

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

## North America

**Commentary: In UC-Davis Seed Biotechnology Center's 2017 Annual Report, Department of Plant Sciences Chair, Gail Taylor, examines ways in which Convention on Biological Diversity's Nagoya Protocol may hinder scientific research, even though the U.S. is not a signatory**

**News: Politico Pro reports on provisions in new U.S.-Canada-Mexico Agreement (UMSCA) that further interests of U.S. biotech sector, Steven Suppan of Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy described provision on low-level presence as a "get out of jail free card" for biotech companies**

**Announcement: International Institute for Sustainable Development provides summary of recent meeting of Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of the ITPGRFA, provides list of upcoming meetings**

[More North America items](#)

## Africa

**News: Burkina Faso's Echo Magazine reports on press conference by activist groups COPAGEN and CCAIE warning about risks of experimental release of GE mosquitoes in Target Malaria project, claiming it could lead to proliferation of other more virulent diseases**

**News: Le Faso reports on Coalition for the Protection of the African Genetic Heritage (COPAGEN) and Citizen Collective for Agroecology's (CCAIE) mobilization against experimental release of GE mosquitoes as part of Target Malaria project, warning about potential risks**

**News: Uganda's The Sunrise reports on recent sensitization meeting for Uganda National Farmers Federation National Executive Committee members on modern ag-biotech, General Secretary Mugoya Awali Ogonzaki noted he will support scientists' push for a law to regulate GMOs**

**Commentary: Kenya's Crop Nutrition Laboratory Services Ltd. lists several reasons why Kenya should adopt GM maize, highlights resistance to fall armyworm and drought, improved quality and potential to boost nutrition**

**News: The Guardian (Nigeria) reports on National Biotechnology Development Agency's (NABDA) call on activist groups to stop campaigning against GMOs, NABDA's Rose Gidado argued activist groups are spreading false information, pointing to rigorous testing involved**

**News: The Guardian (Nigeria) reports on National President of the Smallholder Women Farmers Organisation of Nigeria (SWOFON), Mary Afan's statement opposing gov't plans for GM crop commercialization, warning that GM seeds would create dependence**

**Announcement: African Centre for Biodiversity announces publication of a three-part animation series on GMOs in South Africa, available on its YouTube Channel, and on topics of history of maize cultivation and consumption, GMOs in South Africa, and debunking myths**

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

**Announcement: Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) Biotechnology Information Center announces 14th National Biotechnology Week in the Philippines, from Nov. 13-17**

**News release: Corteva Agriscience announces partnership with International Rice Research Institute, with goal of helping rice growers improve sustainability and productivity via deployment of new breeding technologies and development of new breeding programs**

**News: Press Trust of India reports on Coalition for a GM-Free India's opposition to Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee's plans to request information from Bangladesh regarding commercial release of Bt eggplant, calling the decision "shocking"**

**Commentary: The Indian Express runs op-ed by economic NGO officials touting biotechnology as tool to fight country's malnutrition problem, citing biotech innovations that fortify major staple crops with micro-nutrients such as vitamin A, zinc, iron**

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**Commentary: German newspaper runs op-ed by biotechnology professor arguing European Court of Justice ruling on new plant breeding techniques complicates research in country, noting CRISPR-Cas technology remains controversial in Germany, warning Europe now faces serious disadvantage**

**Commentary: Vice's Motherboard German-language piece discusses seven myths about GMOs, debunks claims that GMOs require more pesticides, harm human health, hurt small farmers; writer concludes questions remain about genetic engineering, but legal regulations aren't argument against GE itself**

**Event: German-American Institute Heidelberg to host talk on GE (Oct. 29, 2018), Detlef Weigel of Max Planck Institute for Developmental Biology Tübingen criticizes EU Court ruling on gene editing, Bundestag member Renate Künast believes it will increase biodiversity**

**Commentary: Germany's Transparenz Gentechnik examines growth and harvest of first gene edited soybeans with modified fatty acid profile in the U.S., exempt from regulation, notes EU will have difficulty staying on its current path as approvals rise outside the EU**

**Commentary: Austria's Profil promotes interview with EFSA Executive Director Bernhard Url, touching on issues of genetic engineering, organic agriculture**

More Europe items

Commentary: Kristin Halvorsen and Ole Johan Borge of Norwegian international development Journal Bistandsaktuelt examine debate on GMO adoption in Africa, ahead of open meeting on Oct. 16, they note smaller African companies are developing local GM products

Latin America

Commentary: Ruben Torres writes for La Jornada Maya, examining challenges ahead for new head of National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT), Maria Elena Alvarez-Buylla, foresees clash with another cabinet member, Alfonso Romo, who supports GM crops

News: Mexico's Diario Plaza Juares reports on controversy surrounding newly appointed head of National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT), Maria Elena Alvarez-Buylla, highlights reports of pro-transgenic lobbying, which she opposes

More Latin America items

Oceania

Commentary: Nick Doyle of Australia's Good Food questions how Australia should label lab-grown meat alternatives, notes increasing importance of transparency in labeling as meat alternatives get closer to resembling traditional meat products

More Oceania items

More Bonus Eventus Resources

<p><b>Stakeholder database</b></p> <p>More information on the people and organizations influencing food and agriculture issues.</p>	<p><b>Events calendar</b></p> <p>See where news could be happening next. Or let allies know about an upcoming event.</p>	<p><b>Bonus Eventus community</b></p> <p>Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.</p>
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 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Oct. 15, 2018  
 Date: Monday, October 15, 2018 4 04:40 PM

## Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

With World Food Day-related activities planned throughout this week, today's edition of the Favorable Outcomes newsletter takes a closer look at GMO-free claims by Smirnoff vodka, roadblocks to the development of genetically modified bananas and claims that minute levels of glyphosate in food could be dangerous to people.

Other pieces from Henry Miller and Geoffrey Kabat highlight scare tactics used by environmental activists, such as U.S. Right to Know's Carey Gillam, while several Australian trade groups, lawmakers and farmers stepped forward to **defend glyphosate** as a safe, essential tool for agriculture.

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: Children's Health Defense



Children's Health Defense is led by attorney-activist Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and espouses messaging against vaccines, mercury use in dentistry and pesticide usage.

The NGO formerly known as the World Mercury Project was re-

### Stories Worth Sharing

Greg Henderson: In Smirnoff's non-GMO vodka, "known carcinogen is now GMO-free"

Alex Berezow: Despite its efforts to cash in on non-GMO fad, the "most dangerous thing in a Smirnoff bottle isn't genetically modified"

Yvette D'Entremont: No reason to believe glyphosate levels in cereal are unsafe

Henry Miller: Environmental activists seeking any way to link science supporters to "corporate boogeymen"

Matt Reynolds: "Race is on" to save bananas from pathogen, with barricades to gene-editing solutions

Lominda Afedraru: Uncertain regulatory and legal environment hinders GM banana development in Uganda

Geoffrey Kabat: Carey Gillam glyphosate scare tactics show people now get "outraged at any hint of a theoretical risk"

Mark Buckingham: U.K. should use Brexit to distance itself from "regressive and flawed approach to innovations"

Rebecca Mackelprang: National Organic Standards Board should reconsider decision to exclude gene editing

branded this year with a broader focus on chemicals.

The class-action law firm-linked NGO claims vaccines, pesticides and endocrine-disrupting chemicals cause autism and other children's health risks. CHD alleges government and corporate conspiracies, corruption and biased media are preventing exposure of their claims. CHD and Kennedy work closely with litigators, whose websites are co-hosted on CHD's servers, to bring suits against companies, government entities and others seeking compensation for families dealing with autism and other alleged victims.

Click here to [LEARN MORE](#) about Children's Health Defense.

[CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES](#)

[MP Mark Coulton: "Safe and convenient" glyphosate provides enormous environmental benefits](#)

[Jennie Schmidt: Less than half of Dr. Oz's claims are true, including those about glyphosate causing cancer](#)

[ISAAA booklets highlight benefits of biotech maize production, status of African agriculture](#)

[CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING](#)

**What's Trending?**

[Cancer Council Australia seeks independent review of glyphosate](#)

[Anti-pesticide NGOs question decision to sideline U.S. EPA's top children's health official](#)

[California judge could throw out \\$250 million jury awarded to groundskeeper over glyphosate cancer claims](#)

[U.K. government rejects sugar beet growers' request for derogation allowing continued neonic usage](#)

**Calendar highlights**

October 15-19	October 15-19	October 16
<a href="#">Borlaug Dialogues</a>	<a href="#">FAO Committee on World Food Security 45th meeting</a>	<a href="#">Norway Bioteknologirådet open meeting on GMOs in Africa</a>
October 16-17	October 16-20	October 18
<a href="#">French agricultural research institute colloquium on chlordecone</a>	<a href="#">2nd Biotechnology World Symposium</a>	<a href="#">Bayer dialogue on plant breeding innovation</a>

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

<p><b>Stakeholder database</b></p> <p>More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate</p>	<p><b>Monitoring portal</b></p> <p>Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.</p>	<p><b>Bonus Eventus community</b></p> <p>Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.</p>
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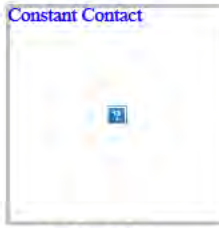
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## Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

### BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included India's Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee requesting data on Bangladesh's commercial release of Bt eggplant. French anti-biotech NGO InfOGM noted the European Commission "will finally work on methods for detecting" gene-edited products.

- Indian news sites reported the GEAC will ask the Indian Council of Agricultural Research to seek post-release effects of Bt eggplant in Bangladesh and plans to direct ICAR to conduct an independent scientific study on the crop's post-commercial release. Coalition for a GM-Free India's Kavitha Kuruganti said it was shocking and unacceptable that GEAC would act as a "promoter" for the GM crop. The Indian federal government enacted a moratorium on Bt eggplant in 2010. Recently, the Bt eggplant developer, Mahyco, applied for commercial release for the crop. **See more**
- French NGO InfOGM noted the European Commission has begun work to create methods for identifying "new GMOs" or gene-edited food, but questioned, "When, for how long, for what results?" The NGO said Sept. 11 meeting minutes indicated there would be discussion on the topic during an October meeting. InfOGM noted that although the debate has taken place since 2007, nothing has been done to trace or detect "new GMOs" and questioned what would happen if unlabeled, gene-edited rapeseed from Canada arrived in France. **See more**

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

## North America

**Commentary: [Denver Post](#) columnist maintains gene editing will be essential to feeding nine billion people in 2050 while dealing with agricultural trials of global warming**

**News: [Florida Today](#) technology writer notes we are able to feed more people today due to GMO and pesticide use, questions if vegans would eat cell-cultured burger made without harming an animal**

**News: [Quebec news site](#) reports GE salmon shipments have gone to Quebec, notes some restaurants pledge not to use the product, notes although Health Canada approved the product, some question its long-term effects, say it raises ethical and environmental issues**

**Commentary: [Science 2.0's](#) Hank Campbell questions whether Smirnoff is breaking law by labeling its vodka as non-GMO, points out marketing non-GMO status as health claim is prohibited under federal alcohol labeling laws**

**Commentary: [Registered Dietitian Nutritionist](#) blogger Nicole Rodriguez contends "free from" food labels assault common sense, are nothing but marketing; notes GMO safety, mocks Non-GMO Project Verified as most times indicating only a higher price**

**[More North America items](#)**

## Africa

**News: Kenyan newspaper reports manager of agricultural research institute says only genetic engineering can create crops resistant to fall armyworms; notes South Africa only country in sub-Saharan Africa that allows GMO crops**

**News: Cameroon business newspaper reports national cotton development company plans to introduce GM cotton soon after concluding field trials by end of year; experts expect GM cereals, such as rice, corn, sorghum, to follow**

**News: Zambian newspaper reports National Biosafety Authority denies rumors GM chickens being sold in markets, says no permits issued for crops, seeds, animals, but agency would consider any applications for research**

**News: Namibian news site announces biologist Andre de Katheren to speak on genetic engineering, will explain historical context, and genetic engineering's scientific and technical background**

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

**News: The Indian Express reports India's Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee asks for information on post-commercial release effects of Bt eggplant in Bangladesh, and agency will direct study on the crop; notes Bangladesh reports Bt eggplant has higher yields due to lower loss from pests**

**News: Indian financial newspaper reports Delhi High Court will allow investigation of Mahyco Monsanto Biotech for allegedly charging unreasonably high fees for Bt cotton seeds**

**News: Pakistan newspaper reports deputy director general defense, science says GM crops will be key to preventing global food crisis in 20 years; emphasizes need for GM technology to boost economy through improvements to quality of crops, fruits for export**

**News: Pakistani news site reports judge refers Plant Breeders Rights Act to higher Court chief justice for larger bench to decide on constitutionality, says matter could endanger country's food security**

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**Commentary: Netherlands news site notes gene editing stimulates changes that can produce positive changes in crops rather than importing foreign genes, but EU court decision restricts both the same, now EU companies compete against other countries where gene editing is freely used; organic farmers happy with court ruling, others fight it**

**Commentary: Inf'OGM notes European Commission to work on methods to ID gene-edited products, says Commission was not forthcoming with details, but says October meeting may provide more information**

**Announcement: European Seed Association reports European Commission encouraged plant breeders to craft legislation so that plant breeding innovation can continue in Europe following EU court decision on NBTs**

**Commentary: Inf'OGM criticizes European Commission, committee for advancing GRACE risk assessment, says measure does not require all experimental data must be submitted, says it opens door for more GMO authorizations**

**Commentary: GMWatch criticizes The Times of London's series on Russian disinformation campaign, claims Twitter account owner contacted GMWatch to assure them she's not a bot, other accounts likely tied to Americans disenchanted with agribusinesses**

**News release: Provincial chapter of Italian farmers union reports soybean growers in Ferrara region demanding higher prices for their non-GMO soy, calling prices being offered insult to "Made in Italy" and**

**non-GMO brands**[More Europe items](#)**Latin America**

**News: Mexican news agency reports environmental science professor speaking at climate change conference says Mexican science foundation found consumers ill-informed about GMOs; argues for labeling information to allow informed choices about GMO foods**

**News: Bolivian news site reports farm group official says they are close to getting approval for GM soy cultivation, notes proposal to commercialize GM corn variety is underway**

**News: Agencia EFE reports improved seed - including transgenic seed - needed to feed growing population in midst of climate change**

[More Latin America items](#)**Oceania**

**News: The Australian reports grain industry pushing for South Australia to drop GM moratorium, notes Green and Labor parties argue non-GMO status gives growers a premium, economic review will analyze the claim**

**Commentary: Australia news site Q&A columnist says genetic modification is safe way to increase yields, reduce natural resource use, with endless applications such as increased nutrients, pest and disease resistance**

[More Oceania items](#)**More Bonus Eventus Resources****Stakeholder  
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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 report from the Organic Consumers Association that testing found glyphosate and GMOs in corn samples from the Mexico-based Maseca brand. Two NGOs began a petition campaign calling on the U.K. government to keep GM labeling requirements in place following Brexit.

- Mexican news sites reported the OCA announced it discovered glyphosate and GMOs in Maseca brand cornmeal samples. An OCA commentary concluded the company is buying corn from the U.S. because cultivating GM corn currently is not allowed in Mexico. OCA's Ronnie Cummins said consumers "should seek organic non-GMO alternatives to Maseca flours until the company agrees to source only non-GMO grains for its products." An article in *Regeneracion* called it "poison on the table" and said the findings are alarming since International Agency for Research on Cancer found glyphosate is a "probable carcinogen." [See more](#)
- U.K.-based NGOs Beyond GM and GM Freeze began a petition calling on U.K. government leaders to keep GM labeling in place post-Brexit. In an online message promoting the petition, Beyond GM also warned that U.K. Farming Minister George Eustice disagrees with the recent European Court of Justice ruling on gene editing and wants to break away from EU regulations restricting the techniques. [See more](#)

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

## North America

**News: Bloomberg reports on rise in Bayer's shares after the company won a tentative ruling to remove \$250 million from jury verdict in California Roundup cancer suit, Jefferies LLC analyst Ian Hilliker noted a retrial would allow Bayer to revisit arguments on safety**

**Video: Jeffrey Smith appeals for funding by describing Institute for Responsible Technology's strategy for reaching "tipping point" to eliminate GMOs from market, including video project with glyphosate lawsuit attorney Brent Wisner; wants to turn attention to gene editing, animal feed, Roundup sprayed on other crops**

**News: Business Wire reports Calyxt harvested gene-edited wheat with high fiber, bringing the variety a stop closer to commercialization; notes it's the company's 7th product deemed unregulated by USDA**

**Commentary: Farmer writes for The Daily Caller, says USDA should be primary regulator for lab-grown meat, GE livestock rather than FDA because law falls neatly under USDA, and agency has personnel, programs and capability to assess risks at facilities and on products, and to apply strict product labeling standards**

[More North America items](#)

## Africa

**Commentary: Ugandan journalist writes for Cornell Alliance for Science notes it's been a year since President Museveni returned biosafety bill to Parliament, says farmers and scientists wait anxiously for**

**law that would allow improved crops**

**News: Cameroon Tribune reports chief research officer at nation's Academy of Sciences says progressive introduction of GMOs begun in 2012 has gone well, with trials of Bt cotton expected to be completed in 2018; next trials likely to be on GM cereals for eventual large-scale cultivation to curb food insecurity**

**Commentary: Researcher at Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research writes for ISAAA says evidence shows hunger is growing in Africa, says biotech crops can help by providing solutions to drought, diseases, pests, climate change**

[More Africa items](#)

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**Asia**

**News: Vietnamese news site reports South Korea finds Vietnam imported GM papaya, notes discovery is unexpected because no license exists in Vietnam for GM papaya**

[More Asia items](#)

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**Europe**

**Commentary: U.K.'s Agricultural Biotechnology Council chair Mark Buckingham says Brexit offers U.K. farmers chance to break away from EU's innovation stifling regulatory stance on biotech, which has eliminated R&D opportunities and jobs**

**Commentary: Russia Insight says Russia now is exporting wheat to more than half the world market, claims Russia is beating U.S. agriculture by promoting non-GMO food**

**Campaign: German pro-biotech group releases video trailer promoting "Genome Editing Canteen Talks," in which scientists who use genome editing talk about their experience with and opinions on the technique**

**Campaign: Beyond GM, GM Freeze ask readers to sign petition demanding the U.K. keep GM food labels after Brexit, warns that U.K. officials want to drop EU regulations on gene editing**

**News release: Federal ministers of Food, Agriculture and Education, Research announce cooperation to build "bioeconomy" that bridges technology, ecology, efficient management, providing key to sustainable use of resources**

[More Europe items](#)

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**Latin America**

**Commentary: Mexican news site reports Organic Consumers Association study finds glyphosate, GMOs in Maseca corn samples, calls it "poison on the table," concludes Mexico is importing corn from U.S., Mexico isn't protecting its native corn**

**Commentary: Mexican news site notes researcher and future Conacyt director Elena Alvarez Buylla says corn in Tlalpan is 95 percent free of genetic modification, researcher claims there is growing evidence planting GM corn damages health**

**Commentary: Mexican news site writer wants FAO to recognize Mayan milpa, or corn-growing system, as Important System of World Agricultural Heritage to protect it against "invasion of transgenic maize"**

**News: Colombian news site reports National Institute for Food and Drug Surveillance invites stakeholders to comment regarding how the agency should handle non-GMO claims on imported products**

[More Latin America items](#)

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## Oceania

**News: Wired U.K. edition reports Australian researchers working on gene-edited banana trees resistant to disease wiping out Cavendish banana plantations, attempting to prevent the best-selling brand in the world from going extinct**

**News: The West Australian reports on farming groups' reactions to ABC's Four Corners program, "The Monsanto Papers," WA Farmers Grain Council's Duncan Young and Pastoralists and Graziers Association's Gary McGill believe the program lacked scientific basis**

**More Oceania items**

### More Bonus Eventus Resources

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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Oct. 10, 2018  
 Date: Wednesday, October 10, 2018 9 01 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 the announcement of a new report by Graham Brookes of PG Economics, which highlighted several potential benefits if the U.K. decides to loosen regulations on agricultural technology following Brexit.

- The Agricultural Biotechnology Council announced the launch of a report commissioned to examine the benefits of a post-Brexit change in agricultural technology regulations. The report noted that, combined with the U.K.'s strong food safety regime, updated agricultural regulations on technology such as new plant breeding techniques would accrue significant economic and social benefits for farmers, consumers and the broader economy. Statements from the Agricultural Biotechnology Council highlighted the need for "sound science" in agricultural policy. **See more**
- A new report and campaign from Friends of the Earth Australia warned that the country was about to be the first to deregulate gene-edited animals. In its announcement, the group claimed that gene-edited animals raised "serious" animal welfare and food safety concerns due to significant health complications such as a low live birth rate, higher incidence of genetic mutation and respiratory problems. Friends of the Earth added that state and federal governments were expected to meet Thursday (Oct. 11) as part of the Legislative and Governance Forum on Gene Technology. **See more**

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

## North America

**News: Washington Post reports on Nature study describing need for "dramatic" food systems reform in order to meet consumption needs, notes international team found current system would make planet less hospitable to life; adds report doesn't take a position on GMOs**

**Commentary: University of California Berkeley postdoctoral student writes for The Conversation, says biotechnology, gene editing can help meet organic farming goals for sustainable agriculture, but organic proponents continue claiming biotech harms human health and the environment**

**Commentary: Natural News lists top four "fake news" science websites, includes Genetic Literacy Project, describes it as a "Monsanto front group," claims GLP argues that GE is exactly the same as traditional crossbreeding**

**News release: Fairtrade America invites consumers to celebrate Fair Trade Month, Non-GMO Month and National Seafood Month, promotes four labels - Fairtrade, MSC Certified, Responsibly Grown, Farmworker Assured and Non-GMO Project Verified**

**News release: National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) and Missouri Cattlemen's Association (MCA) praise USMCA trade agreement, Missouri Governor Mike Parson also voiced support, praising support for modern advances like biotech**

**News: Drovers reports former Monsanto CTO Robb Fraley will be the closing keynote speaker 2018**

**AgTech Expo in December, on "Breakthrough Innovations in Breeding: From Machine Learning to CRISPR and Beyond"**

**News: CNBC reports on lab-grown gelatin startup, Geltor, which produces a vegetarian collagen from recombinant proteins by using computation and synbio, Center for Food Safety's Jaydee Hanson called for more regulation**

**[More North America items](#)**

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## Africa

**News: [Zambian news site reports National Biosafety Authority warns chain stores to get permits to sell GM products, notes those who do not get needed permits will be dealt with according to law and goods confiscated, destroyed](#)**

**News: [Ghanaian Times reports anti-biotech NGO Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana disputes National Biosafety Authority chief's claims that GMO seeds can be replanted, notes hybrid seeds cannot be replanted](#)**

**News: [News Ghana reports anti-biotech NGO Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana claims National Biosafety Authority's GMO claims are false, says farmers will depend on foreigners for seeds, thus decreasing nation's food sovereignty, says GMOs will negatively impact European trade](#)**

**Commentary: [Public affairs analyst writes for Nigerian news site, says international agreements, National Biosafety Management Agency ensure biotech food is safe for human health, environment](#)**

**[More Africa items](#)**

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## Asia

**News: [Philippine news site reports trade show reintroduces cotton to weavers, says demand for "Organic and ethically produced garments;" notes Philippine Fiber Development Authority spearheaded Bt cotton cultivation in several provinces](#)**

**[More Asia items](#)**

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## Europe

**News release: [Agricultural Biotechnology Council report says EU risks becoming agricultural museum if it continues stifling new technology, GM crops](#)**

**Commentary: [PG Economics notes Agricultural Biotechnology Council report urges U.K. to base gene editing, other ag technology regulations on sound science rather than following "mal-administered EU rules"](#)**

**News: [The Times reports U.K.'s Agricultural Biotechnology Council report advises scrapping EU regulations on gene editing, GMOs that have held back British farming development, warns following EU rules would mean loss of economic, societal benefits](#)**

**Commentary: [U.K. Agricultural Biotechnology Council chair writes for The Telegraph, amplifies Secretary of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Michael Gove's comments that U.K. must abandon EU barriers to modernize farming, take opportunity to protect environment, improve approach to gene editing, GMOs](#)**

**Commentary: [German news site criticizes Federal Agency for Nature Conservation for appointing anti-biotech NGO Testbiotech to run federally funded Specialist Center for Genetic Engineering and the Environment to evaluate gene editing, notes advisory board includes only groups critical of biotech](#)**

**Commentary: [Testbiotech responds to Der Tagesspiegel editorial, says Max Planck Institute scientist will head the program and not Testbiotech, which shares the view the work must be "open-ended"](#)**

**Commentary: [Norwegian journalist notes GMO critics oppose modern agriculture despite yield increases, environmental benefits such as reduced pesticide use, defends intellectual property rights, says it's a](#)**

**scandal that biotech opponents have been able to keep Norway GMO-free**

**[More Europe items](#)**

## Latin America

**News: Inter Press Service reports on implications of U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) for Mexico, Karen Hansen-Kuhn of Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP) argues reduced barriers to products will not benefit Mexico's family farmers**

**News: CGTN America reports on Argentinian researcher Raquel Chan's development of HB4 gene which can be used to confer drought resistance in soybeans and wheat, its use has received Argentine gov't approval, but researchers are awaiting Chinese approval**

**[More Latin America items](#)**

## Oceania

**Report: Friends of the Earth Australia report claims gene-edited animals suffer from unintended genetic mutations that reduce birth rates, increase health problems and contribute to abnormal growth; calls for 'enshrining' precautionary principle into regulations**

**Commentary: Friends of the Earth warns Australia set to deregulate GE animals, claims gene-edited animals raised "serious animal welfare, environmental and food safety concerns," cause low live-birth rates, abnormal size, respiratory, cardiac problems**

**News: Australia's Farm Online reports on upcoming talk by Bayer Crop Science's global head of R&D, Bob Reiter, at National Farmers' Federation National Congress, he will emphasize need to communicate benefits of new developments like gene editing**

**[More Oceania items](#)**

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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Oct. 9, 2018  
 Date: Tuesday, October 9, 2018 9:00:42 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 the European Seed Association annual meeting had highlighted concerns over regulations on new plant breeding techniques (NBTs). Anti-biotechnology activists continued to promote a new book claiming the GM potato is inadequately tested.

- Spain's *El Economista* reported attendees of the European Seed Association annual meeting in Madrid were "unanimous" in their rejection of the European Court of Justice decision classifying new plant breeding techniques as GMOs. At a press conference, the group emphasized the negative effects the decision would have on farmers, researchers and consumers. **See more**
- Anti-biotechnology activists continued to promote the new book, "Pandora's Potatoes," in which a former J.R. Simplot and Monsanto researcher claims the new GM potato varieties are dangerous. In an interview with *Sustainable Pulse*, the author claimed his work had included mistakes that would expose consumers to unexpected risks. **See more**

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

## North America

**Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science profile of Alison Van Eenennaam promotes her quest to combine animal ag with biotechnology; notes she advocates ag-tech to feed world population, while helping environment**

**News release: Smirnoff promotes its Smirnoff No. 21 base vodka as now being made with non-GMO corn, says it builds on brand promise of being a quality vodka for everyone; launches ad campaign featuring actors Ted Danson, Jenna Fischer**

**Commentary: Nathan Goldschmidt and Joy Whitsel of Farm Journal's Ag Professional examine definitions of "safe" and "natural," argue that organic and natural foods do not guarantee health and safety benefits, pointing to demonstrated safety of GMOs**

**Interview: Sustainable Pulse interviews former J.R. Simplot and Monsanto employee, Caius Rommens, about his new book, "Pandora's Potatoes: The Worst GMOs," he describes why he believes GM potatoes are full of mistakes and pose various risks**

**Commentary: Canadian political activist and writer, Brent Patterson, writes for Rabble in opposition to U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), notes it will promote GM foods made by transnational corporations, amplifies Food and Water Watch's concerns**

**News: Food industry news site reports growth of clean label, non-GMO and organic claims on products; expert says consumers seek ingredients with a high level of nutrition "responsibility" that directly correlates with perception of clean label and non-GMO**

**Event: U.S. Dept. of Commerce to hold 2nd Annual FOOD FORWARD summit (Oct. 10) to focus on**

**emerging technologies driving food and ag industries in future**

**Event: American Society of Agronomy and Crop Science Society annual conference to address challenges of sustainable intensification to gain yields needed to meet global demands; speakers include Environmental Defense Fund and academics**

**[More North America items](#)**

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**Africa**

**Report: Ugandan researchers publish article in *Frontiers in Bioengineering and Biotechnology*, examining Uganda's readiness for environmental release of GM plants, they note enacting a national biosafety law will help strengthen the system**

**News: Ghanaian Times reports on Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Senior Scientist Richard Ampadu- Ameyaw's announcement that Ghanaians will begin consuming GM cowpea and rice in 2020, speaking at an Alliance for Science Ghana forum**

**News: Ghana's Joy reports on Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana's (PFLAG) statement voicing disappointment in National Biosafety Authority's handling of GMOs, PFLAG argues adopting GMOs runs counter to Ghana's goal of eliminating need for foreign aid**

**Commentary: Torah-Based Life-Coach NngmingBongle Bapuohyele writes for *Modern Ghana*, in open letter to pro-GMO scientist Richard Ampadu-Ameyaw, he claims that GMOs are "anti-life, Satanic and pure evil"**

**[More Africa items](#)**

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**Asia**

**Commentary: Third World Network promotes ETC Group report showing GE clothing threatens farmers' livelihoods, ecosystems; highlights NGOs' call for natural sources of fiber grown by organic farmers**

**Study: Study in *Frontiers in Plant Science* by Chinese research team finds that ecological impact of Bt transgenic rice is not expected to be higher than that for parental rice Minghui63 if it were to escape into natural saline-alkaline soil**

**[More Asia items](#)**

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**Europe**

**News: Spain's *El Economista* reports on European Seed Association's Annual Conference in Madrid, where Pío Beltrán of Institute of Plant Molecular and Cell Biology (IBMCP) noted the scientific community is "surprised and disgusted" at EU Court ruling on gene editing**

**Commentary: GMWatch lists reactions of various NGOs following EU Court ruling on gene edited crops, in addition to key news coverage, calls for vigilance in preparation for a well-funded, sustained lobbying effort to change EU GMO legislation**

**Event: Friends of the Earth Europe and MEP Martin Häusling host event at EU Parliament in Brussels, "Give Peas a Chance - How can European legumes contribute to a climate resilient farming sector and boost farmers' income?," opposing reliance on GM soy imports**

**Interview: Dutch food industry news site interviews sustainable food expert Corné van Dooren in context of Dutch Agri Food Week, he claims that while GM golden rice may provide a quick solution, that there are natural varieties that provide vitamin A**

**News release: Germany's Association for Non-Genetic Engineering (VLOG) issues statement responding to Bioeconomy Council's call for a new EU GE law, argues that what is needed instead is proper enforcement of the current law, given recent EU Court ruling**

**[More Europe items](#)**

## Latin America

News: Mexico's El Imparcial reports on Seeds Foundation of Life President Adelita San Vicente's call on Obrador gov't to increase support to small farmers who produce 40 percent of Mexico's food, she denounced multinational strategies to cultivate GMOs

News: Mexico's Periodico Correo reports on concerns about newly appointed head of National Council for Science and Technology (Conacyt), Maria Elena Alvarez-Buylla Roces, given her history of opposition to transgenics, critics worry she will delay Mexico's progress

News: Mexico's Xataka reports on new head of the National Council of Science and Technology, Elena Alvarez Buylla's opposition to GMOs, she argues her opposition does not stem from fear of technology, but from her experience with unpredictable results

News release: Brazil's Ag Ministry's Embrapa announces National Technical Biosafety Commission (CTNBio) authorized planting of GM cotton in state of Rondonia, following Embrapa's research which concluded there is no risk of environmental contamination

More Latin America items

## Oceania

News: Australian farming news outlet reports on getting the most out of ag tech, Brian Ruddle of Nexgen Plants, which focuses on non-GM traits, noted that ag-tech is critical in helping to identify key traits in plants

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 controversy in Mexico, where a leaked letter from the future science minister touched off a social media storm. In Europe, German research institute Julius Kühn-Institut issued a report on crops developed through new plant breeding techniques (NBTs).

- In Mexico, future science minister María Elena Álvarez-Buylla Roces generated controversy with a leaked letter to the current director of Conacyt. Initial reports claimed Álvarez-Buylla had requested that the agency suspend all contracts; a "clarifying letter" added that it only applied to projects that committed funding into 2019 and beyond. The agency's current director, Enrique Cabrero, refused the request and noted that renegeing on promised contracts would incur administrative penalties. Several media commentaries on the situation warned that it appeared to be the first skirmish in a new, ideologically-driven era for the agency. **See more**
- On behalf of Germany's Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), the Julius Kühn-Institut released a report on the "market-oriented" application of new plant breeding techniques. The group noted there were over 100 potentially beneficial traits under development. It added that while the EU had not approved any of them, there were 19 that had seen "timely" approval under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's policy on gene-edited crops. **See more**

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## North America

**Commentary: President of the Michigan Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics writing for Detroit News explains meaning of different food labels, notes potential misuse of "non-GMO" on foods that could not contain GMOs due to small number of foods approved for genetic modification**

**Commentary: BIOtechNow blog summarizes recent news articles on GMO-free and other food labeling, amplifies September article from The Hill and ITIF petition criticizing the Non-GMO Project**

**Commentary: Gary Truitt of Hoosier Ag Today amplifies survey which found that the majority of consumers are not confident in their understanding of GMOs, sees it as an opportunity to improve communication of consumer-oriented benefits of biotech**

**Commentary: Energy conservation blogger discusses pros and cons of GMOs, says GMOs have potential to provide global food security; adds 64 different types of weeds verified to be resistant to atrazine, even without genetic modification involved**

**Video: Wall Street Journal's Jason Bellini speaks with Assistant Director of Research of Brazil's Embrapa, Fernando Flores, about challenges of raising Angus beef cattle, Recombinetics' Tad Sonstegard speaks about using gene editing to breed the world's first heat tolerant Angus calf**

**Commentary: James Lawrence of Wine Searcher examines debate over French gov't authorization of new hybrid grape varieties for disease-resistance, winemaker Wim Truter noted planting GM varieties could eliminate need for spraying, but consumers may oppose it**

**Commentary: Former Monsanto and Simplot researcher Caius Rommens writes for Independent Science News, promotes his new book, "Pandora's Potatoes," in which he describes mistakes made and dangers inherent in GE Simplot potatoes now on the market**

[More North America items](#)

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## Africa

**News: ZNBC News reports that the country's biosafety agency continues to crack down on illegal GM food imports, gives traders a week to gain certification**

**News release: La Via Campesina marks start of World Bank-IMF meeting with public denouncement of organizations' policies that increase inequality, land grabbing, industrial ag at the cost of peasant livelihoods**

**News: Ghana News Agency reports on "Ask About Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) Engagement" forum with National Biosafety Authority, organized by Alliance for Science Ghana, NBA CEO Eric Amaning Okoree noted potential of biotech crops to grow in challenging conditions**

**Commentary: Christophe Noisette of French NGO In'OGM amplifies Coalition for the Protection of African Genetic Heritage's (Copagen) denouncement of irregularities in procedure for authorizing release of GE mosquitoes in Mali as part of Target Malaria project**

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

**Commentary: Navdanya summarizes organization's recent biodiversity and regenerative agriculture events, calls for solidarity with other environmental and social movements**

**News: In article noting that rainfall shortage likely to impact India's cotton production, Reuters reports that despite widespread Bt cotton adoption pink bollworm pest attacks are also reducing yields**

**News: Asian Scientist magazine reports on Nobel Laureate Sir Richard Roberts' participation in science dialogue in Singapore, he described how he came to be involved in GMO advocacy, the event featured Impossible Foods' sliders**

**Commentary: Joel Adriano of Science and Development Network amplifies Chiang Mai University faculty of agriculture Dean Nuttha Potapohn's remarks at 15th Solanaceae Conference, calling on Thailand to develop expertise in gene editing to maintain a competitive edge**

**Commentary: Bharat Dogra of India's Mainstream Weekly welcomes EU Court ruling on gene edited crops, argues the ruling is important for India, claiming that multinationals are using deceitful tactics to spread GMOs**

**News: Korean news outlet reports on Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Livestock Food and Quarantine's announcement that it detected unidentified LMO (Living Modified Organism) rapeseed released into the environment, Central Disciplinary Committee warned about threats to biodiversity**

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**News: Germany's Transparenz Gentechnik reports on Julius Kühn Institute's publication providing an overview of developments in genome editing from 1996-2018, JKI found that number of CRISPR/Cas applications has greatly increased in recent years**

**News release: Germany's Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture announces Julius Kühn Institute publishes updates to its overview of useful and ornamental plants produced using new molecular-**

**biological techniques, CRISPR was found to be the most common gene editing method**

**News release: Germany's Permanent Senate Commission on Genetic Research of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) issues position paper on synthetic biology, says existing regulation adequate for overseeing the technology**

**News: Süddeutsche Zeitung reports on three papers in Nature Biotechnology and Nature Plants on using CRISPR to breed more flavorful tomatoes, researcher Jörg Kudla noted EU Court ruling will make research less accessible to smaller companies**

**Video: German broadcasting network airs segment on promises of green genetic engineering for farmers, noting critics are rejecting wave of new technology**

**Interview: German News outlet interviews agricultural professor Peter Breunig on farmers' struggles to deal with drought, he notes that while breeders have been working to develop more resilient varieties, the potential was lost with EU Court ruling on gene editing**

**Commentary: CropLife magazine editor Eric Sfiligoj examines problems in European approach to agriculture, notes that following recent EU Court ruling on gene editing and restrictions on crop protection products, many companies are moving research abroad**

**News: U.K.'s South West Farmer reports on Soil Association's response to Farming Minister George Eustice's statement that the U.K. will not stop embracing gene editing in spite of EU Court ruling, Soil Association's Emma Hockridge claimed gene editing poses same risks as GM**

**News: Italy's Il Piacenza reports on reaction of ag association Confagricoltura Piacenza's director, Marco Casagrande, to Swiss citizens' rejection of the Food Sovereignty initiative, he criticizes Italy's opposition to GMOs, noting lack of trust in science**

**Commentary: IFOAM blogger explains how organic ag can address food insecurity, notes IFOAM is advocating int'l policy change by calling on governmental, intergovernmental agencies to back pro-organic, pro-agroecology policies, research**

**Interview: Switzerland's Züriost interviews Research Institute of Organic Agriculture director Urs Niggli following his recent lecture in the "Wissenschaft personal" talk series, he believes new breeding techniques like CRISPR could be applied to organic**

[More Europe items](#)

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## Latin America

**Commentary: Pablo Hiriart writes for Mexico's El Financiero, voices concern about ideologization of science under María Elena Álvarez-Buylla Roces' leadership at Conacyt, believes her plan to avoid GM foods in favor of peasant agriculture will not help Mexico adapt to climate change**

**Commentary: Horacio Salazar writes for Mexico's Milenio, examines concerns over National Council of Science and Technology (Conacyt) director María Elena Álvarez-Buylla Roces and her anti-transgenic cause, warns that in science, "the enemy is our backwardness"**

**Commentary: Raúl Trejo Delarbre writes for Mexico's Cronica, criticizes appointed director of National Council for Science and Technology (Conacyt), María Elena Álvarez-Buylla Roces, over recent action and anti-GMO activism, calls for science over ideology**

**News: Mexican news outlet reports on president-elect Obrador's proposal to pay farmers more for corn to discourage poppy cultivation, emphasizing plans to promote creole, native corn, not transgenic**

**News: Bolivia's El Mundo reports on Agricultural Chamber of the East (CAO) general manager Edilberto Osinaga's promotion of advances made with gov't in application for using biotech in some products to reduce reliance on imports**

**News: Argentina's Infocampo reports on National Seed Institute's (INASE) detection of unauthorized**

GM cotton seed events in Chaco, Salta and Santiago del Estero, INASE sent notifications to proceed with their destruction

News: Argentinian news outlet reports National Seed Institute (Inase) discovered unauthorized transgenic cotton seed events during inspections of skimmers and ginners in provinces of Chaco, Santiago del Estero and Salta, Inase has ordered their destruction

More Latin America Items

## Oceania

Commentary: GMWatch publishes article by former University of Auckland professor Robert Mann and Salk Institute's David Schubert on risks on the Impossible Burger now offered to Air New Zealand passengers, after mainstream media rejected the article

More Oceania Items

## More Bonus Eventus Resources

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 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Oct. 8, 2018  
 Date: Monday, October 8, 2018 4:01:18 PM

## Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

Against the backdrop of recent NGO tests claiming the presence of glyphosate in popular foods and campaigns to get its use banned, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration released data finding no glyphosate residues in more than half of the close to 7,500 samples it tested. It also found more than 99 percent of domestic and 90 percent of imported food samples were in compliance with federal pesticide standards.

This week's Favorable Outcomes features criticism of fear-based campaigns overstating concerns about glyphosate risks and residues in foods. Other pieces examine misuse of labels, such as GMO-free and non-GMO, and misconceptions about organic foods.

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

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### In This Issue

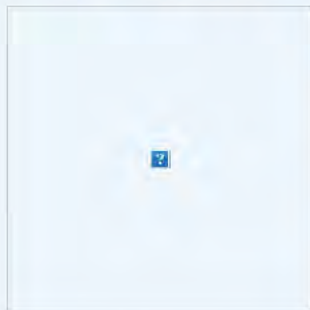
[Stakeholder Spotlight](#)

[Stories Worth Sharing](#)

[What's Trending?](#)

[Calendar highlights](#)

### Stakeholder Spotlight: The Swift Foundation



The **Swift Foundation**, founded in 1999, is a U.S.-based private foundation that claims to support "cultural and biological diversity through environmental protection and the local stewardship of communities."

It was created by the sale of

### Stories Worth Sharing

[Jon Entine: Canada's "suspect" move to phase out neonics to "protect bees" sets stage for U.S. regulatory battle](#)

[Amanda Zaluckyj: Growth of "free-from" labels, including GMO-free denotation, is just another symptom of a "scientifically illiterate society looking for quick fixes"](#)

[Joan Conrow: Battle on both sides of "GMO-free" branding gathers steam, with Non-GMO Project claiming it gives consumers choices, while ITIF files lawsuit saying it stigmatizes safe GM products](#)

[David Zaruk: Seven-part exposé alleges activist scientists, NGOs conspiring with U.S. tort law firms to create fears, collect money through litigation over claims of glyphosate health risks](#)

[Kavin Senapathy: Recent glyphosate saga concerning residues in popular breakfast foods is mostly a fear-driven movement promoted by anti-GMO activists toward moms](#)

[Michelle Miller: Buying organic apples doesn't mean they're pesticide-free, organic farmers often use more pesticides than conventional](#)

[Rebecca Watson: University of Texas study linking glyphosate to honeybee declines involved mega-dosing bees with glyphosate; honeybees not in trouble, anyway](#)

**United Parcel Service** family shareowners John F. Swift and daughters Sonja and Karen. Swift is a major donor to organic-promoting, anti-GMO NGOs, including [Greenpeace](#), [Center for Food Safety](#) and [Pesticide Action Network](#).

A founding member of the [AgroEcology Fund](#) and the [Global Alliance for the Future of Food](#), Swift is a leading promoter of narrowly defined technology-eschewing agroecology. It provides grants to NGOs in Africa, Latin America and Asia to oppose the use of conventional agriculture, claiming it risks human health and creates dependence on multinational corporations and Western governments.

Click here to [LEARN MORE](#) about the Swift Foundation.

[CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES](#)

**Julie Gunlock:** Lawsuit against LaCroix sparkling water over "all natural" reveals misuse of labels such as non-GMO; verdict in Monsanto trial likely to spur more "ridiculous lawsuits" [?](#)

**Kevin Folta:** Class-action lawsuit over Chipotle non-GMO claims is "baseless;" but proves you reap what you sow [?](#)

**Andrew Porterfield:** Organic industry has an unacknowledged "pesticide problem," the rise in detection of pesticides not allowed in organic production in imported organic produce [?](#)

**Brian Lovett:** Non-GMO Project Verified butterfly logo is a marketing ploy "exacerbating fears with nonsensical labeling" [?](#)

**Jason Lusk:** Recent paper on social pressure consumers feel to buy organic suggests a portion of organic consumption is driven by conspicuous consumption [?](#)

[CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING](#)

**What's Trending?**

New Zealand's Royal Society Te Aparangi releases discussion paper on new plant breeding techniques (NBTs)

GMO Answers releases the results of an online survey demonstrating most U.S. consumers are still confused about genetically modified foods

U.S. Food and Drug Administration releases data finding no glyphosate residues in more than half of samples tested

Anti-pesticide "We Want Poppies" protests spurred by the Charlie Hebdo-led campaign take place throughout France

U.S. Right to Know accuses Cornell Alliance for Science of being a PR campaign for the agrochemical industry

**Calendar highlights**

October 1-31	October 1-16	October 10
Breast Cancer Awareness Month	International Conference on EDCs	EPA/ECHA/Health Canada workshop - Accelerating the Pace of Chemical Risk Assessment
October 10	October 10	October 11
CHE webinar - Whitewash: A Conversation with Author Carey Gillam	Colorado State panel - CRISPR gene editing in agriculture	Générations Futures conference on EDCs

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

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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 Italian farm association Luca Coscioni distributing GM rice as part of a protest for Italian science. Stakeholders continued the debate on food labeling issues.

- Italian news agency CANSAs reported Luca Coscioni Association handed out a GM rice snack before its three-day Freedom of Science Congress. The GM rice is not approved in the country. Scientists spoke out against the GM food ban in Italy and other restrictions on scholarly research. Luca Coscioni treasurer Marco Cappato said the group would not limit itself to requests and intends to continue in civil disobedience. **See more**
- Cornell Alliance for Science's Joan Conrow noted the labeling debate is heating up, and both sides claim the other is deceiving consumers. While the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation petitioned the FDA to prohibit the non-GMO label, a class-action suit against Chipotle Mexican Grill maintains the restaurant chain's GMO-free campaign deceives consumers because its meat and dairy products come from livestock fed GMOs. *Bloomberg* reported Consumers Union's Michael Hansen wants gene-edited products labeled. **See more**

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

## North America

**News: [The New York Times reports researchers used CRISPR gene editing to produce groundcherry plant with larger fruit that remains on bush longer for harvest; notes groundcherry may be first of several obscure plants domesticated for market using gene-editing](#)**

**News: [E&E profiles Carey Gillam as "crusading reporter brawling with Big Ag," Gillam claims work on "Whitewash" book began prior to her full-time employment with USRTK; notes questions over validity of her continued membership to Society of Environmental Journalists due to lobbying interests](#)**

**Commentary: [U.S. Right to Know claims UC-Davis' Alison Van Eenennaam is "former Monsanto employee," claims she is lobbyist, spokesperson for biotech industry](#)**

**News: [Bloomberg reports Consumers Union scientist Michael Hansen wants gene-edited foods tested for safety and labeled due to "unintended consequences," but U.S. regulators say new gene-editing rules and labels are unnecessary](#)**

**News: [Quartz business reporter notes 3 groups of scientists working on breeding a flavorful tomato for consumers that also meets growers, shippers needs, but notes EU won't use it due to laws that scientists call "unnecessary impediment" to crop innovation](#)**

**[More North America items](#)**

## Africa

**Commentary: [Cornell Alliance for Science site notes Ugandan scientists reaching out to farmers more often, encouraging them to use biotech methods, innovations](#)**



**News: Nigerian news site reports National Agricultural Seed Council warns of fake seed proliferation in Nigeria, says it may hinder government's drive for food sufficiency; says only quality improved seed will provide food security**

**News: Ghana news site reports National Biosafety Authority announces country ready to introduce GM food into markets; allays farmers' fears over not being able to replant seeds, says GM seeds used in Ghana can be replanted**

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

**News: Times of India report government fines seed companies for Bt cotton crop failure, but Centre's decision on non-Bt and Bt cotton seed mixture will help seed companies at farmers' expense**

**Commentary: Financial Express journalist Vivian Fernandes says Centre for Science and Environment director's response to Fernandes' article on CSE study is off base; points out he referred to another's opinion, asked for CSE response and got none**

**News: Pakistani news site reports NGOs warn gov't against introducing GM maize, claim it will contaminate local varieties**

**News: South Korean news site reports senator rebukes government quarantine program over discovery of illegal GM rape, says it causes ecological damage**

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**News: London's The Times reports Kremlin using social media accounts to spread disinformation about GM foods by portraying them as dangerous, claiming link with autism**

**News: The Guardian reports German researchers say US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency project to have insects spread virus could be used as bioweapon**

**News: Italian news site reports Luca Coscioni Association distributes GE rice at event, notes official says the act of civil disobedience designed to get government to take position on gene editing; says without scientific techniques, Italian agriculture will disappear**

**News release: Slow Food Germany highlights Testbiotech, Germanwatch study claiming GE soy farming has devastating effect on Latin American environment, people's health; claims Europe polluted by manure produced by livestock, pesticide on GM feed**

**News: German produce news site reports Soil Association official rejects idea that gene editing is needed to reduce pesticide use, claims gene editing has "similar uncertainties" to genetic modification, claims evidence shows GM crops have been "a disaster"**

[More Europe items](#)

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## Latin America

**News release: Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Farming announces proposal at international meeting is to allow imports into countries that ban GMOs if GM content is at low-level concentration; notes it's nearly impossible to avoid mixing GM and non-GM grains**

**Commentary: Mexican news site blames Monsanto for illegal GM corn planting in Sierra Juarez area, says federal gov't puts Mexican fields in hands of foreign companies**

**Commentary: Columnist for Mexican newspaper expresses concern over appointment of transgenic critic as director of National Council of Science and Technology; notes petition circulating urging president to**

**reconsider appointment**

**News: Brazilian gov't agency Embrapa announces GM cotton cultivation approved in state of Rondonia, finds "gene flow" does not pose environmental risk**

**More Latin America items**

**Oceania**

**News: New Zealand news site reports farmers association president warns country could fall behind agricultural competitors unless farmers embrace GE plants, livestock**

**News: New Zealand news site reports chief plant and food scientist welcomes Royal Society's report, says country needs gene editing to respond to climate change, environmental challenges, population growth**

**News release: GE Free New Zealand criticizes Royal Society Te Aparangi for advocating gene drive use, saying biotech advocates trying to "force feed" the public with technology that has "unknown and unconsidered dangers"**

**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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## 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 stakeholder reactions to New Zealand's Royal Society Te Aparangi report on gene editing, while Nigeria's Health of Mother Earth Foundation invited other NGOs to sign its manifesto opposing biotechnology.

- Radio New Zealand questioned professor Peter Dearden about the Royal Society's gene editing report, with Dearden saying the country is putting itself at a disadvantage by not using gene editing. The Science Media Centre summarized several researcher's reactions, which included assertions that gene editing offers advantages in responding to climate change, eliminating invasive species, and responding to drought and disease. Several researchers noted it was important to inform the public on gene editing. AgResearch's Tony Connor said public opinion often skews to the worst-case scenario even when there is no evidence of harm. A *Stuff* editorial said embracing gene editing "could have huge benefits for New Zealand's primary industries." [See more](#)
- A campaign by anti-biotech NGO HOMEF urged activist groups to sign its manifesto opposing biotechnology and demanding a ban on open-air experiments. [See more](#)

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

## North America

**Commentary: U.S. Right to Know publishes fact sheet accusing Cornell Alliance for Science of being a PR campaign for the agrochemical industry, criticizing its "industry-aligned mission and activities," highlighting industry ties of various fellows**

**Commentary: Medium article by University of Maryland entomology PhD candidate criticizes Non-GMO Verified butterfly logo as a marketing ploy "exacerbating fears with nonsensical labeling" says logo is useless when no GM varieties of a food exist**

**Video: Non-GMO Project Facebook Live video kicks off ninth Non-GMO Month, blasts genetic engineering as experimental, not proven safe or healthy, created to allow greater pesticide use; notes 64 other countries have limits, bans**

**Commentary: Ronnie Cummins of Organic Consumers Association argues that meat alternatives like Impossible Burger and eliminating livestock are not the best solution for reducing environmental impacts of industrial agriculture, promotes regenerative production**

**Commentary: Science writer says biotech discussions need change, notes distinction in mutations between transgenic and gene editing is lost on public, and meanwhile climate change imperils global food supply**

[More North America items](#)

## Africa

**News: Uganda's Parliamentary Twitter feed reports that Biosafety bill was reviewed and the President's concerns were raised; debate was deferred until November**

**News: Science news site reports Ghanaian researchers develop GM cowpea that doubles yields, resists pests and disease, does well in low-rainfall conditions**

**News: Nigerian anti-biotech NGO HOMEF alleges Nigerian agencies are complicit in illegal GM food importation, claims NBMA approves each GM variety application brought to it "without due consideration"**

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

**News: Times of India reports agricultural department ordered investigation into conflict of interest at Central Institute of Cotton Research after the agency changed its report regarding illegal herbicide-tolerant seeds at Ankur Seeds**

**Commentary: In Times of India, Greenpeace India representative writes open letter congratulating Prime Minister on "Champions of the Earth-2018" honor, stresses hope for investigation into illegal use of GMOs, pesticides, including enforcement of glyphosate ban**

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**Announcement: Spain's Antama Foundation notes Jose Migue Mulet ecologists want GMO debate to end because they've predicted an apocalypse for 20 years that hasn't come, now they divert topic to bees, plastics; notes hypocrisy in accepting biotech in medicine**

**News release: German anti-biotech NGO Testbiotech publishes study claiming GMO cultivation causes "terrifying amount of environmental damage" in South America, says it causes serious health problems in rural population to benefit large landowners, corporations**

**News: German news site reports Research Institute of Organic Agriculture director Urs Niggli acknowledges CRISPR has great potential, but does not fit "organic image," but maintains EU court's decision on NBTs is scientifically wrong,**

[More Europe items](#)

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## Latin America

**News: Argentine agricultural NGO provides information for ag news site outlining stances of different organizations on Argentina's proposed seed law**

**Commentary: American Association for the Advancement of Science notes Mexico's science adviser is plant biologist who opposes GM crops, critics note Alvarez-Buylla's research claims genetic modification can lead to harm, fear she will neglect biotech research; she responds that she is "not a Luddite" who fears technology**

**News: Brazilian news site reports family farms, native seed houses promote agroecology, native seed conservation**

**Commentary: Brazilian agricultural news site writer notes GM crops increase yields, have not been shown to harm health in 20 years, reduce pesticide use**

[More Latin America items](#)

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## Oceania

**News: New Zealand news site Stuff reports Royal Society report focuses on gene editing benefits and potential risks, such as making disease-resistant manuka; scientists say it's time for country to embrace new plant breeding technologies, researcher notes public opinion skews towards worst-case scenario**

**News: Weather.com reports veterinarian claims fruits are genetically modified to contain more sugar; notes zoos have to stop feeding animals some fruits due to weight gain, tooth decay**

**News: New Zealand news site reports scientists advocate for using gene editing, note benefits can include removing allergens from milk, food; researchers say we need to form public opinion around facts**

**More Oceania items**

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

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## Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

### BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included a new discussion paper on gene editing from New Zealand's Royal Society. A new survey highlighted consumer confusion over GMOs and labeling.

- New Zealand's Royal Society Te Aparangi released a discussion paper on new plant breeding techniques (NBTs) and how they could impact the region's key industries. A news release from the group highlighted potential uses in dairy and conservation. The Royal Society previewed public workshops on the paper scheduled for later in the month. [See more](#)
- As a part of its "Get to Know GMO Month" campaign, the industry-backed outreach group GMO Answers released the results of an online survey demonstrating that most U.S. consumers are still confused about genetically modified foods. Agricultural and food news sites reported on the survey; *Food Dive* noted that nearly a third of respondents had no concerns about GMO foods while another third were interested in learning more. [See more](#)

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## North America

**News: Food Dive reports GMO Answers' online survey finds 70 percent of consumers don't know what GMOs are; most want to know more about GMO's affect on health, safety, 32 percent are comfortable with GM food**

**News: AgDaily reports on YouGov survey commissioned by GMO Answers which found that while the majority of Americans are not confident in their understanding of what GMOs are, they are also interested in learning more about GMO safety and impact on health**

**News: Food Safety News reports on GMO Answers survey which shows consumers are confused about what GMOs are, ahead of USDA's publication of its final bioengineered food disclosure labeling standards, highlights challenges in nomenclature**

**Commentary: Political affairs strategist writing for technology research site highlights anti-science groups using social media to spread unsupported beliefs, notes anti-vaccine advocate Robert Kennedy taking stance against GMOs, pesticides, citing verdict in Monsanto trial based on "shaky science" of IARC review**

**Event: Cornell University's Graduate Women in Science to host Science on Tap: "What's the harm in opposing GMOs" (Oct. 24, 2018), sponsored by Cornell Alliance for Science, five international panelists will share how U.S. opinions on GMOs have a global impact**

**Commentary: UC-Davis professor Pamela Ronald writes for Quartz, notes all food we eat comes from seeds altered in some manner; notes to advance sustainable agriculture, we must focus on what most enhances food security and provides safe, abundant, and nutritious food; notes bigger hurdle for GE food is us**

**Announcement: University of Wisconsin-Madison notes communication experts' NAS report on effort to track public discourse regarding GE crops; effort hailed as roadmap to foster positive public debate**

**Commentary: AgroEcology Fund major donor Swift Foundation calls on institution and government donors to "unleash capital" for regenerative organic food systems adoption by farmers, cooperatives and food chain businesses to promote shifts from conventional production models**

**News: Courthouse News reports federal judge reconsidering lawsuit against Chipotle for falsely advertising ingredients as non-GMO**

[More North America items](#)

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## Africa

**News: ISAAA reports on Uganda Biosciences Information Center's work with local schools to promote annual biotechnology essay, organize student awareness workshops to highlight local researchers**

**News: Ugandan news site reports Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum demands governments in region increase agricultural budget to benefit small farmers**

**Announcement: Eastern and Southern Africa Small Farmers Forum call on Ugandan government to allocate 10 percent of government budget for agriculture to address growing population**

**News: Burkina Faso news site reports COPAGEN study finds GM cotton did not increase yields, had poor quality in Burkina Faso**

**News: Nigerian news site reports anti-biotech NGO HOMEF claims country's biosafety agency is promoting GMO crop infiltration without considering environmental, health impacts**

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

**News: ISAAA reports that Filipino farmers attended public briefing organized by the group, expressed interest in Bt eggplant and heard updates on status of Golden Rice; notes additional workshops scheduled**

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**News: Society for Science & the Public magazine reports plant geneticist says gene editing can speed up plant domestication, notes it takes decades with convention breeding but just 2 years with gene editing; process helping tame ground cherry**

**News: U.K. accounting group questions activists, scientists, biotech experts on whether GM food will help solve world food crisis or cause "irreversible damage," Rothamsted professor says it's amazing EU still questions the issue**

**Commentary: Nature editorial points out extreme regulation, which leads to high expense, prevented GM plants from impacting consumers positively with products such as more flavorful and nutritious tomatoes or notes current EU policy threatens to do the same with gene editing**

**Commentary: U.K. news site reports EU court ruling on NBTs could offset advances in biotech; wants farmers to let gov't know they are ready to rely on technology rather than "medieval dogma"**

**Study: German, U.K. agricultural researchers note that anti-biotech NGOs powerful enough to manipulate discussion, policy on GMOs despite scientific consensus on biotech risks, benefits, calls for new way for democracy, science and technology to work together**

**News release: German plant breeding company KWS and J.R. Simplot announce launch of new joint venture company, Aardevo B.V., to develop hybrid potato varieties with enhanced taste, texture and**

yield, as well as boosting disease resistance and processing quality

**News: Italian news site reports Green Film Fest returns, includes film titled "NBT: The New GMO"**

**Interview: Spanish economic news site reports vegetable producer association director says EU court ruling on NBTs, which equates gene editing with genetic modification, is devastating to agriculture because it severely restricts innovation**

[More Europe items](#)

## Latin America

**News: Reuters reports that Ministry of Health experts speaking anonymously warned that U.S. soybean imports to Brazil may contain varieties not yet approved in the country, but soy importers could request exemptions**

**Announcement: Movement of Landless Rural Workers notes La Via Campesina representative says it's shameful that Brazilian government opposed U.N. Peasant Rights Declaration**

**Event: Brazilian industry news site reports gov't agency Embrapa to host research and innovation meeting Oct. 9-10 that will focus on using biotech to mitigate climate change issues**

**Commentary: Brazilian TJ-SP Law Judge Abhner Youssif Mota Arabi writes for local legal publication, examines inalienability of federal competences, looking at a 2000 case in which governor of Rio Grande do Sul challenged a law referring to federal legislation on GMOs**

**News release: Brazilian agency Embrapa announces Research and Innovation meeting will focus on using new biotech techniques to cope with climate change**

**News: Argentine news site reports South American nations sign agreement on gene-edited products to avoid trade obstacles**

**Commentary: Argentina's Citrica magazine recounts press conference with U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Hilal Elver, criticizes mainstream media outlets for not attending, highlights Elver's conclusions on transgenics and agrochemicals**

[More Latin America items](#)

## Oceania

**Announcement: Royal Society Te Aparangi releases discussion paper on how gene editing could impact New Zealand's primary industries, previews public discussion workshops for Oct. 10, 15 and 23**

**Commentary: Biotech company director writes New Zealand news site op-ed, points out that just because biotech crops are "not natural" doesn't mean they're bad; notes pseudo-science confuses consumers, highlights story of natural gene transfer in sweet potato**

**News: Australian biotech organization notes South Australia GM-free status undergoing two reviews, one by a legislative council committee and a review on SA's GM moratorium**

[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 farm and environmental group responses to the new proposals on a North American Free Trade Agreement. In Nigeria, local media outlets continued to amplify a Health of Mother Earth Foundation campaign against the country's biosafety agency.

- U.S. and international news outlets reported on stakeholder responses to the announcement that the U.S., Mexico and Canada had reached an agreement on a new free-trade deal. Echoing concerns from Food & Water Watch, published yesterday, *Common Dreams* and *Agence-France Presse* reported that Greenpeace, Sierra Club and other environmental NGOs were warning that the new proposal could significantly impact environmental regulations across the region. *The Wall Street Journal* reported that U.S. agricultural groups were largely in favor of the deal. **See more**
- Nigeria's *Blueprint* and *EnviroNews Nigeria* amplified the joint campaign by Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) and the Alliance for Food Sovereignty Africa (AFSA) targeting Nigeria's National Biosafety Management Agency over supposedly "lax" enforcement of biosafety guidelines. *Blueprint* summarized activists' concerns over the illegal importation of GM maize by WACOT Ltd. last year, while *EnviroNews Nigeria* linked the statement to the testing of GM mosquitoes under the Target Malaria project. **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: Wall Street Journal reports U.S. farmers and other ag stakeholders welcome new trade agreement with Canada and Mexico, David Salmonsens of American Farm Bureau Federation welcomed new science-based approach to reviewing new gene technologies**

**Commentary: Common Dreams examines concerns about impact of U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement, highlights Food and Water Watch executive director Wenonah Hauter's warning about rollbacks on GMO regulations and pesticide disclosures**

**News: Agence France-Presse reports on criticism of new U.S.-Mexican-Canadian trade deal by groups like Greenpeace and Sierra Club, citing weak environmental protections, while Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland welcomed provisions on pollution**

**News: AgWired reports on Bayer's Future of Farming Dialogue, highlights presentation and interview with Pairwise CEO Tom Adams, he described his company's partnership with Bayer to study row crops, indicated interest in bringing technologies to consumer crops**

**News: Legal news outlet reports California federal judge grants class certification to Chipotle Mexican Grill customers who claim it falsely advertised food as made with only non-GMO ingredients**

**News release: Boyce Thompson Institute at Cornell University promotes work by researchers at its Van Eck Laboratory using CRISPR genome editing to improve wild groundcherry with hopes it can become specialty fruit crop, be grown on larger scale in United States**

**Commentary: Henry Miller writes for Daily Caller, criticizes U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity's approach to biotech regulation, pointing out flaws in the Cartagena Protocol, criticizing adherence to the precautionary principle**

[More North America items](#)

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## Africa

**News: The Guardian (Nigeria) reports on Federal Government's decision granting permits for confined field trials of GM maize, rice, cassava, sorghum and cowpea, following an in-depth risk assessment, according to Rose Gidado of Open Forum on Agriculture Biotechnology**

**News: EnviroNews Nigeria reports on commitment by Health of Mother earth Foundation (HOMEF) and Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) to work with media to increase public awareness about risks of GMOs and new technologies like gene drives**

**News: Nigeria's Blueprint reports on experts' call for review of the Biosafety Act, highlights concerns about import of unauthorized GM maize varieties, and allegations that the law favors Monsanto**

**Commentary: International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications (ISAAA) examines Kenyan policy makers' promise to fast-track Bt cotton, after observing benefits of Bt cotton in India on a recent visit**

**News: EnviroNews Nigeria reports on COPAGEN Mali's opposition to proposed trials of GE mosquitoes, which they believe is a false solution for malaria that comes with risks for human health and the environment**

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

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

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**Commentary: French pro-ag news site Alerte Environnement criticizes Le Monde's inaccurate reporting that drop in coffee prices is due to performance of GM coffee plantations, notes with interest that the fake news is about GMOs**

**Interview: In part three of its series on GMOs, Norway's Fri Tanke interviews Odd-Gunnar Wikmark of Genøk Center for Biosafety, he voices concerns about environmental impacts of glyphosate use and contamination of non-GM varieties**

**Audio: Norwegian Biotechnology Council head Kristin Halvorsen and co-chair Lars Petter Bartnes are guests on U.K. podcast in discussion about GMOs and redevelopment in Norway following relaxation of GMO restrictions**

[More Europe items](#)

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## Latin America

**News: Mexico's Proceso reports on events to commemorate Day of the Native Corn of Oaxaca, activist artist Francisco Toledo presented an ecological oven for making chips, State Space in Defense of the Native Maize of Oaxaca displayed anti-transgenic slogans**

**Interview: Colombia's Portafolio interviews Colombian Seed Association (Acosemillas) manager Leonardo Ariza, he describes several ways in which GM crops have helped improve productivity, highlights long history of safe use**

**More Latin America items**

**Oceania**

**Commentary: University of Auckland plant biology professor Andrew Allan writes for local news outlet, argues New Zealand's restrictions on biotech pose economic risks, and that gene edited plants are much less risky than those bred naturally**

**More Oceania items**

**More Bonus Eventus Resources**

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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Oct. 1, 2018  
 Date: Monday, October 1, 2018 9:00:29 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 on Bolivian agricultural producers' calls for liberalizing GM crop cultivation.

- Bolivian agricultural producers re-launched their campaign to revise the country's GMO law in order to allow GM crop cultivation, following a 30-day ultimatum issued in September that had demanded a government response to their proposals. In weekend reports, regional farming leaders reported that the National College of Agronomists was working with the government on a draft proposal. Speaking to *El Deber* today, the president of the Santa Cruz Agricultural Development Foundation said that accepting GM technology could help reduce the footprint of local agriculture and ensure food security. **See more**
- Argentina's *AIM Digital* reported that lawmakers will discuss revisions to the country's seed law on Tuesday (Oct. 2). The report noted that commercial and smallholder agricultural groups were divided on the law, with peasant farming organizations calling for the right to reuse seed. **See more**

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## North America

**News release: Food and Water Watch Executive Director Wenonah Hauter issues statement in opposition to Trump administration's U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade deal, claiming it will undermine food safety by rolling back restrictions on GMOs and gene editing**

**Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Andrew Porterfield amplifies paper in Nature Sustainability led by Cambridge University's Andrew Balmford, which found that high-yielding farm systems can have beneficial effects, as long as land is set aside for nature**

**[More North America items](#)**

## Africa

**News: Nigerian news outlet reports on Nigeria Cassava Growers Association (NCGA) President Pastor Segun Adewumi's call on gov't to increase investment in Cassava processing to reduce reliance on imports, he argued imported GM starch is lower quality**

**[More Africa items](#)**

## Asia

**News: Feed Navigator reports on Rabobank's analysis of India's soybean sector, analysts noted India may need to import foreign soy if it cannot meet its demand domestically, but that the cost of importing non-GMO soy could prove to be prohibitively expensive**

**News: Bangkok Post reports on Trade Negotiations Department's plans to propose an initial study and**

**public hearings on benefits and impacts of joining Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), in spite of concerns about farmers' rights to save and reuse seeds**

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**News: European Food Agency News reports on EU Parliament Ag Committee first vice president Paolo De Castro's plans to meet Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Vytenis Andriukaitis, on Oct. 10 to ask for clarification on new breeding techniques**

**News release: Italy's Associazione Luca Coscioni announces launch of Science for Democracy program on Oct. 1, events through Oct. 9 will promote the right to science both nationally and to the U.N., activities will include a CRISPR snack**

**News: Italy's Il Foglio profiles new book, 'Science in Court,' by Luca Simonetti, who discusses how anti-science demagogues cloud debate over issues of science in Italy, including controversy over GMOs**

**Interview: Spain's Diario de Mallorca talks to physician who specializes in celiac disease, he claims GM wheat plays role in number of people who have celiac disease, points to alleged correlation between increasing prevalence of disease and increase in GM wheat production**

**News release: Austrian NGO ARGE GMO-free promotes 'GMO-free weeks 2018' running Oct. 1 through 13, with retailers and food companies offering tastings of GMO-free products, consumer information about advantages of GMO-free food in Austria**

**News: France's Le Courrier De L'Ouest reports on Confédération paysanne's launch of an open farm operation ahead of Chamber of Agriculture elections in January, spokesman Eudes Gourdon noted goal of demonstrating efficient and independent farms without GMOs**

[More Europe items](#)

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## Latin America

**Interview: Bolivia's El Deber interviews Santa Cruz Agricultural Development Foundation president, who emphasizes Bolivian farmers' need for GM seeds, arguing that Bolivia is falling behind in applying technologies like drought tolerance**

**News: Argentina's AIM Digital reports the debate on the Seed Law will resume on Oct. 2, highlights Confederaciones Rurales Argentinas' call for intellectual property protections for seeds, and Argentine Agrarian Federation's opposition to the so-called "Monsanto-Bayer Law"**

**News: Ecuador's El Comercio reports on World Economic Forum paper proposing use of bioinnovation to help address challenges in global food production, geneticist Linda Guaman noted Ecuador's laws can inhibit researchers seeking to use new technologies**

**News: Mexican news outlet reports on corn festival in Oaxaca on Sept. 28, leader of Regional Unit of Popular, Indigenous and Urban Cultures in Huajuapán, Guillermo Cirigo Villagómez, blamed transgenic maize for loss of native varieties and rise in diseases like cancer**

[More Latin America items](#)

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## 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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From: Jay Byrne  
 To: Caitrin.Martin@fas.usda.gov  
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Oct. 1, 2018  
 Date: Monday, October 1, 2018 4:03:19 PM

## Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

Favorable Outcomes returns this week with a double issue of Stories Worth Sharing.

Featured newsletter items include criticism of a California university using public money to sponsor NGO efforts to smear university scientists and several pieces warning of the "loaded words" used by the Non-GMO Project to scare consumers - along with a campaign urging the U.S. government to do something about it. Authors also examine NGO claims that honeybees were facing extinction and a study suggesting it's "nonsense" that organic farms are better for the environment than their conventional counterparts.

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: Environmental Defense Fund



Environmental Defense Fund, one of the largest environmental NGOs in the world, was founded based on opposition to pesticide use and has expanded its campaign scopes to include broader challenges to industrial chemicals and endocrine disruptors.

### ■ Stories Worth Sharing

[Andrew Porterfield: Environmental NGOs starting to admit bees were never at threat of extinction](#)

[Hank Campbell: Organic industry's misleading labels, attacks on GMOs "count on consumer ignorance"](#)

[Joni Kamiya: FDA should deem Non-GMO Project's misleading advertising built on "scary, loaded words" to be illegal](#)

[Angela Logomasini: Competitive Enterprise Institute report details why U.S. government should stop funding IARC](#)

[Alex Berezow: University of California-San Diego "using taxpayer dollars to personally smear other scientists" about GMOs](#)

[Henry Miller: Organic industry leaders "have to lie in order to defend a flawed product"](#)

[Jenny Splitter: Group asks U.S. government to do away with non-GMO label, which lacks oversight](#)

[Jacqueline Rowarth: Are consumers willing to accept higher prices and negative environmental impact of banning glyphosate?](#)

[Steven Novella: Non-GMO label's purpose is to trick consumers into paying more for equivalent or inferior products](#)

[David Zaruk: Europe in Dark Age due to rejection of plant biology and](#)



EDF has a mixed history in regard to food and agriculture systems, typically promoting organic production and opposing most pesticide uses and other conventional agriculture practices. It has promoted a precautionary principle approach to regulating alleged endocrine-disrupting and toxic chemicals.

However, starting in 2017, it began to acknowledge potential climate and environmental benefits with specific GM crops and technologies. However, EDF remains in "partnership" campaigns with Greenpeace while sharing board members and directly funding several staunchly anti-GMO organizations, including Environmental Working Group.

Click here to **LEARN MORE** about Environmental Defense Fund.

**CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES**

[agritechnology](#)

[Lominda Afedraru: Scientists see Uganda's failure to embrace biotechnology as "lost opportunity"](#)

[Ronald Bailey: Cambridge study finds conventional, high-yield farming more environmentally friendly than organic](#)

[Alex Berezow: Science shows claims that organic food is tastier, healthier and better for the environment are "nonsense"](#)

[Paul Driessen: "Rogue" International Agency for Research on Cancer exemplifies scientific corruption in food arena and beyond](#)

[Stephan Neidenbach: Consumers Union sees Moms Across America leader as "loon," helps spread her misinformation anyway](#)

[Nick Saik: In debate over organic vs. conventional, there's no "only good kind of farming"](#)

**CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING**

**What's Trending?**

[Information Technology and Innovation Foundation asks U.S. FDA to ban non-GMO labeling](#)

[United Nations Human Rights Council approves NGO-supported Peasant Rights Declaration that endorses food sovereignty](#)

[French National Assembly panel begins work on crafting strategy to phase out glyphosate usage](#)

[University of Texas study claims glyphosate negatively affects honeybees, makes them susceptible to pathogen](#)

**Calendar highlights**

October 1-2	October 1-16	October 1-13
<a href="#">Plant Genomics and Gene Editing Congress: USA</a>	<a href="#">16 days of global action on agroecology</a>	<a href="#">Austria GMO-free weeks</a>
October 2	October 4-6	October 7-8
<a href="#">French roundtable on societal health impacts of endocrine disruptors</a>	<a href="#">International Biodiversity Congress</a>	<a href="#">Regeneration International annual meeting</a>

**CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR**

<p><b>Stakeholder database</b> More information on the people and</p>	<p><b>Monitoring portal</b> Catch up on the latest</p>	<p><b>Bonus Eventus community</b> Connect with academic experts and researchers,</p>
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organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate

news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.

journalists and agriculture allies.

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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Sept. 28-30, 2018  
 Date: Sunday, September 30, 2018 9:03:32 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

Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included the U.N. Human Rights Council approving the Declaration of Peasant Rights. A Cornell Alliance for Science article cautioned biotech advocates about the U.N. Biodiversity Conference in November.

- La Via Campesina announced the U.N. Human Rights Council passed a declaration on peasant rights, which had been debated for 17 years, by a 33-3 vote. The entire U.N. will vote on the declaration in November. According to La Via Campesina's news release, the proposal recognizes peasant rights to "conserve, use, exchange and sell their seeds" and reinforces "food sovereignty, the fight against climate change and the conservation of biodiversity." **See more**
- Cornell Alliance for Science legal affairs fellow Pablo Orozco warned that nations could limit access to new biotech applications at the upcoming U.N. Biodiversity Conference in Egypt. Orozco said an excessively "precautionary mindset" could impede technology applications such as synthetic biology and gene editing. **See more**

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## North America

**Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science Legal Affairs Fellow warns nations may "limit access" to new biotech applications during the upcoming UN Biodiversity Conference in Egypt; says an "excessive precautionary mind-set" could impede potential contributions of these tools, including environmental restoration, further innovation**

**Commentary: Stephan Neidenbach writes for Medium, criticizes Consumers Union senior scientist Michael Hansen for continued association with Zen Honeycutt of Moms Across America on issues like glyphosate, in spite of Hansen's own misgivings about her credibility**

**News: Forbes food and science writer reports Information Technology and Innovation Foundation petitions FDA to ban non-GMO labels, says it deceives consumers into believing GMOs are unsafe; Non-GMO Project calls petition "factually inaccurate," says ITIF is backed by biotech industry**

**Video: Nick Saik of Know Ideas Media compares farming to music, describing conventional farming as similar to free form jazz without a lot of rules, and organic farming like the blues, with several restrictions, notes one is not better than the other**

**Commentary: Alex Berezow of ACSH amplifies Carey Gillam/Sheldon Krinsky co-authored anti-glyphosate article published by Journal of Public Health Policy to highlight disturbing trend of scientific journals ignoring conflicts of interest for pro-organic, anti-GMO, -pesticide advocates**

**[More North America items](#)**

## Africa

**Commentary: Director for communication, partnerships at the Science Foundation for Livelihoods and Development slams NGOs for "selfishly opposing" advanced scientific techniques for breeding crops and plants, especially biotech, genetic engineering**

**News: Togo news outlet reports on Coalition for the Protection of the African Genetic Heritage's (COPAGEN) presentation of its study on Bt cotton at a press conference for media professionals, claimed to demonstrate increased production costs and lack of boosted profits**

**News: Ghanaian news outlet reports on National Biosafety Authority (NBA) Chairman Charles Antwi-Boasiako's assurance that regulation of biotech can ensure safety for humans and the environment, as well as serve as a deterrent for fraud**

**Commentary: Ugandan Daily Monitor's Michael J. Ssali notes Brazil has been growing GM crops for 20 years, provides higher profit margin and provides solutions for ag problems; notes Ugandan economy depends on agriculture, but is struggling to pass biosafety act and approve GM crops**

**Commentary: West African Committee for Peasant Seeds (COASP) voices opposition to Target Malaria project in Burkina Faso, warns about risks of genetic forcing, argues impacted communities have not been fully informed**

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

**News: Brazil's Agrolink reports on study led by Wei Zhang of China's International Food Policy Research Institute which showed that use of GM cotton from 1997-2015 led to decrease in pest infestations and pesticide use**

**Commentary: Malaysia-based New Straits Times argues that ASEAN should shift from hazard- to risk-based assessments for food safety; says the former makes the region vulnerable to uncertainty, while a risk-based approach provides benefits including greater food access at lower costs**

**News: Pakistan news site reports Pasban-i-Pakistan group organized awareness session, claims GMOs are hazardous to environment, health**

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**News: Le Monde reports on Blandine Sankara's efforts to promote agroecology, using humane and environmentally friendly farming methods in Burkina Faso, highlights her opposition to GMOs and Monsanto**

**Announcement: University of Helsinki article notes gene editing revolutionizes plant breeding but EU court decision may make technique unavailable to European researchers; professor says it's impossible to distinguish from natural breeding because results are identical, questions point of enacting laws where enforcement is not possible**

**News: France's Centre Presse reports film company Frog Productions shooting footage for upcoming documentary about NGO CRIIGEN (Independent Research and Information Committee on Genetic Engineering), which raises questions about health consequences of GMOs and pesticides**

**News: Nature reports investigation finds French plant-biology laboratory manipulated research figures; inquiry led by CNRS found manipulation in five molecular-biology articles from researchers at CNRS Institute of Plant Molecular Biology in Strasbourg "severe," and "intentional;" now-defunct lab known for work on RNA interference**

[More Europe items](#)

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## Latin America

**Announcement: Ministers of Agriculture of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay issue statement following Southern Agricultural Council (CAS) meeting in Buenos Aires, voicing support of new gene editing techniques, arguing against arbitrary restrictions**

**News: Bolivian newspaper reports president of agronomists' association urging repeal of law against GM seeds to help improve country's food security; government banned GM seeds because of belief seeds increase toxic substances in environment, lead to loss of biodiversity**

[More Latin America items](#)

## Oceania

**News: Australia's Farm Weekly reports Western Australia's canola farmers left waiting as transport companies route seed deliveries around South Australia, which has blocked transportation of GM seed through state**

**News: Australian farming news site reports drought should not affect supply of GM seed supplies**

[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 continued debate on the European Court of Justice decision to regulate gene-editing techniques. Health of Mother Earth Foundation activist Nnimmo Bassey spoke out against GMOs and Nigeria's National Biosafety Management Agency.

- Three Swedish university officials commented on the EU court's gene editing ruling, saying it threatens the EU's future food supply and harms work to reduce environmental impact. Norwegian philosopher Svein Anders Noer Lie criticized Norway's Biotechnology Council for supporting gene editing, claiming their views are based on the outdated perception that one gene leads to a trait. Germany Bioeconomy Council member Christine Lang said the court's ruling is purely legal but it does not do justice to science or technology. Inf'OGM's Eric Meunier complained the European Commission has not acted following the ruling, leaving the EU and member states without tools to enforce the ruling, noting concerns that companies could "cheat." [See more](#)
- Bassey spoke at HOMEF's workshop for journalists in Nigeria, claiming GMOs are not necessary to feed the population. Bassey also called for a review of the National Biosafety Management Agency, the 2015 Act that formed it and the agency's process for issuing GMO permits. [See more](#)

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## North America

**[Commentary: Food News columnist reports U of Florida survey show consumer GMO attitudes differ depending on whether food is fresh or processed; claims Monsanto, ag firms push false info on GMO benefits](#)**

**[Commentary: We Love GMOs and Vaccines blogger Stephan Neidenbach tweets excerpts from Zen Honeycutt's "Unstoppable" book, refutes her claim that non-GMO farming doesn't use atrazine](#)**

**[Commentary: Constantine Spyrou of Food Beast examines Information Technology and Innovation Foundation petition to FDA calling for ban on non-GMO labeling, notes experts do not believe FDA will accept the petition, highlights potential for free speech arguments](#)**

**[News: Canadian news outlet reports on anti-GMO activist Steven Druker's upcoming talk at Kwantlen Polytechnic University in Richmond on Oct. 1, highlights his claims about negative health effects of GM foods](#)**

**[Commentary: Mike McCloskey of Indiana milk company Fairlife writes guest commentary for local news outlet, argues against deceptive marketing practices such as labeling milk products "GMO-Free," notes GMOs are perfectly safe](#)**

[More North America items](#)

## Africa

**News: Nigeria's Leadership reports on call by Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) and the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) for urgent review of the National Biosafety Management Agency, 2015 Act, calling for its repeal and a ban on GMOs**

**News: Nigeria's Premium Times reports on workshop organized by Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) for journalists on reporting on biosafety and GMOs, HOMEF director Nnimmo Bassey argued reporters need to invest more time in these issues**

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

**Commentary: Shruti Kedia of India's YourStory profiles C&A Foundation's sustainable cotton program, in partnership with Action for Social Advancement, Aga Khan Foundation, CottonConnect and WWF-India to promote organic production**

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**Commentary: Three vice-chancellors of Swedish universities and higher education institutions issue statement criticizing EU Court's ruling to regulate products of gene editing as GMOs, argues it threatens Europe's future supply and work to reduce impact of ag on the environment**

**Commentary: Editorial for Italian produce market news outlet criticizes EU approach to regulating new gene editing techniques, notes importance of giving farmers access to the latest technologies to ensure sustainable supply of safe food**

**Commentary: French NGO inf'OGM complains European Commission not acting fast enough after Court of Justice ruling that plants derived from new breeding techniques should be regulated as GMOs, notes concerns that companies could cheat without enforcement of rules**

**Campaign: Global Justice Now, in solidarity with La Via Campesina member group Land Workers' Alliance, urges supporters to send email to Permanent Mission of the U.K. at the U.N. urging them not to vote against approving a declaration of rights for peasants and small-scale farmers**

**Commentary: Norwegian group Network for GMO-free food and feed's September newsletter includes reactions to EU Court ruling on gene editing, and amplification of Philosopher Svein Anders Noer Lie's challenge about the precision of CRISPR**

**Commentary: Bill Wirtz writes for France's Contrepoints, argues that Greenpeace is a group of anti-scientific activists, amplifies video published by Austrian research portal Addendum in which Greenpeace's Sebastian Theissing-Matei discusses stance on GMOs**

**News: Swiss TV news source promotes Oct. 2 interview with "organic pope" Urs Niggli, who says he thinks genetic engineering could be organic, citing CRISPR-Cas technology, admitting it takes into account criticism of past GE techniques**

[More Europe items](#)

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## Latin America

**News release: U.N. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean announces signing of Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (the Escazu Agreement), includes provisions for defenders of human rights in environmental matters**

[More Latin America items](#)

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## Oceania

**News release: Bayer New Zealand and Country TV's State of the Rural Nation survey shows opinions on GMOs were split, with men being more favorable towards GMOs and women being more against them**

**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 several French and Italian media reports of upcoming European Biotech Week events. Activist Nnimmo Bassey criticized Target Malaria in an interview with a U.S. news program and later published commentary amplifying those concerns.

- European media outlets reported on outreach events being held in support of European Biotech Week. Researchers with France's National Institute of Agricultural Research and Italy's National Research Council were scheduled to appear at lectures highlighting GM crop benefits as well as the potential of new plant breeding techniques (NBTs). [See more](#)
- In an interview with *National Public Radio's* "All Things Considered," Health of Mother Earth Foundation director Nnimmo Bassey criticized the Target Malaria project's plan to release genetically modified mosquitoes. Bassey claimed that Africans were being unwillingly recruited into an experiment on unproven technologies. In separate commentary, Bassey noted that his recent "biosafety training" event highlighted how little Africans understood or needed biotechnology. [See more](#)
- Greenpeace Mexico issued a statement urging President-elect Andrés Manuel López Obrador's administration to remove current agricultural officials, claiming that regulatory agencies had ignored warnings about illegal GM soy cultivation and transgenic contamination. The statement was amplified in *Contra Linea*. [See more](#)

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## North America

**Commentary: Yale neurologist Steven Novella says organic food lobby has demonized safe, effective biotech for last 20 years with "misleading marketing scams" such as Non-GMO Project, now at center of petition against FDA**

**Commentary: Legal firm blog says FDA unlikely to respond to Information Technology & Innovation Foundation petition to prohibit non-GMO food labeling claims, arguing consumers are accustomed to seeing non-GMO labels**

**News: St. Louis Post-Dispatch reports on paper by WashU professor Sydney Scott examining moral oppositions to GMOs, she notes that many people react to GMOs with disgust, viewing them as 'yucky,' she recommends communicating on an emotional level with consumers**

[More North America items](#)

## Africa

**Commentary: Ugandan science journalist writes for Genetic Literacy Project, questions if Uganda has paid economic, says biotech crops important because Ugandan farmers cannot afford irrigation costs**

[More Africa items](#)

## Asia

**Commentary: Activist Chandra Bhushan writes opinion for India's Financial Express, defends Centre for Science and Environment's science methodology, says it's irresponsible to claim GMOs are safe, says CSE is not anti-GMO but Pro-GM lobby dislikes its positions on biotech**

**Commentary: Third World Network amplifies report by Friends of the Earth and Logos Environmental claiming new gene editing techniques can cause unintended effects that pose threats to human health and the environment, highlights recommendation for regulation**

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**Event: French news site announces Guy Riba, formerly with the National Institute of Agricultural Research, to lead event focusing on GMOs**

**Event: Italy's Festival of Science announces an event that will take participants through the history of biotechnology from Italian agronomist Nazareno Strampelli's discoveries through CRISPR**

**Announcement: Italy's National Research Council notes EuropaBio organizing EU Biotech Week, notes several events throughout Italy celebrating the occasion**

**News: Italian news site reports 35 cities in Italy will celebrate EU Biotech Week Sept. 24-30; notes biotechnology generated 11.5 billion euros in 2016 in the country**

**Event: French NGO Vigilance OG2M to host speech by CRIIGEN Chairman Joel Spiroux on topic of "GMO and Health" (Oct. 12, 2018)**

**Commentary: French news site reporter says GM soy animal feed record shipment comes in through Lorient port, says the GM feed ends up on consumers plates, says it is not proven to be healthy**

**Announcement: French farmers union Coordination Rurale's fact sheet affirms precautionary principle, but breaks with anti-GM crowd by stating some NBTs can forego regulation where result could be obtained by conventional breeding; also favors creation of EU High Council of Biotechnology**

**Event: Volunteer Reapers invite supporters to protest Nov. 15-16 outside District Court of Dijon during trial for 2016 vandalization of GM rapeseed field tests in Cote-d'Or**

**News release: BUND Friends of the Earth Germany calls on agricultural ministers attending Conference of Ministers of Agriculture to reform agricultural policy to focus on environmental protection, climate change mitigation**

**Commentary: Italian news site talks to researchers, officials at Slow Food, Coldiretti event, notes EU court ruling and calls NBTs "modern GMOs" that are "disguised as harmless allies;" researcher says NBTs make systemic changes that have ?significant repercussions"**

[More Europe items](#)

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## Latin America

**News: Mexican news site amplifies Greenpeace statement that Senasica and Cofepris officials who allowed GM crop and pesticide use must be replaced**

**News release: Greenpeace warns incoming Mexican president to change Senasica, Cofepris officials, claims current officials systematically weakened country's biosafety framework, allowing GM crop cultivation and "transgenic contamination" and supported insecticide aerial spraying that harms bees**

**News: Mexican news site reports film "El maíz en tiempos de Guerra" makes claim that transgenic cultivation puts "ancestral tradition" of corn cultivation in jeopardy**

[More Latin America items](#)

## Oceania

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

[More Oceania items](#)

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## Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

### BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included calls from French and Italian activists asking EU agriculture ministers to push for new farming models in Europe's future Common Agriculture Policy. La Via Campesina highlighted an upcoming U.N. vote on a peasant rights bill, and in Nigeria anti-GMO activists held a "biosafety training" for journalists.

- Commentary from Confederation Paysanne and FederBio this week addressed the informal meeting of EU agriculture ministers, which ended today. The two groups independently called for the region to utilize the next Common Agricultural Policy as a means of transitioning from current agricultural models to a more sustainable agroecology approach. In contrast, the agriculture minister from Upper Austria issued a statement today calling for EU and Austrian regulators to revise current genetic engineering regulations. Citing the recent drought, Minister Franz Reisecker said European farmers needed access to improved crops developed through new plant breeding techniques. [See more](#)
- The Argentina chapter of CLOC-La Via Campesina issued a statement summarizing support for the ongoing campaign for U.N. recognition of peasant rights. The statement noted that the Human Rights Council is expected to vote on the proposal late this week. [See more](#)
- Health of Mother Earth Foundation's Nnimmo Bassey, in a series of tweets, summarized the organization's "biosafety training" program for local journalists, held today. Speakers included environmental activists, public relations consultants and researchers critical of GMO crops broadly and the National Biosafety Management Agency in particular. [See more](#)

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## North America

**News: Science Trends reports Memphis Meats hopes to have cost of a lab-grown meat burger down to 5 dollars in a few years, with those who have tasted lab-grown meat saying taste is indistinguishable from regular meat products, notes meat industry's opposition to use of term 'meat' for protein grown in labs**

**News: Successful Farming reports Bayer's Future of Farming Dialogue in Germany in September 2018 featured Bayer Crop Science executives discussing strategies, technologies in wake of Monsanto purchase, saying combined companies will invest more in R&D, including joint gene editing venture with Pairwise**

**News: Food Business News reports Non-GMO Project claims Information Technology and Innovation Foundation seeks FDA to ban non-GMO term is "based on errors and misrepresentations," claims there is no consensus on GMO safety**

**Commentary: UC Davis Seed Biotechnology Center director Kent J. Bradford writes for The Hill, believes Non-GMO Project's labels on products like table salt are in violation of FDA's consumer protection rules, notes FDA should crack down on misleading labels**

**Commentary: Alex Berezow of American Council on Science and Health amplifies Nature Biotechnology editorial criticizing EU Court's ruling on gene edited crops, believes a war against biotech is a war against impoverished people**

[More North America items](#)

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## Africa

**Event: Activist Nnimmo Bassey tweets excerpts from Health of Mother Earth Foundation event on biosafety training for journalists; speakers include researcher, EnviroNewsNigeria founder, activists critical of biotechnology**

**Commentary: Wandile Sihlobo of South Africa's Bizcommunity recounts recent session on Famine to Food Security as part of Bayer's Future of Farming Dialogue 2018, believes Bayer's investments in ag technology and innovation will help boost food security in Africa**

**News: Uganda's EABW Digital reports on plans by small-scale farmers from the Eastern African Community bloc to petition heads of state over member states' failure to allocate 10 percent of national budgets to ag sectors, highlighting negative impact on food security**

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

**News: China Daily reports experts debunk article circulating on WeChat claiming that a science journal called the "Shelly Genetics Newswire" found that a gene called "SCoaAL" in GM food poses a long-term health hazard in humans, noting the journal and gene are fabrications**

**Event: IFPRI, UN FAO promote conference, 'Accelerating the End of Hunger and Malnutrition,' to be held Nov. 28 through 30 in Bangkok, Thailand; IFPRI Director General Shenggen Fan appears on video explaining urgency of meeting Sustainable Development Goals by transforming agri-food systems**

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**Interview: EurActiv interviews EU Agriculture Commissioner Phil Hogan, when asked about how restrictions on pesticides and the EU Court ruling on gene editing will impact competitiveness, Hogan emphasized importance of investing in digitization**

**Commentary: Commenting before agriculture ministers meeting, Upper Austrian official Franz Reisecker says European Court decision on NBTs forces EU and national regulators to reform genetic engineering regulations**

**News release: Austrian NGO to lead "GMO-free weeks 2018" across country; touts cooperation with manufacturers, grocers, agriculture, interest groups to highlight benefits of producing, consuming non-GE food**

**News release: International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) EU announces main theme of recent 12th European Organic Congress was on importance of awarding public money to farmers who deliver public goods as part of common agricultural policy reform**

**Announcement: Swiss Radio and Television's Einstein program will feature discussion on use of gene editing in agriculture, with focus on how CRISPR can revolutionize plant breeding**

**News release: Volunteer Reapers and Mowers of Burgundy call for rally in front of Regional Directorate for Food, Agriculture and Forestry (DRAAF) to demand action regarding crops now classified as GMOs following EU Court ruling**

[More Europe items](#)

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## Latin America

**Commentary: La Via Campesina announces several organizations and legislators sign letter in support of adoption of Declaration of Peasant Rights by the U.N. Human Rights Council, ahead of upcoming Council vote**

**Interview: Brazil's Globo talks to family farmer Antonio Augusto Santos, a representative of Slow Food, who opposes National Program for the Strengthening of Family Agriculture, argues agroecology has capacity to feed Brazil's population, warns some people labeled agroecological grow transgenic corn**

**News: Brazilian news outlet reports on 36th Meeting of the Southern Agricultural Council in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Technical Group 5 on Public Policies in Biotechnology discussed work on opening third markets of biotech events such as new breeding techniques**

**News: RT reports on importance of corn in Mexican diets, highlights concerns over imports of transgenic corn, in spite of local ruling prohibiting its cultivation, notes a study found that over 90 percent of tortillas contain GM corn**

**News release: Assembly of Defenders of the Maya Territory Múuch 'Xímbal issues statement denouncing dispossession of Mayan territories for development of green economy megaprojects such as use of transgenic seeds, points to bee deaths from fumigation**

**[More Latin America items](#)**

## Oceania

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

**[More Oceania items](#)**

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## Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

### BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included the start of biotechnology week in Europe and a new campaign from a U.S. think tank criticizing misleading Non-GMO Project labeling.

- Supportive stakeholders in Europe and Canada marked the launch of the European Biotech Week as well as the broader Global Biotechnology Week. European activities will include screenings of the Dutch film "Well Fed" and the U.S. film "Food Evolution." BIOSpain will also hold its annual congress this week. News releases from Canadian groups Ag-West Bio and the Prince Edward Island Biosciences Cluster noted activities to celebrate the week. [See more](#)
- The U.S. think tank Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF) launched a citizens' petition questioning the use of Non-GMO Project labels, arguing that the labels are often misleading and constitute "misbranding" under Food and Drug Administration laws regulating food marketing. The group called for a prohibition on all non-GMO labels and symbols. [See more](#)

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## North America

**Announcement: Val Giddings and Robert D. Atkinson of Information Technology and Innovation Foundation announce petition calling on FDA to prohibit use of term "Non-GMO" on food labels, arguing that such labels are deceptive and misleading**

**News: AgDaily reports on Information Technology and Innovation Foundation's launch of petition calling for a ban on Non-GMO Project's butterfly logo campaign, arguing the label is unscientific and intentionally misleads consumers about GMO safety**

**Campaign: Peel Back the Label campaign launches take action page for consumers to directly contact companies via email, social media, speak out against their misleading and deceptive labels**

**Commentary: Purdue University agricultural economist Jayson Lusk provides clarification on his recent study which found that Vermont's mandatory GMO labeling reduced GMO opposition, points to other research showing that it disrupted sugar beet price**

**Interview: Chicago Tribune interviews Bayer Crop Science's applied genome modification lead, Larry Gilbertson, who explains what CRISPR is; notes importance of engaging with the public and understanding that food is emotional**

**News: Hartford Courant reports singer Neil Young tells audience at Farm Aid 2018 concert that "corporate farms suck," and are poisonous; festival included experts lecturing attendees about differences between traditional crop seeds and GM seeds**

**News release: Prince Edward Island Bioscience Cluster announces start of Global Biotechnology Week, highlights events to foster innovation and startup incubation**



**More North America items****Africa**

**News: Uganda's EABW Digital reports on Science Technology and Innovation Minister Elioda Tumwesigye's call on scientists to engage in innovative solutions to challenges in sectors like agriculture, speaking at Annual Biotechnology Science Awards**

**Commentary: Health of Mother Earth Foundation director Nnimmo Bassey spoke at Farmers' Dialogue, "Promoting Biosafety in Nigeria," called for revision of National Biosafety Management Agency Act 2015 and for a neutral Biosafety Regulatory Agency, as opposed to the current, pro-GMO one**

**More Africa items****Asia**

**News release: Navdanya International announces publication of Food for Health Manifesto, presented by Vandana Shiva at 30th International Biological and Environmental Exhibition natural of Bologna, highlights dangers associated with pesticide use**

**Commentary: GMWatch amplifies data from Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR) claiming to demonstrate that Bt cotton adoption has led to increased insecticide use and has failed to live up to yield promises, argues illegal Bt cotton demonstrates regulatory failure**

**News: Press Trust of India reports senior official of Bayer Group says it will take one year to complete integration of Monsanto India; Monsanto has sold GM cotton seeds in India for more than decade, but company appealing Indian government's decision to fix cotton prices under price control order**

**News: Pakistan's The Nation reports on claims by leader of socio-political organization Pasban, Altaf Shakoor, that GM seeds are dangerously increasing Pakistan's disease burden, linking them to increased rates of cancer, stroke and other diseases**

**Commentary: Pakistan Observer columnist Haider Rifaat warns readers about health hazards of GM foods, claims it causes nature to suffer, points to sudden rise in illness and cancer rates**

**More Asia items****Europe**

**News release: EuropaBio announces launch of European Biotech Week 2018 on Sept. 24, EuropaBio Secretary General, Joanna Dupont-Inglis noted Biotech Week provides an opportunity to highlight the best benefits that biotech has to offer**

**Commentary: Susan Watts of Rothamsted Research recounts recent Global Bioeconomy Summit in Berlin, highlights topics including how to break down barriers to create more trust in science, and ensuring that technologies are available to a wider pool of developers**

**News: EurActiv reports on ongoing debate over EU food safety transparency rules, NGOs like the "Stop Glyphosate" European Citizens' Initiative organizers are pushing for amendments to EU Commission's proposal, calling for even more transparency**

**News release: Uniterre and Alliance for Food Sovereignty issue statement following voter rejection of Popular Initiative for Food Sovereignty, they vow to continue the fight for solidarity and sustainable agriculture**

**Campaign: French NGO Inf'OGM launches a € 15,000 campaign for its project on offering decryption of patents on living things, as part of efforts to seek true transparency in the GMO and seed debate**

**News: EurActiv reports on Bayer Crop Science President Liam Condon's belief that EU Court's recent ruling on gene editing will slow down innovation, he highlighted Bayer's commitment to raising the bar on sustainability**

[More Europe items](#)

## Latin America

**News: Argentina's Agrovoz notes reports from National Seed Institute detail 91 new seed varieties of corn and soybean registered to start 2018-2019 season, including three corn hybrids with stacked biotech events, while 64 percent of transgenic soybean cultivars enrolled include gene that resists glyphosate**

**News: Argentina's Infobae reports on potential applications of gene editing for livestock improvements, highlighting research at National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA), including work to develop cows that produce hypoallergenic milk**

**News: Argentina's Democracia reports on National Network of Municipalities and Communities that promotes Agroecology's (Renama) recent meeting in support of ag producers interested in agroecology, director Eduardo Cerdá pointed to high costs of agrochemicals and transgenics**

**News: Argentina's La Capital reports on Argentine Chamber of Seedlings Multipliers' (Casem) proposal for updating the seed law, they argue that payment of royalties to breeders must include payment for the germplasm and contribution of biotechnology in the variety**

[More Latin America items](#)

## Oceania

**News release: New Zealand's minister of commerce and consumer affairs announces start of public consultation on country's plant variety rights law regulating intellectual property protection over new plant varieties; government seeks feedback on effectiveness of existing plant variety rights regime**

**Commentary: New Zealand rural blogger Ele Ludemann amplifies former Chief Science Advisor Peter Gluckman's call for re-evaluation of whether gene edited grasses should be used to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, notes many other countries are benefiting from biotech**

**News: Australian Financial Review reports on Global Danone adviser Lorna Davis' take on the greatest challenges in the marketing profession, she notes Danone's decision not to use GM ingredients is not for health safety reasons, claims GMOs are destructive to the land**

[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

Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included Swiss voters defeating two food initiatives, including one that would have banned GMOs permanently.

- Swiss voters defeated a food sovereignty initiative, which would have banned GMOs, by a margin of 61 percent to 39 percent. They defeated a second food initiative intended to promote sustainable, animal-friendly production methods by imposing Swiss standards on all food imports. Government officials opposed the initiatives, saying they would increase food prices and interfere with trade agreements. Afterward, the Small Farmers Association said although the initiatives failed, the effort got consumers to think about food being produced in fair conditions and in a manner friendly to animals and the environment. [See more](#)
- U.N. Human Rights special rapporteur Hilal Elver released a report criticizing Argentina's government, saying 4 million people in the country suffer from food insecurity as government officials promote GM corn and GM soy production for export. Elver wrote that promoting agroecology would enable more production from small farmers and would lessen the environmental impact. [See more](#)

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## North America

**Commentary: Reason science correspondent amplifies Nature Sustainability study finding high-yield modern farming better for environment than low-yield organic farming, argues it might help persuade some environmentalists to drop opposition to use of modern farming technologies**

**Commentary: Alli Willis of Non-GMO Project describes the NGO's encouragement of non-GMO seed supplies and opposition to patents on GM seeds, criticizes seed companies for assuring the public that their products are the same while telling the patent office they are different**

**Commentary: The Atlantic staff writer writes that eating meat poses moral and environmental price, but says those arguments won't convince people to give up delicious meat; questions if lab-grown meat is the answer**

**Commentary: Alex Berezow of the American Council on Science and Health denounces GMO Free USA for labeling biochemist Bruce Ames an "industry apologist," saying anti-GMO, anti-vaccine, other anti-science activists should be resoundingly humiliated, their lies consigned to dust bin of history**

**Commentary: Genetic Literacy Project's Andrew Porterfield points out wine grapes some of most genetically modified organisms in world without using modern gene-editing technology, but studies underway to introduce new traits through GMO techniques, could help growers deal with significant challenges to grape harvesting**

[More North America items](#)

## Africa

**News: Ghana's Joy reports OFAB national coordinator speaks at town hall meeting with farmers, tells them they can save money, increase profits if country adopts GMOs, which he says could help them preserve environment from contamination by overuse of pesticides**

**News: GhanaWeb reports University of Cape Coast researchers develop 4 high-yielding GM cowpea varieties with three times more nutrition**

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

**Study: Study in PNAS examines long-term longitudinal data on three major cotton pests in China, finds Bt cotton is an effective part of integrated pest management, but highlights potential for unintended outcomes and importance of climate change**

**Commentary: Lawyer writing in Indian legal news site calls Indian court's ruling against Monsanto in patent suit over GM cotton seeds comfort for those supporting rights of farmers**

**Commentary: Journal of Food Science and Toxicology publishes editorial by Pakistani botanist discussing GM crops from safety, cost and environmental standpoints**

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**Commentary: Eric Meunier of Inf'OGM examines continued issues with GM-contaminated rice from China for 12 years, questions whether it is due to China's inability to control the contamination or part of a contamination strategy**

**Commentary: Swiss anti-GMO NGO Schweizer Allianz Gentechfrei amplifies study by Christoph Potthof of Gen-ethical Network which claims GMOs have not delivered significant results in achieving desired traits like drought tolerance**

**News: Italian ecology news site reports EU Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Vytenis Andriukaitis says he fails to understand why people oppose GM crops, which are disease-resistant, require no pesticides**

**News: RTL reports Foundation for Nature and Humankind calls for end to CETA free-trade agreement with Canada because it contains no controls to stop importation of Canadian GM salmon or foods with trace amounts of atrazine, pesticides banned in France, says atrazine banned due to being an EDC**

**News: French agricultural newspaper reports EU Appeal Committee will consider authorization for two GMO corn varieties after stalemate by Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food,**

[More Europe items](#)

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## Latin America

**News: Bolivian newspaper reports President Evo Morales calling for increase in organic food production while farmers demand government approval of GM seeds for soybeans, corn, cotton, sugarcane**

**News: Argentine news site reports U.N. rapporteur warns 4 million in Argentina face food insecurity, says GM corn geared for export doesn't benefit people's right to food**

**Commentary: Biodiversidad en America Latina y el Caribe notes family farmers oppose proposed seed law changes, say it's part of large corporations extending control over food and agriculture in Argentina**

**News: Chilean agricultural news site reports Chile is key supplier for GM seeds due to it being able to cultivate seeds during northern hemisphere's fall and winter seasons**

**More Latin America items**

**Oceania**

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

**More Oceania items**

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## Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

### BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included reports the U.K.'s trade minister plans to roll back U.K. food regulations for a trade deal with the U.S. Continued developments on lab-grown meat included journalists sampling cell-cultured sausage and a \$3 million grant for research.

- *Business Insider* reported U.K. trade secretary Liam Fox plans to ease up on EU food regulations to allow for a trade deal with the U.S. by using "Henry the 8th powers." British MP Barry Gardiner said that "lower environmental standards, chlorine-washed chicken and hormone-fed beef is not a dream but a nightmare." U.K. Treasury Minister Liz Truss, in a speech to the Cato Institute, criticized EU regulations that hold back business interests. The Cato Institute, a U.S. think tank, today released a report calling for U.K. environmental deregulation to pave the way for a trade agreement. **See more**
- Startup lab-grown meat company New Age Meat hosted a news conference and offered journalists a sample of a cell-cultured sausage. Erin Brodwin of *Business Insider* reported, "It tasted like meat." Brodwin said the lab-grown sausage may have been a bit dry and crumbly, but there were no glaring differences. The Good Food Institute announced it is offering \$3 million in grants to universities or startup companies to research plant-based and cell-based meat. The North Dakota Stockmen's Association also announced it doesn't mind competing against lab-grown meat, but the products must be labeled accurately. **See more**

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

## North America

**Commentary: American Council on Science & Health's Hank Campbell writes for Detroit News, says organic labels mislead consumers by making them believe the food is healthier than others, but government considers it a marketing tool rather than a food safety claim; says organic producers count on consumer ignorance**

**Commentary: F. William Engdahl writes for Centre for Research on Globalization, says biotech lobby plotd "to corrupt EU court ruling," notes criticism from Sonny Perdue, says letter from U.K. scientists urging gene-editing deregulation appeals to interests of large agribusinesses, say they appeal to solve world hunger when no GM crop attempts to solve world hunger**

**News: North Dakota news site reports beef producers say they're not opposed to competing with lab-grown meat, but want it to be labeled accurately**

**News: Cultured meat researcher writes for Massive Science, says "industrial livestock" have negative environmental and health impacts, but lab-grown meat would eliminate those impacts while hopefully looking and tasting like conventional meat**

**More North America items**

## Africa

**News: Ghana News Agency reports University of Cape Coast researchers develop 8 drought- and disease-resistant, high-yielding GM cowpea varieties**

**Commentary: Kenya's The Star runs op-ed by Liam Condon, president of Bayer Crop Science Division, on challenge of producing enough food for Africa; he says continent needs access to hybrid seeds, traits to deliver high-yielding crops tailored for diverse farm environments, modern biological and chemical crop protection tools**

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

**Study: Japanese researcher at Hokkaido University notes gene-editing advances allow for efficient mutagenesis, potentially bypassing stringent product-based GMO regulations, but may be subject to process-based GMO regulations, points out importance of tailoring regulations to ensure gene-edited crop acceptance**

**Commentary: Mark Lynas writes for Cornell Alliance for Science, notes China's use of Bt cotton helped dramatically reduce pesticide use according to study in the country; notes historically cotton crops account for one-third of pesticide use in China**

**News: Vietnam news site reports CropLife Vietnam and Institute of Applied Medicine of Vietnam host workshop, PG Economics speaker touts GM crops as safe, able to help feed hungry, malnourished**

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**Commentary: European Seed Association releases statement on European Court of Justice ruling that requires "new" mutagenic techniques be regulated as GMOs, says world regulatory agencies and scientists agree that technology should not undergo additional oversight**

**News: Science Business reports German scientists urge EU to create new regulations for gene-edited crops, called echoed by plant researchers throughout the continent, warns current situation is fatal for crop research in EU; hints that U.K. could relax gene editing restrictions post-Brexit**

**News: Business Insider reports U.K. trade minister plots to use "Henry the 8th powers" to drop EU food standards in exchange for trade deal with U.S.**

**Commentary: Dirt to Dinner summarizes fallout from European Court decision on new plant breeding techniques, notes implications for GE crop field trials and future plant research in the region**

**News: Euractiv reports high demand for organic foods in northern Europe, cites 41 percent of Germans buy organic products whenever possible, up to 80 percent of Germans do not want GMOs**

[More Europe items](#)

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## Latin America

**News: Agencia EFE reports Bayer's Crop Science director for Latin America says small farmers have most potential to increase productivity using digital information on their crops armed only with a cell phone; says government also must develop framework to protect intellectual property**

**News release: Argentina's National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) highlights experts analyzing how gene editing may improve DNA of livestock animals in single generation, reducing breeding times, allowing breeders to incorporate genes or desirable traits of other breeds to improve food production and quality**

**Commentary: Colombia radio news site claims GMOs, pesticides poison people, damage environment, quotes French journalist who claims agroecology decontaminates soil, water; promotes Sept. 27 event**



**at radio station on how to transform public policies for agroecology**

**More Latin America items**

## Oceania

**News: New Zealand radio news site host interviews Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern says country will continue taking cautious approach toward GMOs, acknowledges "huge amount of potential" to mitigate climate change as pointed out by Sir Peter Gluckman's report**

**Commentary: Australian independent newspaper InDaily summarizes week's political events, says South Australia government understated researcher's support for GM crops when appointing him to oversee GMO moratorium review**

**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 several new statements from researchers and scientific organizations calling for the EU to take an open stance on new plant breeding techniques (NBTs). In India, activists criticized Bt cotton use.

- Several scientific researchers and organizations issued commentary on the European Union's policy for regulating new plant breeding techniques. In Italy, a Tuesday press event organized by the Associazione Luca Coscioni prompted noteworthy regional coverage of the group's efforts to ensure Italy clarified its policies on NBTs. Writing in *Il Piccolone*, the director of the International Centre For Genetic Engineering And Biotechnology similarly said that the recent "unscientific" European court decision on NBTs required a reassessment of the region's GMO regulations. An editorial in the German science outlet *Transparenz Gentechnik* offered similar arguments. **See more**
- In messaging coordinated by the activist coalition India for Safe Food (ISF), commentary in *Financial Express* and *The Logical Indian* claimed that yield benefits from Bt cotton had been overstated. The two articles also cited a classified 2013 report from a Technical Expert Committee on GM crop use in the country, which stated that some experts interviewed had identified adverse effects on milk production in dairy cows given Bt cottonseed versus cows fed on non-Bt cottonseed. **See more**
- In Germany, the Tuesday launch of Bayer's Future of Farming Dialogue generated media coverage of the company's efforts to promote sustainable agricultural technologies, including gene editing. The event runs through Thursday. **See more**

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## North America

**News: The Lempert Report notes that once GM labeling law takes effect, most food with soy and corn will be labeled as "bioengineered"**

**Commentary: U.S. ag news site columnist, plant medicine professor laments negative stereotype, thoughtless use of term "factory farm," examines facts of farm life; calls pesticides necessary, says GMOs "an unqualified success," and refutes claims of farmers ignoring environment to make a profit**

**[More North America items](#)**

## Africa

**News: Kenya Broadcasting Corporation reports on Nakuru County farmers' shift to organic farming as a means of boosting yields and incomes, farmer Mary Mwaniki has observed crops more resilient to drought and disease under organic methods**

**News: Xinhua reports FAO official says fall armyworms have become resistant to pesticides, while farm research official says Kenyan government looking at resistant corn varieties, Integrated Pest**

**Management****[More Africa items](#)****Asia**

**Commentary: India for Safe Food coordinator contributes to Indian news site article, questioning whether decision to allow Bt cotton was correct, claims the variety was not responsible for yield increase, and it required more pesticide and fertilizer applications, and introduced pesticide to food chain**

**News: India for Safe Food coordinator writes Financial Express commentary claiming Bt cotton did not improve yields, claims GM mustard and eggplant cause organ damage; says need for long-term studies on GMOs remain**

**Commentary: Indonesian news site claims GMOs have "bad record in America," there is risk they contain toxins or allergens, says fish genes being used in tomatoes, and claims GM health supplements containing L-tryptophan resulted in deaths and disabilities**

**Commentary: French news site reports Bangladesh agriculture is highly vulnerable to climate change, so government promotes private company investment, GMOs such as Bt eggplant, golden rice; claims this tactic is risky because real tactic is to enable agrochemical companies access to markets; says instead country should promote farmers' rights to seeds and food sovereignty**

**Commentary: Navdanya International program Seed Freedom claims growing public concern in Indonesia over negative health, environmental impacts of ag methods reliant on pesticide use leading to "agroecology mobilization" toward chemical-free farming**

**[More Asia items](#)****Europe**

**Commentary: Germany-based biotechnology news site Transparenz Gentechnik editorial notes EU Court of Justice decision on NBTs is based on 30-year-old technology law and not science, says it's imperative for EU to change the law because most other nations are exempting gene-edited products from regulation**

**Commentary: International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology director for Italy says U.S. and U.K. plunging forward with gene-editing medical applications, but the EU court's "non-scientific" decision places gene editing under "suffocating" GMOs regulations**

**Commentary: Former Italian senator, Luca Coscioni Association coordinator says EU, Italy tied to erroneous thinking that older ways were healthier, notes both governments cling to legal GMO definition while disregarding science; called on government to clarify the EU court ruling, allow open field trials**

**News: Italian news wire ANSA reports farming association Luca Coscioni offers gene-edited rice in Roman plaza, calls attention to gene-edited product safety, calls on government to allow open field trials in Italy and wants EU government to clarify, amend regulations for gene editing**

**Commentary: EU researcher writes for Italian news site, says Italy needs free trade so Italian government is making mistake in saying it will not ratify CETA, notes it will not change the way EU handles GMOs**

**News: Agencia EFE reports Dialogue on the Future of Agriculture forum focuses on digital agriculture, innovation, sustainability to take on issues of feeding growing population in midst of global climate warming**

**News release: Bayer board member Liam Condon discusses company's future vision at Future of Farming Dialogue 2018, notes digital platform, new seed varieties, sustainability are key to making farmers**

More Europe items

Latin America

Interview: Argentine news site questions National Institute of Agricultural Technology Director Juan Balbin, says agency strives for efficiency with reduced budget, includes quickly adapting to changing technology, notes seed law must adapt to changing systems or Argentina stands to lose out

News: Argentina news site reports on Future Farming Dialogue in Germany, notes Bayer sees digital farming as integral to future, Bayer's crop science leader in Latin America sees intellectual property as essential for technology flow, and soy and corn as most influential crops

News: Ecuadoran news site profiles Slow Food, its start in Italy and beginning movement in Ecuador, notes efforts to counteract unhealthy fast food offerings

More Latin America items

Oceania

News: New Zealand news site reports GF-free NZ lobbying for government to pull out of FSA NZ because consumers, exporters threatened with unlabeled GM food introduction, says federal agencies that should protect consumers have sided with biotech industry and ignore potential risks

More Oceania items

More Bonus Eventus Resources

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## Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

### BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology monitoring included a farmer-authored piece for Cornell Alliance for Science warning about the ignorance around biotech. It also featured campaigns by anti-GMO groups attacking U.S. efforts to produce synbio fabrics and gene editing in Australia.

- A Ghanaian farmer wrote for Cornell Alliance for Science warning about the ignorance, lack of understanding and misinformation about biotech. He argues that the refusal to adopt biotech is a bigger threat to health than the adoption of GMOs. [See more](#)
- The anti-GMO organization ETC Group issued a news release announcing the publication of report along with natural textile collaborative Fibershed claiming Patagonia's partnership with Bolt Threads to produce synbio fabric will threaten ecosystems and livelihoods. A coinciding campaign by ETC Group and Vandana Shiva sounds the alarm on GE clothes and highlights Patagonia's efforts around synbio fabrics. [See more](#)
- On the heels of yesterday's email campaign by Friends of the Earth Australia urging state ministers to ignore agency recommendations on products of gene editing, GE-Free New Zealand called on the country's minister for food safety to persuade Australia to regulate new gene-editing techniques, arguing that the only other solution is New Zealand's withdrawal from the trans-Tasman Food Standards Australia NZ. [See more](#)

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## North America

**News: Canada's Country Guide reports on developments in breeding technologies to improve corn yields, highlights potential of using plant growth regulators as a cost-efficient means of pushing yields to new limits**

**News: Western Farmer-Stockman reports on Massachusetts company Yield10's announcement of success in identifying a key gene to boost yields in camelina, CEO Oliver Peoples hopes to develop the technology and license it to companies like Bayer and Corteva**

**Commentary: Mercola examines pro-GMO and pro-vaccine partnerships, warns readers against propaganda, claims Genetic Literacy Project, American Council for Science and Health, Science 2.0, and GMO Answers are "industry front groups"**

**Commentary: "Farm Babe" Michelle Miller writes for AgDaily, recounts recent visit to the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center in St. Louis, Missouri, highlights developments to make important crops like cassava more resistant to effects of climate change**

**Announcement: Canadian TV Program The Agenda announces upcoming segment on GMO labeling, featuring Lucy Sharratt of Canadian Biotechnology Action Network**

**News: AgWired reports on retirement of plant biotech pioneer Mary-Dell Chilton after 35 years at Syngenta, highlights her work demonstrating that Agrobacterium is an effective vehicle for DNA**

[transfer, and her receipt of the World Food Prize in 2013](#)

[More North America items](#)

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## Africa

**Announcement:** [African Centre for Biodiversity announces publication of discussion paper, "The SADC PVP Protocol: Blueprint for uptake of UPOV 1991 in Africa," argues the Southern African Development Community Plant Variety Protection system is inappropriate for needs of African ag systems](#)

**News release:** [La Via Campesina recently organized the I Global Exchange Adopt a Seed event in Brazil, as part of relaunch of its Global Peasant Seeds Heritage of Peoples Campaign, which opposes GMOs, pesticides and criminalization of seed exchange](#)

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

**News:** [Press Trust of India reports Bayer announced it cannot introduce new Bt cotton seed technology in India due to royalty issues, highlights Monsanto's legal dispute over gov't decision to fix cotton prices and trait value](#)

**Announcement:** [Vietnam Medical Association announces recent workshop organized along with CropLife Vietnam entitled Security, nutrition and food safety in the context of integration, with focus on providing accurate and science-based information on GMO safety](#)

**Commentary:** [Writing for India's Pioneer, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library fellow says California Roundup cancer verdict, Prop 65 victories are confirmation of early worries about GMOs' links to autoimmune diseases, cancer](#)

**Commentary:** [Shraddha Goled of The Logical Indian amplifies Factchecker analysis which argues Bt cotton adoption has not significantly improved productivity, highlights claims that yields have only improved by 2.5 percent, and that pesticide and fertilizer use has increased](#)

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**Commentary:** [French citizen journalism site AgoraVox suggests ban on glyphosate would essentially ban cultivation of Monsanto GM maize, while noting hypocrisy of allowing GM imports, suggests immediate glyphosate ban would not negatively impact farmers](#)

**News release:** [European Coordination Via Campesina issues statement denouncing behavior of the seed industry, which they accuse of monopolizing the FAO debates on breeders' rights, highlights recent consultations organized by International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty](#)

**Commentary:** [Public Eye investigation targets Syngenta manufacture of diafenthiuron in Switzerland, export to India where it is implicated in farmer poisonings; says other banned but exported pesticides include atrazine, paraquat, notes Swiss parliament bill that would ban such exports](#)

**Video:** [Syngenta Global Head of External Affairs and Communications Andrew McConville posts on LinkedIn account stressing need for collaborative efforts, with listening sessions to be held globally, to build "inclusive farming system" incorporating crop protection, seed breeding technology into sustainable ag](#)

**Commentary:** [GMWatch warns supporters about U.K. launch of GM soy-based meal replacement bar Soylent, amplifies reports that some North American consumers reported vomiting, nausea and diarrhea after consumption](#)

**News:** [Suddeutsche Zeitung examines possibilities for open dialogue about agriculture following Bayer's](#)

**acquisition of Monsanto, highlighting need to produce more food using fewer resources (subscription required)**

**News release: Italy's Luca Coscioni Association recently held a press conference at the Chamber of Deputies with other science groups, calling on govt to clarify EU Court decision on gene editing, and for approval of open field experiments**

[More Europe items](#)

## Latin America

**News: Sputnik reports on Mexican group Unit of the Indigenous and Peasant Force (Ufic) President Rocío Pérez Miranda's opposition to NAFTA renegotiation, argues it is a threat to production free from transgenics and agrotoxins**

**News: La Jornada Maya reports on Bar Association of Campeche's announcement that it will provide support to Mayan communities in efforts to stop use of transgenics in the region, in addition to providing legal services to Mayan women entrepreneurs**

[More Latin America items](#)

## Oceania

**News release: GE Free New Zealand calls on New Zealand's Minister for food safety to persuade Australia to regulate new gene editing techniques, arguing the only other solution is New Zealand's withdrawal from the trans-Tasman Food Standards Australia NZ (FSANZ)**

[More Oceania items](#)

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## Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

### BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included a new Friends of the Earth campaign targeting gene-editing regulations in Australia. In Ecuador, a workshop on gene editing generated positive media coverage.

- Friends of the Earth Australia issued a new email-generating campaign targeting state ministers, urging them to ignore agency recommendations on products of gene editing. The group cited a European Court of Justice opinion and a recent Friends of the Earth U.S. report to argue that crops and foods developed with new plant breeding techniques (NBTs) should be assessed similarly to products developed through older genetic modification technology. [See more](#)
- Ecuador's *El Universo*, following a weekend report on the issue, today highlighted commentary from U.S. researcher Wayne Parrott on the potential benefits of gene editing and other genetic modification techniques. Parrott had presented at a Sept. 4-5 conference organized by the National Institute of Agricultural Research and U.S. Department of Agriculture. [See more](#)
- News outlets in Africa previewed the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, which began today and runs through Friday. U.N. officials urged civil society groups in the region to engage with lawmakers and consumers to help "shape innovative solutions" to environmental problems. [See more](#)
- The *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* published an op-ed that credited biotechnology for saving the papaya and criticized the Non-GMO Project as the "worst offender" when it comes to making products of biotechnology seem dangerous or unhealthy. [See more](#)

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## North America

**Commentary: Honolulu Star Advertiser op-ed by local farmer challenges FDA guidance over GMO-free claims; says Non-GMO Project claims are violating rules and misleading consumers**

**Commentary: Alex Berezow of American Council on Science and Health criticizes UC San Francisco for collaborating with conspiracy theorists and anti-vaxxers, describes it as an "academic home of the anti-GMO movement," pointing to recent talk by U.S. Right to Know's Gary Ruskin at UCSF**

**Event: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) to host Oct. 1 book launch for "Food Citizenship: Food system advocates in an era of distrust," keynote speaker will be Harvard Business School Agriculture and Business Professor Ray Goldberg**

**Campaign: Fibershed announces upcoming event on Sept. 17, with goal of sounding the alarm on synbio fabrics, following publication of its report claiming that synbio fabrics damage ecosystems and livelihoods by disrupting supply chains and natural fiber production**

**Announcement: USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) to host annual Stakeholder Meeting online and in-person on Nov. 7, providing updates on**

**GMO regulations**

**Announcement: Biotechnology Innovation Organization announces upcoming Annual Biotech Summit entitled "Advancing One Health Through Biotechnology," with focus on using animal biotech to advance One Health objectives**

[More North America items](#)

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**Africa**

**News release: Convention on Biological Diversity announces South Africa held first National Biosafety Clearing House training workshop in Pretoria on Sept. 13-14**

**News: Ghana News Agency reports on Eastern Regional Director of Ministry of Food and Agriculture Henry Crentsil Jr.'s call for repackaging of messages on GMOs in order to clear up misconceptions held by the public**

**News: The Guardian (Nigeria) reports on commencement of confined field trials of GM cassava and cowpea varieties bred for increased shelf-life, National Biotechnology Development Agency's Rose Gidado noted the GM varieties will complement organic and conventional farming**

**Announcement: U.N. Environment Programme announces African Ministerial Conference on the Environment from Sept. 17-21, with focus on how environmental challenges can be addressed by innovative solutions**

[More Africa items](#)

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**Asia**

**Commentary: Meena Menon writes for India's Mongabay, voices concern about loss of native cotton varieties, pointing to introduction of Bt cotton and recent widespread adoption of illegal varieties, calls for gov't action**

**Interview: India's Firstpost talks to Indian Statistical Institute professor about government's announcement of increase in minimum support prices of monsoon season crops in July 2018; she warns agriculture needs structural changes, says she supports scientific advances, calls GM outdated but says gene editing is next big thing**

**News: The Philippines' Sun Star reports on concerns that Golden Rice will be unaffordable for those who need it most amid ongoing increase in rice prices, Reynante Ordonio of Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) assured that the price will not be expensive compared to other rice varieties**

[More Asia items](#)

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**Europe**

**News: Innovation in Textiles reports on environmentalists' opposition to use of synbio fabrics, a new report by Fibershed California claims synbio fabrics will provide a false solution, and threaten ecosystems and livelihoods as part of the natural fiber production process**

**Commentary: German anti-GMO news site examines legal opinion by Berlin lawyer Cornelia Ziehm, published by anti-GMO NGO Testbiotech, arguing that products of genetic engineering should be taxed to finance precautionary and industry-independent risk research**

**News release: Germany's Testbiotech promotes new video on gene drive mosquitoes that it says goes beyond scientific knowledge, presents possible future scenario that shows potential risk of gene drive technology implemented outside laboratory conditions, raises ethical questions about responsibility for future generations**

**News release: Germany's Testbiotech promotes its new video showing how 'gene drive' works, designed**

**to change natural populations through genetic engineering, warns process outside of human control and can open up whole new dimension of risk, notes Burkina Faso has approved field trials of GE mosquitoes**

**Commentary: Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg professor Reinhard Szibor writes for local news outlet, examines implications of EU Court ruling on gene editing, notes it virtually excludes innovative technologies in Europe**

**News release: Italian farming group Associazione Luca Coscioni promotes news conference Sept. 18 in Rome to present first snack produced with CRISPR technology to ask Italian government how it will adapt legislation following EU Court of Justice's July ruling on mutagenesis techniques; NGO criticizes ruling's lack of clarity**

**News: Norway's Fri Tanke begins series on GMOs with focus on opinion of Biotechnology Council member Arne Holst-Jensen, Holst-Jensen argues that strict regulation of new gene editing techniques ensures that large players like Monsanto will continue to dominate**

**News: EurActiv reports on British gov't publication of fact sheets to help companies and institutions prepare for Brexit in the event that an agreement with Brussels is not reached, such an occurrence is not anticipated to impact current approach to GMOs**

[More Europe items](#)

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## Latin America

**Announcement: Ecuador's National Institute of Agricultural Research (INIAP), along with USDA and Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) recently held a workshop entitled "New Alternatives for Plant Breeding" from Sept. 4-5**

**News: Brazilian ag news outlet reports on decline in conventional soybean acreage, Institute Soja Livre analyst Eduardo Vaz estimates conventional will account for 10-12 percent of total area, down from 17.3 percent last harvest, those who grow GM soy spend less**

**News: Ecuador's El Universo reports on National Institute of Agricultural Research (INIAP) workshop where U.S. researcher Wayne Parrott of University of Georgia spoke about gene editing, he argued changes in DNA are common in nature without safety risks**

[More Latin America items](#)

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## Oceania

**News: Australia's Farm Weekly reports developments in genomics, decreasing cost of advancing genetic technology means significant potential upside for canola production in Western Australia; about 20 percent of canola being planted in state this year consists of GM Roundup Ready varieties**

**Campaign: Friends of the Earth Australia urges supporters to write to their State Ministers in opposition to deregulation of products of gene editing, pointing to potential health and environmental risks as well as trade disruption**

**Commentary: Friends of the Earth Australia claims Australians have been "betrayed" by their regulators, promoting its recent report claiming to demonstrate that CRISPR can lead to "genetic havoc" calls on supporters to contact their State Minister**

[More Oceania items](#)

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From: Jay Byrne  
 To: Caitrin.Martin@fas.usda.gov  
 Subject: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Sept. 17, 2018  
 Date: Monday, September 17, 2018 5:48:00 PM

## Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Caitrin,

A jury's recent \$289 million judgment for a California man over his claims that his glyphosate usage led to him contracting cancer has brought new attention to the International Agency for Research on Cancer classification that led to the lawsuit – and the activist groups that helped make the agency's ruling prominent.

This week's Favorable Outcomes includes a piece from Australian attorney Trent Thorne on the validity of IARC's assessment as well as pieces from Sara Snipes and Know Ideas Media that look at Environmental Working Group's claims that minuscule traces of glyphosate on such products as Cheerios could be harmful to consumers.

Other pieces examine calls for a "national conversation" in New Zealand about biotechnology, the use of taxpayer funds in California to boost activist campaigns against public university scientists and the fallout from the European Union's restrictions on neonics.

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: Global Alliance for the Future of Food



The Global Alliance for the Future of Food (GAFF) is a project of the U.S.-based New Venture Fund and a coalition of

### ■ Stories Worth Sharing

[Trent Thorne: Track record for International Agency for Research on Cancer "would put Chicken Little to shame"](#)

[New Zealand Herald: Former chief science adviser urges "national conversation" on GMOs](#)

[Cameron English: Washington State University professor explains how anti-GMO groups tried to "take me out"](#)

[Megan Poinski: Pro-GMO food companies find transparency is best for overcoming controversy, confusion among consumers](#)

[Bransford Owusu: African farmers need GMO seeds to "improve food security and reduce poverty"](#)

[Kevin Folta: University of California-San Francisco using taxpayer funding for "assault" on scientists](#)

[David Brown: With neonics unavailable, beetle causing "unprecedented degree of destruction" to oilseed rape crops](#)

[Vivian Fernandes: NGO's claims that lax oversight led to import of foods with GM material just "scaremongering"](#)

large U.S. and European Union foundations that are promoting the creation of pesticide- and GMO-banning agroecology policies with governments and international policy-setting entities, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

GAFF funds extreme anti-GMO advocacy groups that have supported the criminal destruction of biotech field trials and research, lobby to block establishment of biosafety regulations in emerging markets and undertake other aggressive political and litigation strategies to block and disparage the development of agricultural biotechnology tools.

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

**CLICK FOR MORE STAKEHOLDER PROFILES**

Sara Snipes: Glyphosate levels in Cheerios are safe as long as your cereal bowl isn't a five-gallon bucket [🔗](#)

Know Ideas Media: Environmental Working Group takes glyphosate fear-mongering to the "point of absurdity" [🔗](#)

**CLICK FOR BONUS EVENTUS MONITORING**

**What's Trending?**

United Nations special rapporteur claims worker exposure to chemicals, including pesticides, is "global health crisis"

More than 30 U.K. biotechnology stakeholders ask Defra to set up round table on regulation of gene editing

U.S. environmental groups seek to eliminate Farm Bill provision that would pre-empt local pesticide bans

French magazine Charlie Hebdo launches campaign for national ban on synthetic pesticides / Lawmakers resume talks on food bill

European Parliament approves committee report claiming pesticide regulation does not protect human health or the environment

**Calendar highlights**

September 17-21	September 18-21	September 18-19
Meeting of FAO's Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee	European Food Safety Authority scientific conference	European Commission Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed meeting on pesticide residues
September 19	September 19	September 20-23
Collaborative on Health and the Environment webinar on chemical exposures among pregnant women	Uganda Biotechnology and Biosafety Consortium annual meeting	New Scientist Live featuring gene editing discussion

**CLICK HERE TO ACCESS FULL EVENTS CALENDAR**

<p><b>Stakeholder database</b></p> <p>More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate</p>	<p><b>Monitoring portal</b></p> <p>Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.</p>	<p><b>Bonus Eventus community</b></p> <p>Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.</p>
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 Date: Sunday, September 16, 2018 9:03:26 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 responses to an open letter from biotech stakeholders to the U.K.'s Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). The South Australian government announced an economics professor will review the costs and benefits of the state's GMO moratorium.

- A Defra spokesman and an anti-biotech NGO responded to a letter from 32 scientific leaders requesting input on the U.K.'s biotech policy following Brexit. Defra released a statement that said the government will take a science-based approach to the issue, further noting its view is that gene-edited organisms should not be regulated as GMOs if DNA changes could have occurred naturally. GMWatch responded that the U.K. "would be insane to regulate gene-edited crops differently" than the EU because the EU will remain its biggest trade partner. The GMWatch article also claimed the letter authors "show their narrow and reductionist mindset" by equating innovation with "freedom to sneak hidden GMOs into our food supply." [See more](#)
- The South Australian government announced Kym Anderson, emeritus economics professor for the University of Adelaide, will conduct an independent study of the costs and benefits of the state's GMO moratorium. Australia's *In Daily* news site reported that Anderson is a "pro-GM researcher" who in 2014 told the publication there is no proof that GMOs pose health risks and that evidence is "pretty skimpy" the GM ban offers any marketing benefits. [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: Gates Foundation's agricultural development director Nick Austin blogs for Medium, says agricultural innovations helping farmers battle climate change](#)**

**[Commentary: Zen Honeycutt of Moms Across America criticizes Environmental Working Group's article stating that it is not necessary to throw out Cheerios, argues that no level of glyphosate is safe, linking it to a myriad of health disorders](#)**

**[News: Food Navigator reports DEFRA will consider exempting gene editing from EU's GMO regulations after Brexit; notes European Court of Justice extended GM restrictions to include gene editing](#)**

**[Commentary: University of Florida's Kevin Folta says University of California at San Francisco uses taxpayer money to attack scientists, follows U.S. Right to Know agenda intended to discredit public scientists who teach and support biotechnology; notes Gary Ruskin, Jonathan Latham teach sessions claiming scientists are "chemical-industry crooks"](#)**

**[Commentary: Baking industry news site warns labeling that requires disclosure of highly refined ingredients from GMO sources undermines consumer trust in safety of bioengineering](#)**

**[Commentary: Science teacher Stephan Neidenbach notes FBI document release shows the agency is investigating 2013 Jackson County GM crop destruction as a eco-terrorist act](#)**



**More North America items****Africa**

**News: Ghana News Agency reports during OFAB workshop, gov't official calls for reshaping messages on GM technology to help clear people's misconceptions regarding GMOs**

**News release: Food Sovereignty Ghana asks Food and Drugs Authority to require mandatory labeling for all GM food and feed, claims law requires labeling because there is a need for consumers to know if food is GMO and law requires labeling to be clear, concise**

**News: Nigerian press reports AFSA's Million Belay launches "Know Agroecology" media and NGO training initiatives; AFSA claims foreign corporate interests forcing unneeded GMOs and chemicals on African farmers using false narratives**

**More Africa items****Asia**

**News: The Hindu Business Line reports early onset of pink bollworm in cotton sparks alarm in Telangana state; experts cite late picking, infestation in stocks held by ginning mills as keys to problem; cotton farmers, ag officials had anticipated bollworm attack would come in November and December as pest developed resistance to Bollgard-II**

**News: Vietnamese news site reports National Assembly delegates working on draft law for farming say the law should clarify advanced technology use for cultivation**

**News: Vietnamese newspaper reports deputy director of science and technology warned members of National Assembly committee imported crops carry genes from exotic species which could destroy indigenous species**

**More Asia items****Europe**

**News: Germany's Legal Tribune amplifies Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung editorial criticizing the EU court's decision on gene editing, saying new breeding techniques can be regarded as conventional, and adds that EU genetic engineering law needs to adapt to scientific reality**

**News: U.K.'s Farmers Guardian reports new research led by University of Cambridge finds organic farming systems may have greater environmental costs per unit of food than "high-yield" conventional farming; more intensive agriculture uses less land, may produce fewer pollutants, cause less soil loss, consume less water**

**News: The Guardian reports study says Europe's farming sector exceeds safe bounds for greenhouse gas, nutrient flows, biodiversity loss, study's author endorses Greenpeace plan to cut meat, dairy production 50 percent by 2050**

**Commentary: IFOAM applauds EU court ruling on NBTs, claim risks to environmental, human health have not been established; warns ruling will bring increased pressure from biotech lobby**

**Report: Health and Environment Alliance posts statement on behalf of #StopGlyphosate ECI calling for EC to amend proposal ensuring industry studies on products such as pesticides, GMOs are published allowing independent examination of health, environmental impacts, preserving citizens' rights**

**Commentary: Europe seed notes science is under attack, as any scientists who cooperate with industry or find research agrees with agribusiness are branded as "shills," and even universities turn against their own scientists; challenges universities, media, scientists to speak up for science**

**More Europe items**

## Latin America

**Interview: Colombian agricultural news site questions Nobel laureate Richard Roberts on advantages of GM crops, Roberts says GM crops have same impact on environment as conventional crops, can be made more nutritious, do not end local varieties**

**News: Latin American Center for Research, Innovation and Agrarian Development writing on Argentinian news site warns individual countries must decide how to manage biotechnology to take advantage of improved food security while reducing environmental pressures, economic costs**

**News: Brazilian news site reports area for cultivating non-GM soy continues to shrink in Brazil as market niches in Europe, Asia decrease year after year**

**[More Latin America items](#)**

## Oceania

**Announcement: South Australia gov't announces independent review of the state's GMO moratorium is underway; notes University of Adelaide's Kym Anderson, emeritus economics professor, will perform the review, which will not consider health or environmental impacts**

**News: South Australia news site reports professor assigned to review SA's GM moratorium is "pro-GM," has established views on GMO safety, sees little economic benefit in GMO ban**

**[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 U.K. research groups asking the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to initiate a discussion on gene editing. An Italian professor called attention to a study that indicates organic fruit growers and the environment would benefit from using GM fruit trees. New Zealand's former chief science adviser said if his country is serious about fighting global warming, it should reconsider its rejection of GMOs.

- The U.K.'s John Innes Centre joined 32 other organizations in signing a letter to Defra calling for a round-table discussion with stakeholders on plotting a way forward for research and new plant breeding techniques following an EU court decision that would govern them under the GMO Directive. The letter notes the groups believe significant questions must be addressed if the U.K. is to use innovation to boost plant productivity and meet health and environmental protection challenges. [See more](#)
- The produce news site *Fresh Plaza* reported University of Bologna professor Luca Corelli Grappadelli said a Swiss study indicates it would be better for organic fruit growers to use GM trees resistant to pests than to use pesticides containing copper or sulfur. Grappadelli said the study by Urs Niggli found the GM trees had less impact on the environment than those that used the natural pesticides and were more profitable due to lower cultivation costs. [See more](#)
- *The New Zealand Herald* reported former chief scientist Peter Gluckman said the best way for New Zealand to combat global warming is to use biotechnology. He pointed out that using GM ryegrass would drastically cut methane production by the country's livestock industry. When a reporter expressed doubt people would want to consume products from a cow grazing on GM grass, Gluckman pointed out people around the world already eat meat and drink milk from cows that eat GM feed. [See more](#)

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

## North America

**News: Washington Post reports struggle between traditional meat industry and lab-grown meat producers over what to call products, both sides turn to and seek to influence regulators; says Missouri meat labeling law is attempt to "preempt regulators"**

**News: Food news site reports producers of "lab-grown" meat announced plans to form trade association and to call product "cell-based meat" at Good Food Conference**

**Commentary: Tanzanian journalist writes for Cornell Alliance for Science, says Alliance for Science Fellows learning science of biotechnology; scientists, journalists, other stakeholders will be able to communicate issues more clearly**

[More North America items](#)

## Africa

**Commentary: Farmer writes for Modern Ghana news site, says activists scare people about GMOs, but they agencies around the world confirm GMOs as safe, help feed people, cut costs and improve farmers' income**

**Commentary: Zimbabwean new site writer says meeting between President Mnangagwa and CIMMYT director demonstrates political will for ag research the country has sorely lacked as it missed out on new technologies that could increase agricultural yields, enhance food security, keep skilled researchers from leaving the country**

**Announcement: Nigeria's National Biosafety Management Agency director says safe biotechnology will drive country's economic diversification, says during National Biosafety Conference that Nigeria cannot afford to be bogged down by fear**

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

**News: Chinese site reports China to buy more Russian soy due to U.S. trade war; China plans to invest in Russian ag, increase soy acreage, but officials say it won't replace U.S. soy due to limited production capacity, transportation issues; expert says Russia's non-GMO variety**

**News: Press Trust of India reports China seeks to buy soy from Indian state of Maharashtra, official claims state's non-GMO soy is in high demand**

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**News: Fresh Plaza reports University of Bologna professor says organic fruit farmers are better off using GM trees and crops resistant to disease than to use copper or sulfur treatments that leave residues, notes agreement with study by Urs Niggli, which he says was ignored because it goes against current dogmas, preconceptions**

**News: Swiss university ETH Zurich professor argues that Switzerland needs new, effective breeding methods to help agriculture become more environmentally friendly, says Swiss Food Sovereignty Initiatives would set country back to 19th century agricultural standards**

**News: Veterinarian and biologist notes farm yield increases since 1930 are results due to increased technology use without fanfare, but GMOs have been regulated and approved but mostly produced by large corporations, notes EU court ruled foods produced via mutagenesis must be assessed as GMOs**

**Commentary: Spanish news site columnist notes biotech supporter and researcher Jose Miguel Mulet collaborated with CropDesign on patents bought by BASF, points out Mulet is one of few in Spain who defended Monsanto regarding its lawsuit brought by man who claimed Roundup pesticide caused his cancer**

**Announcement: Spain's science academy, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, announces the release the book "Cultivos Transgenicos" by Molecular and Cellular Biology of Plants research professor Jose Pio Beltran explaining what GM crops are, how they are made, how they have improved crops, and what the future holds for biotech**

[More Europe items](#)

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## Latin America

**News: AgroNews reports Brazilian judge's order suspending sale and use of glyphosate, despite being overturned in September, could mean soybean producers face difficulties controlling weed infestations in next crop season; Rabobank forecasts small impact on pace of Brazil's soybean acreage expansion for next season**

**News: Mexican news site reports university researcher speaks at science museum on "Why am I afraid of transgenics," notes all technologies have risks but says it's irresponsible to judge whether they are good or bad**

**More Latin America items**

## Oceania

**News: New Zealand Herald reports former Chief Scientist Peter Gluckman says if country is serious about fighting climate change, it must consider using improved products such as GM ryegrass; says refusal to accept GMOs more values-based than science-based**

**News: New Zealand-based blog notes Agriculture Minister Damian O'Connor's speech touched on food's impact on environment, need for more production, but failed to mention Peter Gluckman's point that country must rescind GMO moratorium because biotech is most promising technology to achieve those goals**

**Commentary: Australian Academy of Science notes leaders developed vision for Australia's ag research and innovation, among priorities are reforming regulatory environment for emerging technologies, building trust between ag research, innovative companies and the community**

**More Oceania items**

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 Subject: Global Biotech Snapshot - Sept. 12, 2018  
 Date: Wednesday, September 12, 2018 9 01:31 PM

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## Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

### BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included a South Australian MP's announcement that the region had launched a review of its GMO moratorium.

- South Australia's Legislative Council announced that the Select Committee on the moratorium for GM crop cultivation has convened and will accept submissions and offers of testimony until Oct. 19. Details on the committee were limited, but a separate announcement indicated that the report is expected in early December. **See more**
- Friends of the Earth and Logos Environmental released a joint report claiming that gene editing in agriculture risks significant off-target genetic effects. Activist Janet Cotter had previously been active on the issue in January 2016, when she published several articles on activist websites such as GMWatch and Beyond GM. **See more**
- European NGOs previewed events for the final week of September, including the upcoming International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements' **European Organic Congress** (Sept. 25-26) and an event by science advocacy group Associazione Luca Coscioni (Sept. 23) urging clarity on gene-editing regulations. **See more**

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## North America

**News: Politico reports USDA plans to release final GM labeling rule by Dec. 1, agency wants to coordinate with FDA's nutrition label rules so companies have to change labels just once**

**News release: Friends of the Earth and Logos Environmental release report claiming gene-edited projects present hazards to human health and the environment through "unexpected consequences;" says gene drives also could have far-reaching negative effects**

**Commentary: Blogger for Bulletproof diet site warns readers about health and environmental risks associated with GMOs and glyphosate, encourages readers to buy organic, amplifies claims made by IRT's Jeffrey Smith**

**News: Canadian health news site reports AquaBounty refuses to disclose its customers, quotes policy analyst at Center for Food Safety who claims GE salmon is potentially hazardous to health; adds U.S. FDA blocking import of GE salmon eggs until labeling law takes effect**

**Commentary: Food Dive amplifies Bloomberg piece on increasing interest in "free from" labels, impact on manufacturers, asserts investments in "free from" foods likely to pay off, noting study suggesting consumers believe such products are more natural, healthier**

**News: Law360 reports on Kind LLC's request that New York federal court pause multidistrict litigation alleging its products are mislabeled as "non-GMO" and "all natural," arguing that the consumers' claims are without factual basis (subscription required)**

**News release: U.N.'s Convention on Biological Diversity releases statement by Executive Secretary Cristiana Pasca Palmer on Cartagena Protocol's 15th anniversary**

**More North America items**

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## Africa

**Commentary: Science writer Lominda Afedraru writes for Cornell Alliance for Science, notes influential traditional leader praises agricultural biotech, says it can greatly increase yields, note availability of GM banana, coffee, maize, potato crops resistant to devastating diseases delayed by biosafety bill debate**

**Report: African Centre for Biodiversity publishes report following Southern African Development Community (SADC) People's Summit, which ACB co-hosted with Rural Women's Assembly, where attendees spoke out on farm input subsidy programmes**

**Commentary: Peter Koenig writes for New Eastern Outlook, argues Ethiopia provides a case study in takeover by Western interests, warns about potential for land-grabbing with long-term GMO contracts, claims it contributes to debt, environmental degradation and poor health**

**More Africa items**

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## Asia

**News: Pakistan news site reports Lahore High Court refers petition challenging 2015 seed law to newly-inducted provincial government to see if it wishes to make changes to the law**

**News: Tehran Times reports biotech development center says Iran will develop "technological roadmap" for food products, especially regarding genetic engineering and GMOs**

**More Asia items**

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## Europe

**Announcement: IFOAM-EU announces 12th European Organic Congress in Vienna, Austria (Sept. 25-26), promotes excursion to visit selected organic farms and companies in Lower Austria, provides links to registration and other information**

**Announcement: Italian farming group, Associazione Luca Coscioni criticizes EU court's ruling on gene editing as lacking clarity; the association announces it will present a gene-edited food at a press conference on Sept. 18; wants Italian government to clarify how it will interpret the EU court's ruling**

**News: Norwegian news agency reports no evidence indicates GMO foods present danger, contradicts post by Norwegian physician that claimed GMOs present health hazards; notes post was removed after being criticized by scientists**

**Event: Good Food Good Farming NGO promotes European Days of Action Oct. 27-28 with events throughout Europe with a goal of stopping industrial agriculture and in favor of small farmers, environmental protection, climate change mitigation, healthy food**

**More Europe items**

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## Latin America

**News: Mexican agricultural news site reports peasant, indigenous, African-American NGO leaders ask Enrique Pena Nieto government not to sign NAFTA until new government reviews and submits comments on agricultural section**

**News: Mexican news site reports bar association joins Mayans in opposing GM soy cultivation due to effect on the indigenous community's honey production and marketing, will provide free legal advice**

**News: Mexican news site reports Bar Association of Campeche announced it would join the Mayan community in their struggle against GMO cultivation to help protect the environment**



**News: Open Democracy reports Paraguayan women fighting to preserve native seeds, teach agro-ecology, oppose rise of industrial agriculture**

**News: Cuban news site reports Totoncapán residents block roads into the city to demand continuation of anti-corruption commission, oppose the seed law and use of GMOs**

**News: Guatemalan TV news sites report 48 cantons of Totoncapán protesting governor's decisions block access into the city to protest transgenic use, dissolution of anti-corruption commission, rising electric rates, other gov't decisions**

**News: Agencia EFE reports Agroconsult survey funded by Biotechnology Information Council finds that over 20 years, GM crops increased yields, reduced pesticide use in Brazil; notes that despite increased pesticide use, without GMOs the use would be much greater**

**More Latin America items**

## Oceania

**Announcement: South Australia MP and Green Party member Mel Parnell announces Select Committee on Moratorium for GMO cultivation in South Australia will accept submissions from the public until Oct. 19; cultivation review report to be discussed Dec. 5**

**News: New Zealand Herald reports rancher Andy Thompson criticizes Productivity Commission report saying it's light on innovation, technology; says NZ needs debate on GMOs as farmers being asked to fight climate change at a disadvantage**

**Commentary: Politik reporter says research shows GM ryegrass dramatically cuts livestock's methane production, Chief Scientist Peter Gluckman calls for debate, but politicians reluctant to discuss the issue**

**More Oceania items**

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

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## Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

### BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Today's global biotechnology developments included a statement from peasant groups in Guatemala who linked ongoing anti-corruption protests to other policies, such as GM crop use. In the U.S., media outlets amplified responses to the Good Food Institute's recent conference.

- Anti-corruption protests targeting Guatemala's president, Jimmy Morales, took a new turn today when indigenous groups from Totonicapán joined in efforts to block roads around the region. In statements to the media, the groups linked the government's decision to dismantle an anti-competition agency to other business-friendly policies, including the use of GM crops. [See more](#)
- U.S. media outlets reported on last week's Good Food Institute conference, where business leaders in synthetic biology and agriculture highlighted the need to reduce the climate impact of traditional food production. Several news outlets reported on a presentation from synthetic meat company Impossible Foods, noting ongoing questions about the regulation and labeling of new lab-grown proteins. [See more](#)
- Canadian agriculture professor and science communicator Stuart Symth announced he would be touring Australia this week (Sept. 11-14) to discuss the future regulation of new plant breeding technologies. [See more](#)

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## North America

**News: Food Dive reports on recent Good Food Institute conference where expert panelists promoted plant-based and lab-grown meat alternatives as necessary to save the planet, Environmental Working Group's Scott Faber called on companies to ensure transparency**

**Commentary: Catherine Lamb writes for The Spoon, examining recent Good Food Conference with focus on "clean meat" companies decision to abandon the term in favor of "cell-based" meat, wonders if the name change is a good idea or even necessary**

**Commentary: Barb Stuckey of Silicon Valley food innovation and development firm Mattson writes for Forbes, recounts recent Clean Meat Conference hosted by Good Food Institute, voices concern that regulations could impede "clean meat" from reaching the market**

**News release: FDA announces joint public meeting on use of animal cell cultured technology to develop products derived from livestock and poultry, Oct. 23-24**

**News release: National Cattlemen's Beef Association applauds USDA's involvement in regulating lab-grown fake meat in response to news that FDA, USDA holding meeting on use of animal cell culture technology**

**News: Food Dive reports on several companies that actively promote their use of GMOs to provide consumers with transparency, highlighting strategies employed by Okanagan Specialty Fruits in marketing the Arctic Apple, and by meal replacement company Soylent**

**Commentary: The Hill runs op-ed co-written by Columbia University professor of medicine, CEO of Partnership for a Healthier America arguing many 'superfoods' overpriced, unnecessary, asserting all fruits and vegetables are 'superfoods,' whether organic, GMO or conventional, can improve health**

**Commentary: The Motley Fool's Simon Erickson discusses what investors need to know about synthetic biology, says falling costs of genomic sequencing sparking exponential growth, synbio could become next IT industry, interviews Ginkgo Bioworks' chief commercial officer about fast-growing field**

**Commentary: Medium contributor cites passing of Argentine anti-pesticide activist Fabián Tomasi, whose death was blamed on glyphosate exposure, notes prevalence of glyphosate use on South American soy crops that dispels myth of GM crops decreasing need for pesticides**

**News release: Organic and Non-GMO Forum announces Matthew Dillon, senior director of agricultural policy and programs for Clif Bar, to be keynote speaker at event set for Oct. 29 and 30 in St. Louis; topics to be covered at forum include fraud, regulations, certifications, producers' perspectives**

[More North America items](#)

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## Africa

**Commentary: Agri-Pulse runs op-ed co-written by Illinois congressman, University of Illinois professor touting university's work to improve food systems, singling out Soybean Innovation Lab that uses biotechnology to improve entire soybean value chain in Sub-Saharan Africa**

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

**News: Chinese news outlet reports on Chinese feed producer firm Dabeinong Technology's plans to introduce GM soybeans to Argentina, with hopes of large-scale commercialization leading to import permissions to sell it back in China**

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**Announcement: Norway's Biotechnology Council announces two upcoming meetings, one with focus on GMOs in Africa (Oct. 16), the other to present Biotechnology Council's final proposal for new GMO regulation in Norway (Dec. 4)**

**Announcement: Belgium's Public Health agency announces it will control and monitor Flemish Institute for Biotechnology's (VIB) CRISPR maize field trials in light of recent EU Court ruling on gene editing, to guarantee safety for humans and the environment**

**News: Switzerland's Bilan reports on the popular initiative for Food Sovereignty up for vote on Sept. 23, which aims to constitutionalize the Swiss GMO moratorium, arguing that Switzerland can meet its animal feed needs with non-GM corn and soybean imports**

**News: Germany's Volkstimme reports on farmers' struggles to cope with drought conditions, Farmers' Association president Olaf Feuerborn called for more openness for use of CRISPR to quickly breed drought-resistant crop varieties**

**News release: German Federation of Organic Food Industry (BÖLW) responds to criticism following EU Court's ruling to regulate products of gene editing as GMOs, Chairman Felix Prinz zu Löwenstein argued attacks on the judges are "indecent" and misunderstand the decision**

[More Europe items](#)

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## Latin America

**News: Guatemala's Plaza Publica reports on large protests against President Jimmy Morales and his**

**decision against renewing the mandate of the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG), 48 Cantones de Totonicapán also voiced opposition to GM crops**

**News: Guatemala's Emisoras Unidas reports on planned protests by Board of Directors of the 48 cantons of Totonicapán, demanding withdrawal of President Jimmy Morales' immunity, and opposing GMOs, issuing call for consultations with indigenous communities**

**News: Mexican news outlet reports on common front formed by 16 municipal authorities of the Sierra Juárez to defend Zapotec territory against megaprojects, criticizing state and federal gov't for failing to address contamination of native maize by transgenics**

**News: Mexico's La Jornada reports on opposition to NAFTA renegotiations by Convergence of Social and Citizen Organizations Mexico better without FTAs, which argues Mexico agreed to "unprecedented" standards in ag biotech and "excessive" intellectual property protections**

**[More Latin America items](#)**

## Oceania

**Announcement: Canadian ag research blog space Sustainable Agricultural Innovations and Food (SAIFood) announces author and University of Saskatchewan professor Stuart Symth's visit to Australia to meet with regulators and other stakeholders about gene editing**

**News: New Zealand's Business Desk reports Peter Gluckman called for reconsideration of the GMO moratorium to provide access to innovative techniques capable of reducing agricultural emissions, writing in his final report as Chief Science Advisor**

**News: Feed Navigator reports USDA approves cultivation of Nuseed's omega-3 generating canola variety, already approved for cultivation, food and feed use in Australia; FDA approval for food and feed use expected prior to 2019 cropping period; 15,000 acres of canola to be harvested in Montana this year**

**[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 Mexico's future head of Conacyt will increase focus on socio-economic effects of science policies. An embargoed activist report plans to target gene editing, claiming the technology has significant off-target effects.

- Mexican news outlets reported on a statement from the future head of Mexico's Council of Science and Technology (Conacyt), María Elena Álvarez-Buylla, who said that the agency will be renamed to include "Humanities" in its title. She highlighted the future administration's plans to incorporate ethics and social welfare into its science policy decisions. Álvarez-Buylla is known for her activism for food sovereignty and against GM maize. **See more**
- In an embargoed summary of a report scheduled for release on Wednesday (Sept. 12), Friends of the Earth and Logos Environmental claim that gene editing must be closely regulated in light of recent studies showing potential off-target changes in DNA. The groups argue that alternatives to gene editing are safer and more effective. **See more**

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## North America

**[Commentary: Writing for Medium, FoodShed.io explains what organic certification "really means," says organics are marketed as more nutritious, safer, but claims are not supported by most evidence, real benefit of organics is in environmental effects](#)**

**[Commentary: Non-GMO Project lifestyle site notes partnership with Nutrigold to bring facts about GMOs in vitamins and supplements to light, publishes marketing one-pager featuring claims about GMOs found in food, risk claims](#)**

**[Event: The Food Institute highlights U.S. Food Labeling Seminar co-hosted with OFW Law featuring discussions on GE labeling and "non-GMO" claims, debating "healthy" claims, class action litigation trends; Newark, New Jersey, Nov. 7](#)**

**[Letter to the editor: Fyodor Urnov, Pamela Ronald and Dana Carroll of UC Berkeley write letter to Nature Biotechnology, explaining why EU Court's ruling on gene editing is not science-based, pointing to safe history of traditional GM methods, supporting call for immediate review of the ruling](#)**

**[Report: EMBARGOED \(09/12\) Friends of the Earth and Logos Environmental publish report on gene editing, pointing to studies demonstrating potential for off-target effects and subsequent health and environmental risks, arguing for new regulations and promotion of alternatives](#)**

**[More North America items](#)**

## Africa

**Commentary: Abraham Isah of Nigerian Journal of Biotechnology writes for Genetic Literacy Project, praises Nigeria's recent commercialization of its first GM crop, criticizes spread of false information by anti-GMO groups, calls for continued public education**

**News: Nigeria's Independent reports on Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology Country Coordinator Rose Gidado's statement about plans to train farmers on how to ensure high yields with Bt cotton, described anti-GMO activists as "enemies of progress"**

**Report: African Centre for Biodiversity publishes report critiquing the Arusha Protocol for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, argues its purpose is to coerce African countries into joining UPOV 1991, adding restrictions to seed systems and laws**

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

**News: China's Global Times reports on likely approval of Da Bei Nong Group's GM soybean for commercial cultivation in Argentina, potentially benefiting China amidst ongoing trade war with the U.S.**

**Commentary: Vivian Fernandes of Smart Indian Agriculture writes for Financial Express, argues Center for Science and Environment's recent study is incorrect, notes GEAC is empowered to regulate imports of GM food into the country**

**News: The Times of India reports Maharashtra state Agriculture Department is making strong push for homemade neem-based pesticides to deal with pink bollworm hitting cotton fields for third year in row, notes officials also hope neem-based herbicides will prevent farmer deaths vis inhalation**

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**News release: Swiss News Outlet SRF announces its TV Program Kassensturz will explore the Federal Council's expected decision on gene editing, highlights scientists' views that it provides new ways to protect crops, while critics warn about unknown risks**

**Commentary: Portugal's Sapo profiles actress Gwyneth Paltrow's lifestyle brand, Goop, and its dubious claims about health and products, notes other celebrities also spread health myths, including Dr. Oz, who has claimed transgenic foods were harmful to health**

**News release: European GMO-Free Regions NETWORK announces declaration adopted at 9th European Conference of GMO-free Regions in Berlin, welcomes EU Court ruling on products of gene editing, calls for an international register of all GMOs worldwide**

**News: Austrian news agency reports on ETH Zurich's greenhouse trials of GM CRISPR cassava in Nigeria, highlights significant improvement in efficiency in the breeding process, as well as negative campaign by Swissaid**

**News release: German MEP Klaus Buchner calls for end to use of antibiotics in factory farming, claiming antibiotic resistance causing more people to die from infections; politician calls for organic farming, move away from monocultures, agrochemicals and genetic engineering**

[More Europe items](#)

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## Latin America

**News: Argentina's La Nacion reports executive director of Argenbio touts experimental biotech developments in laboratory and field, regulatory process or commercial pre-launch stages, including soybeans with characteristics related to weed control and products with improvements in quality**

**News: Mexican news source claims Sagarpa wants to force farmers in drought-stricken regions of country to adopt transgenic corn, sorghum and cotton; regional leader of peasants union says farmers won't allow Sagarpa to take advantage of drought crisis to impose GM crops**



**News: Mexico's Sin Embargo reports experts agree corn sacred to Mexicans, central to their diet and economy; article asserts Mexicans consume transgenic corn through imports of food products, links GM corn to health problems such as obesity, diabetes**

**News: Mexican newspaper reports Nobel Prize-winner in chemistry participates in Hay Festival Queretaro 2018, says science education needed for everyone; Venki Ramakrishnan calls for acting responsibly on research and experiments related to transgenics, cloning**

**News: Mexico's El Norte reports government of President-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador will rename National Council of Sciences and Technologies to add word 'Humanities,' with agency to be run by UNAM biologist and researcher known for activism in favor of food sovereignty and against transgenics**

**Interview: Brazil's Diario do Amapa talks to former Greenpeace director Patrick Moore, now a critic of group he calls 'leftist faction,' citing 'irrationality' of NGO's position on genetic engineering; he cites no evidence GMOs cause harm, but they have environmental, health benefits**

**More Latin America items**

## Oceania

**News: New Zealand Herald reports on local debate about glyphosate following recent verdict against Monsanto in California, GE-Free NZ Hawke's Bay spokesman Adrian White argued there is an economic advantage to New Zealand removing glyphosate**

**More Oceania items**

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## Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

This week's Favorable Outcomes features several articles highlighting the repercussions of allowing judges and juries to decide which science is valid.

Anthony King, writing in *Chemistry World*, examines how a European court's ruling could set crop biotechnology back "for a decade" in the region and cause scientists to relocate. Ashleigh Morse, a UCLA behavioral neuroscientist, explains why she thinks juries should never be expected to make decisions based on science they may not understand - as in the recent California glyphosate cancer lawsuit.

Other pieces take a closer look at myths about organic foods, the science and rhetoric behind agroecology and a European Food Safety Authority idea to include values, as well as facts, in the risk assessment process.

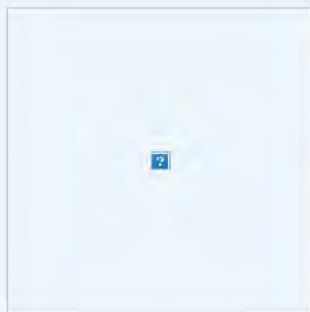
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### In This Issue

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

### Stakeholder Spotlight: ClientEarth



Nonprofit environmental law organization ClientEarth recently rejected the European Commission's view that current regulation governing endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDC) is sufficient, arguing blatant gaps

### Stories Worth Sharing

[April Benschosan: Organic food myths include nutritional and environmental benefits](#)

[Anthony King: European court ruling on CRISPR could have "profound" negative impact on European research opportunities](#)

[Andrew Porterfield: Agroecology shifting from "pure science to political movement"](#)

[Adam Morey: Time to put "truth above panic" as many scientists and health officials disagree with glyphosate cancer verdict](#)

[Ashleigh Morse: Glyphosate case latest proof "juries should never make judgements about scientific questions"](#)

[Giovanni Tagliabue and Henry Miller: "Logically and scientifically dubious" for EFSA to base assessments on anything but facts](#)

[John Agaba: Ugandan agriculture researchers frustrated as government stymies efforts to fight hunger](#)

[Peter van Voorhis: Glyphosate verdict based on "shaky evidence" causing rash decisions by consumers and governments](#)

still exist.

It also criticized the commission's "glowing" evaluation of its own work regulating EDCs, suggesting there have been undue delays and illegal criteria.

Late last month, ClientEarth published an analysis pointing out the European Commission's proposal to reform the General Food Law would allow manufacturers to redact information from pesticide safety studies, "making their publication meaningless." It called on the European Parliament and the European Council, both now considering the commission's proposal, to make amendments.

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

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Ed White: Canadian potato farmers worried about impact of proposed neonic ban [🔗](#)

Amanda Zaluckyj: Negative campaigns make public think modern agriculture is bad [🔗](#)

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**What's Trending?**

Canadian NGO Environmental Defence latest to raise concerns about glyphosate contamination of food

CropLife-commissioned report finds European approach to biotech, crop protection puts farmers at disadvantage

Anti-biotechnology groups gear up for Switzerland food sovereignty vote

Reacting to cancer verdict, Vietnam plant protection department seeks ban on glyphosate, chlorpyrifos and fipronil

French pesticide opponents seek to expand ban of five neonics to include sulfoxaflor, flupyradifurone

**Calendar highlights**

September 10-28	September 11	September 13
United Nations Human Rights Council session	GM food and feed discussion at European Commission committee meeting	University of California San Francisco panel on "Poison Papers" and U.S. Right to Know documents
September 15-17	September 16-19	September 16-17
South Asia Biosafety Conference	Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry Asia-Pacific 2018 Conference	COLOSS conference on bee losses

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

<p><b>Stakeholder database</b></p> <p>More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate</p>	<p><b>Monitoring portal</b></p> <p>Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.</p>	<p><b>Bonus Eventus community</b></p> <p>Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.</p>
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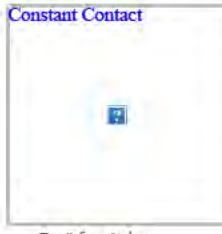
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## Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

### BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included discussion on a Swiss initiative that would ban GMOs. French and Italian news sites questioned Burkina Faso's decision to release GM mosquitoes.

- Stakeholders commented on the Swiss food sovereignty and fair food initiatives on the Sept. 23 ballot that would prohibit genetic engineering, establish state-controlled agriculture, require restrictions on imported food and move toward a planned economy rather than a market-based economy. A news release from anti-biotech NGO La Via Campesina claimed the proposals would protect the country from dependence on large agribusinesses that accelerate climate change. The Swiss Free Democratic Party opposes the initiative, arguing it would create unnecessary bureaucracy and are potentially harmful for consumers and the agricultural sector. **See more**
- European news reports criticized Burkina Faso's decision to release GM mosquitoes in an effort to eradicate malaria. French news site *Express* called it a "high-risk operation" and a potential "Pandora's Box." Italian news site *il Giornale* noted 445,000 people died of malaria in Africa and most were children. It also quoted a *Futurism* article calling the operation very risky due to potential unforeseen circumstances. It also said due to the high number of deaths due to malaria, the risk could be worth the reward. **See more**

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## North America

**Commentary: University of Alberta's Devang Mehta writes for Massive Science, says CRISPR can benefit wide variety of people, including his group's study to help poor and small farmers by modifying cassava to produce starch highly valued in textile and food industries**

**Commentary: Gerald Pilger of Canada's Country Guide says GMO crops have limited export opportunities while misuse, overuse of pesticides has stained Canada's reputation as supplier of premium agricultural products**

**News: Bloomberg reports GMO crops have contributed to loss in crop diversity on farms, shift in growing patterns with more soybeans grown, less wheat**

**News release: American Farmer TV series to focus on consumer demand for transparency in food production with segment on Food Chain ID, pioneer in non-GMO certification,**

**News: Environmental Technology reports on study in journal Science predicting crop losses due to pests will significantly increase with climate change, co-author Scott Merrill called for a more integrated strategy, highlights recommended switch to biological pesticides**

**News: Bloomberg reports "free-from" claims on foods drive sales and are changing food production, even changing livestock feed; notes increasing demand for foods free from gluten, antibiotics, pesticides or GMOs**

**News: CBC reports Canadian Biotechnology Action Network calling for government labeling law for GM**

**food after maker of GM salmon says company sold 4.5 tonnes this year, but refuses to name buyers**

**More North America items**

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## Africa

**News: Uganda's New Vision reports country's MPs are lobbying for biosafety bill to be retabled; NGOs call for policy to be amended or withdrawn, believing current form will expose Uganda to GMOs fronted by foreign interests**

**Commentary: Editorial in Uganda's New Vision voices disappointment in government inaction on biosafety bill since president tabled policy, says country is less safe without law in place**

**News: Uganda's New Vision reports Parliament sci-tech committee chair suggests conservative scientists are reason for delay in vote/passage of country's biosafety bill**

**News: Africa Independent Television reports that anti-GMO, agroecology-promoting NGO ActionAid Nigeria concerned about ongoing declines in agricultural yields they link to climate change; seeks greater private sector involvement**

**More Africa items**

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## Asia

**Commentary: Farmers union representative writing for western India news site laments calls for glyphosate ban in response to verdict in Monsanto lawsuit, stresses importance of pesticides, cites glyphosate as most "eco-friendly" of all options, suggests push for ban spurred by anti-GMO sentiment**

**Study: Chinese study on transgenic glyphosate-tolerant plants claims when the GM plan overproduces EPSPS, it can lead to increased competitiveness of crop-wild hybrids and an unpredictable impact on the environment**

**News: Jakarta Globe reports Indonesian agricultural official says Indonesia should adopt GM crops to address food security issues; notes politicians shy away from approving GMOs as staple foods**

**Commentary: South Korean news site contributor says animals bred using CRISPR technique should be regulated as GMOs, claims there still are debates regarding whether GMOs are harmful**

**More Asia items**

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## Europe

**News: German radio news site reporter says EU court decision on gene editing makes useful technology useless, makes EU look ridiculous because the technology could produce useful crops such as drought-tolerant wheat and it's been successfully used for decades**

**News: Swiss news site reports Swiss NGOs challenge GM cassava field tests in Nigeria, claim the tests would be performed "without sufficient impact study"**

**Commentary: Inf'OGM criticizes cassava field trials in Nigeria, notes Swissaid and Nigerian NGO, says standards for testing are lower in Nigeria than in EU**

**Report: Innovative Genomics Institute researchers say science-based review needed on European Court of Justice decision to regulate gene-edited crops as GMOs**

**News: Italian news site reports Argentina's increase in transgenic soybean raised strictly for export has increased use of pesticides, threats to health, biodiversity, notes "massive traces" of glyphosate, chlorpyrifos, atrazine in blood of people with tumors**

**More Europe items**

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## Latin America

**News: Agencia EFE reports Nobel laureate Richard Roberts accuses biotech critics of spreading lies, fear about GMOs; says they do not harm children or cause cancer**

**Commentary: Biodiversidad en America Latina y el Caribe criticizes Argentina's proposed seed law changes, says it reduces farmers' rights to save seed, puts control of seeds into corporate hands; says proposal is step backward for acquired rights and food sovereignty**

**News: Brazil's AgroLink reports agricultural consultant's study concludes GM crop cultivation beneficial to environment by reducing pesticide, fuel use, curtailing deforestation by producing higher yields on less land**

[More Latin America items](#)

## Oceania

**Commentary: South Australia MP Eddie Hughes writes he's gotten feedback on GM crops that he wants to "initiate the discussion" on GMOs and guide policy based on science, financial benefits assessment**

**News: The West Australian reports CSIRO has produced GM canola rich in omega-3 fatty acids that will be marketed as aquaculture feed; notes USDA approved canola for cultivation, still awaiting OK from FDA**

**News: Australian news site reports many believe organic food is healthier, but no studies have proven organics to be healthier; professor says lack of pesticide means organic products healthier, but that theory is untested; questions if paying more for certified organic is waste of money**

[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 Germany's agriculture minister expressing interest in continued debate on CRISPR and other gene-editing techniques. The U.S. Department of Agriculture sent the final rules on GMO labeling to the federal Office of Management and Budget.

- *Reuters* reported that German Minister of Agriculture Julia Klockner said she wants further debate on gene-editing methods in the country because they could help solve many agricultural problems. Klockner said the breeding techniques could help breed drought-resistant plants. German Social Democratic Party and Green Party spokesmen criticized Klockner for supporting gene editing and noted the EU Court of Justice decision was clear on the matter. SPD spokesman Matthias Miersch said Klockner should submit a bill prohibiting GM plant cultivation. **See more**

- *Brownfield Ag News* reported the USDA sent its final rules to OMB for a 90-day review period, although the period can be extended. The revised rules were sent less than two months after the comment period closed. The development was also mentioned in *Politico's* Morning Ag roundup. **See more**

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

## North America

**Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science posts Mark Lynas blog touting French scientist's conclusion that extensive review of scientific literature shows genetic engineering less disruptive of crop genetics than conventional breeding, finds no evidence more food safety testing, regulations necessary for GE crop varieties**

**Commentary: IFOAM - Organics International blogger pushes to spend public money on buying organic goods to raise awareness, give community access to "nutritious, sustainably produced food," and raise demand for organic goods**

**Commentary: University professors say technology can help feed world using biotech and nanotechnology to sustainably intensify agriculture, cellular agriculture and lab-grown meat, other methods**

**News release: Center for Biological Diversity, other groups file petition asking U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to end use of neonics, GM crops on national wildlife refuge complex in Alabama, assert neonics kill bees and hurt other wildlife, including migrating birds and endangered species**

**Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science notes Brexit could mean more opportunities for farmers, researchers due to less stringent GMO rules, farmer blames EU's "food paranoia" for missed opportunities in EU**

**[More North America items](#)**

## Africa

**News: Rwandan news site reports British scholar notes agricultural solutions proposed by R&D community do not benefit poor farmers so solutions aren't implemented, but farmers first program that involves farmers in problem solving does work**

**Commentary: Cornell Alliance for Science blogger reports African governments, industry being urged to reduce dependence on foreign funding for biotechnology, increase their own investments as best way to reduce continent's annual \$50 billion food import bill, build public acceptance of plant biotech**

**Commentary: Global Farmer Network farmer says Kenya farmers feel deprived with current prohibition on GM crops; expresses hope with Kenya field trials of Bt maize, cotton underway, government may permit their commercialization in next few years**

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

**Commentary: Farmers union representative writing for western India news site laments calls for glyphosate ban in response to verdict in Monsanto lawsuit, stresses importance of pesticides, cites glyphosate as most "eco-friendly" of all options, suggests push for ban spurred by anti-GMO sentiment**

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**News: Italian news site reports Italian rice producer criticizes the EU court decision on genome editing, says they must allow gene-edited rice or European farmers will have to stop growing rice**

**News release: EuropaBio reacts to AgbioInvestor report commissioned by CropLife which found that EU farmers are at a competitive disadvantage due to EU's regulatory approach to biotech and pesticides, Beat Spaeth called for urgent change**

**News: German agricultural news site reports Germany's Bioeconomy Council recommends loosening restrictions on genetic engineering to enable innovation**

**News: Reuters reports on Greens and SPD party criticism of Klockner's calls for re-evaluation of NBTs; SPD spokesperson says court ruling was clear and Klockner should reject "shrill" genetic engineering lobbying**

**News release: Denmark university's Danish Center for Food and Agriculture releases report on precision plant breeding, says new gene editing techniques are faster, less expensive, more accurate than conventional breeding methods but notes recent EU court decision means only large corporations will be able to afford to use the technology**

[More Europe items](#)

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## Latin America

**News: Argentine news site reports Argentina, Peru cooperating in biotechnology; Peruvian officials to visit Argentina to exchange experiences on biosafety-assessment principles**

**News: Brazilian news site reports Federal Supreme Court rules a Rio Grande do Sul state law unconstitutional, law would have required state ministry inspectors to supervise testing and research of GMOs in the state**

[More Latin America items](#)

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## Oceania

**Announcement: Australian Council of Learned Academics announces release of "Synthetic Biology in Australia" report launched by Australia's Chief Scientist Alan Finkel**

**Announcement: Australia's Office of the Gene Technology Regulator posts documents, notification it's granting license to Nuseed Pty Ltd. for its application for limited and controlled release of canola genetically modified for altered oil content and herbicide tolerance**

**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 peasant activists were protesting the Argentine government's seed law discussions. The Heinrich Böll Foundation reissued its agricultural food "atlas" in Brazil.

- Farmers and activists with the Federación Agraria Argentina (FAA) and the Unión de Trabajadores de la Tierra (UTT) organized a protest outside the National Congress today. The groups protested efforts to revise the country's seed law, saying that efforts to strengthen patent oversight and enforcement would disenfranchise small producers. The groups demanded that farmer representatives be included in the law's revisions. [See more](#)
- The Heinrich Böll Foundation and the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation revised and re-released a November 2017 report on how large corporations "control" food production, focusing the new version specifically on Brazil's role in the food chain. Brazilian media outlets widely amplified the report, highlighting sections describing how the companies lobby government officials and regulators. [See more](#)
- Researchers published comment in *Nature* questioning conclusions drawn by anti-biotechnology researchers Michael Antoniou and Gilles-Éric Séralini in late 2016. The commentary notes questionable methodology in data analysis and conclusions. Antoniou and Séralini responded, claiming that there was no "standardized" methodology for -omics analysis. [See more](#)

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## North America

**News: Hollywood Reporter reports Christopher Walken, Christina Ricci to star in movie based on Saskatchewan farmer Percy Schmeiser's struggle against GMO conglomerate, based real court case**

**News: Futurity reports on study in journal Science which found that pest-related crop losses will significantly increase with climate change, Stanford's Rosamond Naylor noted pesticides, GMOs and practices like crop rotation may help, but that the pests will still win**

**News: Colorado NPR affiliate reports on study in journal Science predicting that climate change will lead to increased crop losses due to insect pests, researcher Josh Tewksbury hopes farmers will find more creative solutions than simply applying more pesticides**

**News: Farm Futures cites recent mergers among agribusiness companies to highlight concerns over reduced competition, less innovation**

[More North America items](#)

## Africa

**News: Stat News reports Burkina Faso approves GM mosquito release to help fight malaria in the region, which includes Mali and Uganda; gene drive technology would reduce population of mosquitoes that carry the disease**

**Announcement: La Via Campesina announces Sept. 10 Global Day of Action against WTO and free trade agreements, claiming they perpetuate "criminal level of inequality"**

**Commentary: Patrick Mbataru of Kenyatta University writes for Kenya's Daily Nation, examines possible reasons for steep rise in cancer rates, highlights misuse of agricultural chemicals, including banned substances, points to IARC's review of glyphosate**

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

**News: Indian news site reports GEAC might approve GM mustard trials to test plants' effect on bees during special meeting**

**Commentary: Indian environmental NGO Down To Earth reports marching workers and farmers to arrive in Delhi on Sept. 5 to demand end to agrarian crisis and hunger, along with calling for better employment**

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**Review: Swiss researchers and University of Illinois researcher point out serious flaws in studies recently published regarding GM maize and Roundup; question experimental design, data interpretation, highly speculative conclusions in studies that claimed exposure led to metabolic disturbances in rats**

**Commentary: Henry Miller, Giovanni Tagliabue express concern over theme for upcoming 2018 EFSA Conference that seeks to put risk assessment in context with societal values; notes the assertion is "scientifically and logically dubious" because it sets up conflict between facts and values**

**News: French news site reports Triskalia employees rally to say they are "fed up" with Volunteer Reaper attacks on their crop field trials, CEO calls the group a "destabilizing enterprise"**

**Announcement: Amazon announces Sept 27 release of "Beyond GMOs: Science Innovation Society" book written by two French agricultural professors who question what biotech's role will be in future where scientific rationality is less and less influential**

**Commentary: University of Limerick professor writes for Irish news site, claims "growing evidence" links GMO crop cultivation and glyphosate use with range of health issues, including cancer; also cites loss of biodiversity**

[More Europe items](#)

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## Latin America

**News: Argentine news site reports agricultural groups to rally Sept. 5 in front of the National Congress to protest proposed changes to nation's seed law, say goal is to preserve farmers' rights to save seeds, fear corporate control over food**

**News: Argentine news site reports Agrarian Federation of Argentina calls for protest of proposed changes to country's seed law, claim the bill is identical to "Monsanto" seed law proposed and rejected in 2004**

**News: Brazilian news site reports Heinrich Böll and Rosa Luxemburg foundations help launch 2017 "Atlas of Agribusiness" document in Brazil criticizing agribusiness concentration, food production with high pesticide content, posing risk to biodiversity**

**Announcement: Heinrich Böll Foundation announces Brazilian edition of "Atlas of Agribusiness" release, giving facts and figures on "corporations that control what we eat," criticizes lobbying and consolidation of the corporations**

Announcement: Brazil's Supreme Court will review state of Rio Grande do Sul law that would restrict the governor's oversight of GMOs to federal legislation regarding public health, environmental protection, agricultural production

News: Mexican economic news site reports future agricultural minister proposes plan to replace imported grain with food from small producers who receive price guarantees, stop or slow down GM crop production, focus on exports to EU, say imports

News: Mexican agricultural news site reports Tufts University researcher warns AMLO should be careful in NAFTA renegotiations, especially regarding planting GM crops and risking accidental cross-breeding with Mexico's native crops, notes the president-elect said he will not allow transgenic crop cultivation

News release: Ecuadorian NGO Ecological Action issues pronouncement on new Minister of Environment, calls on him to make clear statement about Ecuador's status as country free of transgenic crops and seeds, unconstitutionality of Seed Law

More Latin America items

## Oceania

Report: New Zealand treasury analysis concludes artificial meat industry does not pose significant threat to red meat producers; office monitoring situation while global demand for red meat has leveled

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 launch of new campaigns from Swiss activists protesting European policies on new plant breeding techniques (NBTs) and GM cassava research. Agricultural businesses launched a new trade group in India. Bolivian producers gave the government an ultimatum on GM crop adoption.

- SwissAid issued a statement and spoke to local media outlets in opposition to work conducted by the University of Zurich, which is trialing a transgenic, higher-starch cassava variety to improve post-harvest processing qualities. Local news outlets noted that activists claimed Swiss researchers were exploiting looser environmental laws in Africa; one report quoted Nigerian activist Nnimmo Bassey, who claimed Nigerians were "resigned" to being guinea pigs without their consent. **See more**
- Swiss anti-biotechnology group Schweizer Allianz Gentechfrei, in coordination with other local activist groups, delivered a petition to the country's Federal Council and Parliament demanding that products of new plant breeding techniques (NBTs) be regulated as GMOs. The petition, which was also sponsored by the Association of Small Farmers and the Swiss Alliance for Agriculture without Genetic Engineering, received nearly 26,000 signatures. **See more**
- Bolivian agricultural producers met to discuss ongoing negotiations over the country's potential use of GM crops; participants demanded the government respond to their requests within 30 days so that farmers could potentially access the GM crop varieties in time for the next planting season. The producers warned that without a response, they would declare themselves in a "state of emergency" and outline coordinated actions at the group's next assembly. **See more**
- Following up on initial plans announced in March, a coalition of seed and technology producers in India formally launched the Alliance for Agri-Innovation. News outlets reported that the new group seeks to ensure a coordinated approach to new technologies for improving agricultural sustainability and would promote technology-friendly government policies. **See more**

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## North America

**News release: Boston-based company Thermo Fisher Scientific announces release of its GeneArt gene synthesis and genome editing products in China, as Chinese scientists are increasingly using synbio for basic research and targeted R&D initiatives**

**Interview: Memphis Meats product regulation VP tells Successful Farming calls for stakeholder unity in lab-grown meat policy development, argues traditional ag is vital to source best muscle cells, supplementing lab-grown food options to help feed the world**

**Commentary: Natural Health 365 amplifies "stunning" survey by Institute for Responsible Technology finding eliminating GMO foods, going organic dramatically improves health, highlights 82.5 percent of respondents noted improved digestive symptoms after undertaking a GMO-free diet**



**Commentary: The Farmer's Daughter USA blogger Amanda Zaluckyj highlights use of negative ad campaigns to attack conventional ag methods including pesticide use, gene editing; laments effectiveness of tactic despite prevalence of false info**

[More North America items](#)

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## Africa

**News: Switzerland's Tages-Anzeiger reports on Swiss and Nigerian NGOs' opposition to ETH Zurich's field trials of GM cassava, Health of Mother Earth Foundation's Nnimmo Bassey noted Nigerians are forced to become guinea pigs without their consent**

[More Africa items](#)

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## Asia

**News: New Indian Express reports Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) agreed that soil impact tests on Delhi University's GM mustard do not need to be conducted, as they were already completed during previous trials**

[More Asia items](#)

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## Europe

**News release: Swissaid issues statement opposing ETH Zurich's trials of GM cassava in Nigeria, Swissaid's Judith Reusser noted ETH Zurich has failed to conduct independent risk research that would have been required in Switzerland**

**News: Swiss Broadcasting Corporation media channels report on Swissaid's accusation that Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETHZ) is taking advantage of more lax regulations in Nigeria to conduct dangerous experiments on GM cassava, and avoiding security checks required in Switzerland**

**News: Swiss news agency reports on petition with over 26,000 signatures demanding that Switzerland follow example of EU Court ruling and make new breeding techniques subject to current GMO legislation requiring full risk assessments**

**News: Germany's Der Spiegel reports on Bioeconomy Council's call for revisions to the Genetic Engineering Act following EU Court ruling on new breeding techniques, arguing that otherwise, Germany may miss out on the "biological revolution"**

**News release: French supermarket company Carrefour Group launches Act for Food, global program of initiatives aimed at making it world leader in food transition for all; nine commitments include feeding livestock used for its product lines on GMO-free animal feeds**

**Commentary: Marcel Kuntz of French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) writes for Contrepoints, debunks 10 common myths about GMOs, especially those claiming that GMOs are dangerous to human health and the environment**

**Commentary: Editorial for Italy's Corriere Della Sera argues Italy is a leader against progress in Europe, criticizes recent EU Court ruling on gene edited crops, notes that in absence of negative effects, an "innovation principle" should be recognized**

**Commentary: Agrarian Karl Bockholt writes for Germany's Agrarheute, promotes petition launched by French scientist Benoit Lacombe of National Research Center (CNRS) demanding review of EU Court ruling on new breeding techniques**

**News: EurActiv reports on AgbioInvestor report commissioned by CropLife International which found that EU farmers are struggling due to lack of access to modern technologies and an unstable political landscape, causing stagnation of ag productivity**

[More Europe items](#)

## Latin America

**Interview: Colombia's El Tiempo interviews Nobel Laureate Richard Roberts, who argues debate on GMOs should be centered on science and not religious doctrines or extremist positions, highlights potential improvements to health and native crop varieties**

**News: Bolivia's El Mundo reports on small producers of Santa Cruz's call on govt to respond to request to use GM seeds within 30 days, as they seek to plant improved seeds at the start of summer season in October**

**News: Bolivian news agency ANF reports on Eastern Bloc's demand that National Committee of Biotechnology meet requests for approvals of genetically improved seeds within 30 days, during First Meeting of Small Producers of Agro "for food sovereignty to 2025"**

**Commentary: Argentina's Union of Land Workers (UTT) promotes upcoming protest on Sept. 5 against amendments to the Seed Law that would allow for privatization of seeds, claiming it favors companies like Bayer-Monsanto, opposes ag industry consolidation**

**Announcement: Brazil's CTNBio, publishing in the Official Diary of the Union, releases decisions made in Aug. 2 and Aug. 8 meetings; notes deferment decision on release of Bayer's GM soybean and Dow's GM cotton**

**Announcement: Brazil's CTNBio, publishing in the Official Diary of the Union, announces plans to review release of GM cotton and soybean varieties resistant to drought conditions; notes public has 30 days to comment on both applications**

**[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: Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes newsletter - Sept. 3, 2018  
 Date: Monday, September 3, 2018 7:13:40 PM

## Bonus Eventus Favorable Outcomes Newsletter

Dear Diane,

It's been nearly a month since Scott Gottlieb, the commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, **promised** to put out detailed information about organic, antibiotic-free and other labeling claims in the "coming weeks." In a follow-up article to his **previous one that prompted Gottlieb's pledge**, Henry Miller writes in the *Daily Caller* that the time for the FDA to act is now.

This week's Favorable Outcomes newsletter features additional reasons why non-GMO and other allegedly misleading labeling claims should be addressed. A *Washington Examiner* piece by Kevin Mooney points out the "anti-science" origins of the Non-GMO Project while Michelle Miller examines how anti-GMO rhetoric has been adopted in Ireland.

Other topics explored in this week's newsletter include questions about Canada's plan to phase out neonic usage, praise for a Nigerian court ruling in favor of GM technology and further response to the California jury verdict on glyphosate and cancer.

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: Moms Across America



Following a similar warning from Environmental Working Group about glyphosate residues in cereal products, Moms Across

### Stories Worth Sharing

[Henry Miller: Time for FDA to take action about organic marketing that is all about "leveraging consumer fears for profit"](#)

[Alex Berezow: California makes right call in deciding coffee doesn't need cancer warning, wrong call in trusting "fringe" IARC](#)

[Steve Sherman: Modern technology, including glyphosate and GMOs, still "by far the best option for feeding the world"](#)

[Kevin Mooney: Origins of Non-GMO Project trace back to Maharishi "anti-science cult"](#)

[Michelle Miller: Ireland's effort to block GMOs to protect "green" reputation no different than bad non-GMO marketing](#)

[Jim Pratley: "Stakes are very high for nations around the world" after glyphosate verdict](#)

[Robert Amason: Bayer questions why Canada used much lower safety threshold than U.S. to justify banning neonics](#)

[Rose Gidado: Nigerian judge's ruling ends "era of spreading unscientific rumours" about GM crops](#)

America released a new report last week warning of the herbicide in hummus.

The NGO, created in 2013 in affiliation with the California State Grange, said it tested 10 hummus samples from eight brands and found glyphosate in all but one of the samples. It advised supporters that glyphosate could cause cancer and suggested eating organic or biodynamic foods to avoid the chemical.

Led by Zen Honeycutt, Moms Across America has previously generated opposition to glyphosate by testing for it in breast milk. It has also run anti-GMO advocacy efforts.

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

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Ed White: Industry-funded study found European neonic ban to be "costly, environmentally dubious and regressive mistake" [?](#)

Gabriel Popkin: New York researchers set to ask U.S. regulators for approval to breed GE chestnut trees [?](#)

Capital Press: California jury verdict "at odds" with safety reviews by U.S. EPA, other regulators and research [?](#)

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**What's Trending?**

Brazilian court overturns injunction banning glyphosate-based products

U.K.-based researchers claim study shows bumblebees could become addicted to neonic-laced sugar solution

French ecology minister Nicolas Hulot resigns over frustrations with environmental policies, including slow progress toward glyphosate ban

Argentina agriculture committee debates seed law

**Calendar highlights**

September 3-5	September 4-5	September 4-6
CRISPRing Conference	BIO Latin America	Crop Innovations and Regulations conference
September 5	September 5-8	September 6-7
European Parliament Special Committee on Pesticides hearing	African Green Revolution Forum	European GMO-Free Regions conference

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

<p><b>Stakeholder database</b></p> <p>More information on the people and organizations influencing the food and agriculture debate</p>	<p><b>Monitoring portal</b></p> <p>Catch up on the latest news and other developments impacting regulations on agriculture.</p>	<p><b>Bonus Eventus community</b></p> <p>Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.</p>
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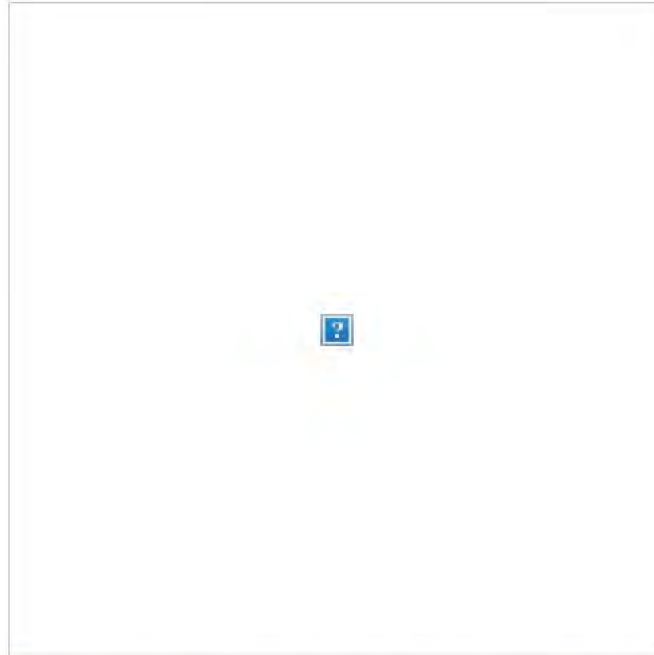
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## Latest updates online

### Labor Day

Due to the U.S. Labor 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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 Date: Sunday, September 2, 2018 9:33:46 PM

FAST ACCESS: MONITORING \ STAKEHOLDERS \ COMMUNITY

## Global Biotech Snapshot

Expert analysis from v-Fluence

### BONUS EVENTUS

A communication cooperative seeking good outcomes in food and agriculture

Global biotechnology developments over the weekend included media reporting on a study from a Westminster-based think tank that touted advantages of large-scale production of lab-grown meat. In Mexico, indigenous groups refused to re-open court-ordered consultations on GMO crops.

- A report from a U.K.-based think tank, the Adam Smith Institute, suggested that large-scale production of lab-grown meat would be more sustainable than current methods. The institute's study indicated greenhouse gases could be reduced by up to 96 percent while freeing up 99 percent of the land used to raise livestock. **See more**
- Mexican news sites reported Mayan groups accused authorities of allowing GMO cultivation in the area in opposition to a court-ordered ban. The groups refused to re-open consultations on GMOs until a new administration takes office. **See more**

Due to the Labor Day holiday, your next Global Biotech Snapshot will be sent on Tuesday, Sept. 4. 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

**Commentary: Henry Miller writes for Daily Caller, examines FDA Commissioner Gottlieb's statement that FDA will soon put out more detailed information about food labels, calls for enforcement of existing consumer protection laws against misleading labeling by the organic industry**

**Commentary: Alex Berezow of American Council on Science and Health welcomes California's revocation of cancer warnings on coffee, but criticizes its continued reliance on IARC, notes anti-GMO activists should be concerned about FDA Commissioner Gottlieb's statement on misleading labeling**

**News: Illinois NPR affiliate reports on organic advocates' call for support for organic farmers in the 2018 farm bill, Rep. Rodney Davis argued standards should be protected so that a consumer knows what "organic" or "non-GMO" standards mean**

**Commentary: Pro-biotech blogger Stephan Neidenbach notes death of former Greenpeace Executive Director Peter Robert Henry Mond, says farmer whose biotech crops he destroyed explained he used them to avoid using far less friendly spray that was atrazine**

**News: U.S. news sites report on study in the journal Science warning that crop losses due to pests will increase amidst climate change, Stanford's Rosamond Naylor noted that while pesticides and GM crops will help, pest populations will be the winners**

**News: 71Republic reporter says CRISPR can change crop in one generation to increase yields, resist disease, notes EU and U.S. taking different approaches to regulating the procedure, which could revolutionize agriculture**

**Commentary: Skeptoid science blogger notes survey shows suggestion of labeling GMOs makes people believe the GM food is not safe, despite 20-year record of safe use; notes in Europe, this resulted in GMOs being pulled from market, leaving food that is more expensive because it requires more water and pesticide**

**[More North America items](#)**

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## 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**

**Commentary: Rachel Wynberg of University of Cape Town and Laura Pereira of Stellenbosch University write for The Conversation, they argue developing countries should work to boost small-scale farming and agroecology, describing benefits of GE crops as "questionable"**

**Commentary: Joseph Opoku Gakpo of Cornell Alliance for Science amplifies African Agricultural Technology Foundation communications manager Nancy Muchiri's remarks at Bio-Africa Convention in South Africa, she believes lack of political will is hindering biotech crop adoption**

**News: Kenya's Business Daily reports on U.S. State Department trade-policy specialist Peter Haas' recent visit to Africa to promote gov't 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](#)**

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## Asia

**News: Indian news site reports in depth on pink bollworm problem in farmer-suicide capital, insecticide-resistant pests are early this year, desperate farmers spray various pesticides from unregulated pesticide dealers sometimes leading to health problems, deaths**

**[More Asia items](#)**

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## Europe

**News: German anti-GMO news site reports on Bioeconomy Council's call for amendments to GE legislation in wake of EU Court ruling on gene-edited crops, reports 17 members of the Council acknowledge risks of a too rapid, uncontrolled spread**

**Commentary: Swiss anti-biotech NGO claims Swiss University and International Institute of Tropical Agriculture Agriculture are testing GM cassava in Nigeria against the will of Nigerians; says standards are "far below" those needed for field trials in Switzerland**

**News: Farming UK reports Adam Smith Institute researchers say lab grown meat could solve pressing crises, including climate change and housing shortage; notes Institute urged U.K. government to resist lobbying attempts like those in the U.S. to lock out competition by changing meat definition to exclude lab-produced meats**

**[More Europe items](#)**

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## Latin America

**News: Mexican newspaper reports Mayan communities halt talks with government commissions on biosafety, indigenous peoples over GM soy, citing confrontations among community members**

News release: Commission on Biosafety of GMOs announces program Sept. 11 in Mexico City to discuss environmental safety of GMOs, plans for cultivation of GM crops

News: Colombian agricultural business newspaper reports great potential for GM crop growth with only 1.8 percent of cultivated crops being GM

More Latin America items

## Oceania

News: Australian food industry news site reports on Brisbane-based Nexgen Plants' \$3 million investment in commercializing two technologies developed by Peer Schenk of University of Queensland to help develop disease-resistant crops

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.

Bonus Eventus community

Connect with academic experts and researchers, journalists and agriculture allies.

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