

Global Conference on Sustainability in Agriculture & Food Systems

Ms Irene Sacristán Sánchez, Head of Unit for Biotechnology in the Directorate General Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE), European Commission

Abstract of the intervention:

The European Commission Policy Proposal pertaining to Genome Editing

In April 2021, the Commission announced a policy initiative on plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques (targeted mutagenesis and cisgenesis), as a follow-up to its study on the status of NGTs in the EU. The aim is to maintain a high level of protection for human and animal health and the environment, enable innovation in the agri-food system and contribute to the goals of the European Green Deal and the 'Farm to Fork' strategy. A roadmap was published and was open for feedback in September-October 2021, followed by an impact assessment looking at possible approaches as regards risk assessment and the procedures for the release and placing on the market of the concerned plants and their products, issues of sustainability and information for operators and consumers. A public consultation was conducted between April and July 2022. The adoption of the legal proposal is planned for June 2023. This presentation will provide an update on the state of play, the main issues that the proposal is intended to address, and feedback received in the various consultation activities.