Gene editing and agrifood systems

Corrigendum

[25 January 2023]

The following corrections were made to the PDF of the report after it went to print.

Page	Location	Text in printed PDF	Text in corrected PDF/ Notes
29	Paragraph 4	In 2013, Health **Canada** and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency published their first food safety and environmental assessments for a gene-edited crop, which was obtained using an ODM technique. The Canadian regulatory approach is based on the characteristics of the final product, regardless of how obtained. As with conventional breeding and recombinant DNA techniques, gene-editing techniques can be used to develop both novel and non-novel traits. Only those gene-edited products deemed to have a novel trait require pre-market safety assessments in Canada. This approach was finally made explicit through guidance published in 2022 by Health Canada.	
29	Paragrapgh 7		With regard to food safety assessments, foods from gene-edited plants can be submitted to a voluntary pre-market consultation by FDA, and in 2019 FDA completed its first review on food from a gene edited soybean.
32	Paragraph 5		In 2021, Health Canada determined that a high amylopectin starch ("waxy" phenotype) maize obtained using an SDN1 technique was not a novel food product, and therefore did not require pre-market safety assessment as a novel food. The rationale for this decision was that the product had the same phenotype as pre-existing commercial maize varieties with a similar spontaneous mutation and had a history of safe use as food. However, the following year, a gene-edited high oleic soybean was determined to be a novel food, and hence was subject to a food safety assessment based on WHO/FAO expert consultations. Furthermore, in 2022, Health Canada published a scientific opinion on the regulation of gene-edited plant products. It stated that novel food products from any breeding technique that might represent a food safety hazard would require a food safety assessment, to be done according to domestic guidance based on the Codex Guidance framework for safety assessments of foods derived from biotechnology.

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