

Email Submission: Global Plant Council

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing on behalf of the Global Plant Council, an international coalition of 27 plant and crop science societies and organisations, to submit our consensus statement on the role of genome editing in plant sciences and agriculture (attached) for consideration in the 2016-17 Technical Review of the Gene Technology Regulations 2001.

This document was developed by the Council alongside a panel of experts in this field, following a 2017 international workshop on New Breeding Technologies attended by plant/crop science researchers and policymakers from around the world.

Our recommendation, outlined in more detail in the attached document, is that:

"Plants developed using genome editing that result in genetic changes that are indistinguishable from what can be obtained using conventional breeding strategies (e.g. deletions, base-pair changes and the exchange of genes between sexually compatible species) should be treated with the same plant-by-plant method of evaluating new varieties as conventionally produced plants, i.e. should only be subject to the existing systems for variety development. Only when such genetic changes go beyond what can be obtained with conventional breeding strategies might the resulting plants also be subject to biosafety (e.g. GMO) regulations."

On behalf of the Global Plant Council,

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Dr. Sarah Jose
Communications Officer, Global Plant Council

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